

<b>RTI REQUEST DETAILS</b>			
<b>Registration No. :</b>	PGCIL/R/2018/80042	<b>Date of Receipt :</b>	12/07/2018
<b>Transferred From :</b>	Ministry of Power on 12/07/2018 With Reference Number : POWER/R/2018/50404/1		
<b>Remarks :</b>	Since the subject matter pertains to CEA and PGCIL, the said application is hereby transferred to them in terms of Section 6(3) of the RTI Act, 2005 for providing requisite information directly to the applicant under intimation to this Ministry.		
<b>Type of Receipt :</b>	Electronically Transferred from Other Public Authority	<b>Language of Request :</b>	English
<b>Name :</b>	Rohit Vasant Kale	<b>Gender :</b>	Male
<b>Address :</b>	Flat no 306 Gokuldharm apartments Near CC shrift ho, Barkatpura, Hyderabad, Pin:500027		
<b>State :</b>	Telangana	<b>Country :</b>	India
<b>Phone No. :</b>	Details not provided	<b>Mobile No. :</b>	+91-8801047099
<b>Email :</b>	drkalerohit23@gmail.com		
<b>Status(Rural/Urban) :</b>	Urban	<b>Education Status :</b>	Above Graduate
<b>Letter No. :</b>	Details not provided	<b>Letter Date :</b>	Details not provided
<b>Is Requester Below Poverty Line ? :</b>	No	<b>Citizenship Status</b>	Indian
<b>Amount Paid :</b>	0 (RTI fee is received by Ministry of Power (original recipient) )	<b>Mode of Payment</b>	Payment Gateway
<b>Request Pertains to :</b>			
<b>Information Sought :</b>	Kindly find pdf.		
<b>Original RTI Text :</b>	Kindly find pdf.		
<input type="button" value="Print"/> <input type="button" value="Save"/> <input type="button" value="Close"/>			

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Ministry of Electric supply

Kindly give the address for correspondence and names of the person in charge i.e. Secretary of Ministry of Electric supply for legal purposes.

1. Do you, or any of your departments or subsidiaries indulge in the practice of trimming of any green member on your command for any purpose (like for the fear that they might grow close to Live high tension wires or fear that they might break or the tree might fall and subsequent discontinuation of electric supply (blackout) or damage to supply lines).
2. Kindly give a detailed list of areas or states in which this practice is highly prevalent if possible. (alternatively acknowledge that it is carried out all throughout India in all states.)
3. Kindly provide a list of states where electricity is provided in an underground basis and those in which electricity is still predominantly supplied by overhead lines.
4. Do you take permission of the Ministry of Environment for doing the trimming or cutting of branches, every time you (or others under you in charge of the same), initiate the process.
5. Do you have a separate department for doing the trimming or cutting of major branches.
6. Do you have a written policy of how to select a branch which is at risk for the same. How do you prevent over trimming or over cutting or cutting of major branches or even the major trunks for this fear. Do you have any control over it.
7. Do you follow any steps for ensuring that you or your subsidiaries do not overdo the trimming. If Yes, give a short list of these steps.
8. Are you aware of the environmental impacts of this procedure of extensive trimming or cutting of the green members.
9. Kindly give the list of initiative that you have started to prevent this kind of over trimming. Kindly answer no such initiative if there is none.
10. Who does the trimming. Are they your own employees.
11. Are you aware of the prevalent practice of letting the illiterate watchman of a society doing the trimming for a few hundred rupees. Who is responsible, if these untrained labors having no idea about electricity and the risk of touching a live high tension wire.

I want to bring to your notice, one such incident when I was living in the town of Nizamabad in Telangana in a gated community called as Gangasthan Phase III. The community had extensive green cover which was precisely the reason why I lived there. One morning, I realized that almost all the trees have been chopped of extensively or Beheaded right from the main trunk. On enquiry, it realized that the illiterate watchman has done it on command of the society secretary for a sum of Rs.400. On enquiry with the people who form part of the society, they said that they do it every year on the insistence of the electricity department to prevent black outs. Note that the illiterate watchman had no concept of ecology prevention or doing just trimming. Even the society people said that they insisted on chopping the trees or plants right from the main trunk so that they can save some money and need to do this procedure only once a year. Who is liable for punishment here. Whose fault is this. Why is this being allowed to happen every year. Are some un answered questions. There is no response till now since six months, to my letter to the environment ministry informing about this incident.

12. Do you have any records of such accidents of untrained labor getting electrocuted or sustained significant burns or injury or becoming handicapped due to such an event. Kindly give at least 3 such incidents all over India. Kindly provide statistics of such events all over the country or wherever such data is available.



Being a Doctor myself, I have treated at least three cases like these. One of them had electrical burns with gangrene till forearm due to contact with high tension lines, second one had a fall from pole with a combination of electrical burns and spinal injury with paraplegia. The third one was the most serious one. She was a young unmarried girl with electrical burns with gangrene of both upper limbs leading to above elbow amputation and gangrene of one lower limb leading to below knee amputation. She subsequently succumbed to her injuries. All three were not employees of electricity dept. First two were contract labors and the third one was a resident who had an accidental contact of a wet cloth with the high tension wire passing close to her balcony while drying washed clothes. These are due to negligence of whom. Who should pay for their injuries. Why does the electricity Department not compensate for the same.

13. Who has the responsibility to pay for the expenditure for obtaining treatment for such accidents. Does the electricity department compensate the loss due to their handicap or due to the loss to their family due to their death if they are not employed by the department.
14. Do you have a facility of keeping records all throughout the year, of events like fall of a tree or breaking of a major branch of a tree causing damage to the high tension wire or black out episode. Kindly give an estimate of how many such episodes are recorded in a year all throughout the country or state wise. Also give an account of how many trees have to be damaged to prevent one such episode. How effective is this process in preventing such episodes. Can such an episode happen in an area where your department has done extensive trimming and cutting already. What is the likelihood that these episodes are unrelated to the trimming and that trimming does not help in reducing such episodes at all.
15. Do you give contract to other nongovernment contractors for the cutting branches. In that case, do you have a written policy of how much trimming is good and how much is bad.
16. Do you train the people whom you employ for the same.
17. How much do you pay them. Do you pay them on regular basis i.e. monthly basis or on km basis. What is the educational i.e. Literacy status of the persons doing the trimming.
18. Do you have any initiative to compensate for the loss of green cover occurring due to this activity of the departments under you.
19. Have you employed anyone for cutting or trimming of green members on a regular basis.
20. Are you aware of any environmental impacts of such an action.
21. What is the Ministry's stand on Global Warming and Climate change. What is the level of awareness about the same to the various staff. Kindly answer in the following format.
  - Not aware at all – i.e. the level of awareness is poor even in higher officials especially the significance or severity or the
  - Only the higher officials are aware, the lower staff is unaware
  - Most of the staff including the labor which is utilized for trimming trees is aware.
22. Has the Ministry taken any initiative to educate those under you about the significance of these terms and also about commitments that India has made to United Nations in Paris Agreement. Kindly give an answer in Yes or No with a short comment.
23. Are you aware of the article 48(A) of the Constitution and the responsibility which this article puts on the Government of India and all its subsidiaries i.e. To protect the environment. Kindly give answer in Yes or No and short comment if needed.
24. Are you or your subsidiaries aware that these are live plants and that there is a difference between cutting of human hair and cutting of live plants.
25. What do you think will be the impact if this practice is completely given up. Answer in the following format

It can be given up without much impact on the budget of the Electricity department or significant increase in episodes of blackouts

It would lead to significant increase in blackout episodes

Cannot say if there will be significant impact on the episodes of blackouts or not

26. Are there any pilot projects carried out by the department where this practice was given up and the impact on episodes of black outs recorded. What was the result if yes.