

## TNEB THE VILLAIN

# Yet Another Tree Axed, Greens Up in Arms



Environmentalists protesting the felling of a tree by the TNEB officials, in Race Course on Saturday | S Kamalakannan

by V Paliappan

**Coimbatore:** Green activists and NGOs have lodged a complaint with the Race Course police station regarding the felling of huge May Flower tree in Tea Estate Road in Race Course on Saturday.

Environmentalists sought action against the TNEB officials who permitted the persons to cut down the tree and those who were involved in the action of felling the tree in Race Course without any reason and proper permission.

Environmentalists and NGOs such as Save Coimbatore Wetland, Environment Conservation group, Nature Conservation Society, Osai, Siru Thuli, RAAC, Nest, Oli, Mattram, and Race Course Walkers' Welfare Association have joined hands and given a written complaint to the Race Course Police station. In their complaint they said that with guidance of the EB officials three persons (contractors) were involved in cutting a tree in the Tea Estate Road in Race Course on Saturday

place and found that the particular tree was not a disturbance to the power line. EB officials without any proper permission from the Revenue officials started cutting down the tree. So we want action to be taken against the officials concerned and the persons who are involved in cutting down the tree without any reason," they said.

When contacted, TNEB officials said that they asked the contractors to cut down the tree as it was a hindrance to the EB power line in the Tea Estate Road. And after obtaining the due permission later from the District Revenue officials, the tree had been felled, said TNEB officials.

Revenue District Officer Shanta Kumar told *Express*, "I received the Race Course Tree felling case from the police; now we are inquiring into the incident. If we find fault with the persons who

were involved in the issue, we would take legal actions against them. So far, I have given permission to cut down three trees in the city. It is illegal to cut tree without getting the nod from the authorities concerned in the city. As per the law we can fine and warn them, says revenue officer Shanta Kumar.

### Collectors Order Thrown to Wind

Two week's ago on the basis of NGO's petition, Collector ordered that Revenue District Official permission is a must for cutting down trees in public places in city. But, after the order passed, more than twenty trees were felled in the city without any district administration's permission. Environmentalists strongly condemned such activity and asked the district officials to abide by the rules.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO CUT TREE WITHOUT GETTING THE NOD FROM THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED IN THE CITY

Shanta Kumar,

## DATA ON TREES FELLED RECENTLY

**May :** Three trees cut down in front of a private hotel in Race Course and an individual tree cut down in front of a private bank on Trichy Road

**June 23:** Ficus religiosa tree (in Tamil called 'Arasa Maram'), Neem tree, Tamarind tree were felled on Collectorate premises

**July :** Nearly 14 trees felled in Ram Nagar; Many trees felled in Siruvani Road, Alandhurai for road extension

**July 16 :** May Flower tree cut down in Tea Estate road in Race Course, and another tree felled in private building near Red Cross Society