

Date: July 8, 2019

Shri Praveen Pardeshi, IAS
Municipal Commissioner
Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
Annexe Building,
Mahapalika Marg, Fort,
Mumbai- 400 001

Dear Sir,

Sub: Sangarsh Nagar, Chandivali collapse

The news relating to Sangarsh Nagar at Chandivali where a major road of the layout has collapsed due to certain high-handed and careless excavation by Shapoorji Pallonji for construction of a basement floor in their adjoining property, has been extensively published in the newspapers.

We also read in the newspapers that you have issued a stopwork notice to Shapoorji Pallonji.

We hope that the concerned officials under you have carried-out sufficient investigation into this matter, due to which two residential buildings of Sangarsh Nagar rehabilitation project have been structurally affected due to which families residing in them have been evacuated, have submitted their report to you and necessary action is being followed.

An investigation by Nivara Hakk: Nivara Hakk activists have carried-out a preliminary investigation of this incident. I too have visited the site and have certain observations as under:

1. Shapoorji Pallonji have carried-out the excavation, may be for the construction of 2 or 3 basements, without any shoring along the edges of their property or the excavation area. Due to this single reason the adjoining road of Sangarsh Nagar has caved-in, also affecting 2 adjoining residential buildings. Several huts have also collapsed and are hanging in precarious condition.
2. Shapoorji Pallonji did not make any arrangement for drainage of the rain water and the streams of water that come down during monsoons to their site, thus resulting in the erosion of the surrounding areas. The ground around the excavated area has simply caved-in.
3. Shapoorji Pallonji did not barricade the road edges, that abut their excavated area, in Sangarsh Nagar that is usually used by large numbers of people living in the several buildings of Sangarsh Nagar, neither did Shapoorji Pallonji put any signs of warning.

: 2 :

It is very clear from the above observations by me that Shapoorji Pallonji have been extremely high-handed and careless in carrying-out the excavation work and the construction of the basement floors in their adjoining property. This is particularly shocking given the fact, as commonly known, that they are a highly capable company with substantial financial, technical and human resources capability.

It is also shocking to see as evident in this particular case that how such a leading construction company can function with utter disregard to the safety and security of the adjoining properties and people.

Shapoorji Pallonji has hurriedly stepped in to salvage the situation by bringing in and dumping hundreds of truck loads of earth and debris in their effort to filling-up the ground for the reconstruction of the road. But once again they are carrying out this work without constructing a retaining wall for the road nor providing any shoring to support the land filling that they are doing for the road restoration.

In such a situation, we wonder if they are answerable to any authority – Government or Municipal Corporation, and or have obtained their approval for the same? I also wonder if they have any plan for the same that they have submitted to the authority before undertaking the repairs and restoration work.

In these circumstances Nivar Hakk and the people of Sangarsh Nagar request your urgent intervention to bring this entire reconstruction effort to order and duly charge Shapoorji Pallonji for the damages caused.

Thanking you,

For Nivara Hakk

P.K. Das, Architect
Hon.Secretary

Enc: Photographs taken by Mr.P.K.Das dated 06.07.2019

