Sub: Trimming/cutting of trees in the electrified section.

While investigating one of the Vigilance case related to trimming of various types of trees, Central Vigilance Commission has advised that suitable instructions for system improvement for job like, trimming/cutting of trees to harmonize inter departmental/ formations’ co-ordinations, for such job, on an All India basis, should be issued. Vigilance Dte. has further advised that the existing instructions contained in advance correction (AC) slip No. 79 dated 10.10.2002 of Indian Railways Permanent Way Manual 1986-Edition regarding cutting of trees by Engineering department and tree trimming by TrD department should be reiterated.

2.0 Pursuant to above, relevant provisions of above AC slip are reproduced below for compliance:

(c) No part of the tree shall be nearer than 4 mts. from the nearest live conductor. Any tree or branches likely to fall on the live conductors should be cut or trimmed periodically to maintain the safety clearances. The responsibility for wholesale cutting of the trees, i.e. cutting of tree trunks, will rest with the Engineering Department. In the electrified territories, however, the cutting of the trees shall be done by the Engineering Department in the presence of authorized TrD staff to ensure safety and satisfactory completion of the work. The day-to-day trimming of the tree branches, wherever required, to maintain the 4 m safety clearances from OHE shall be done by the authorized TrD staff and Supervisors.

3.0 Similarly, provisions in para 10422 (2) of AC Traction Manual Vol.I and its AC slip No.4 dated 22.09.1998 read in conjunction with the above AC slip No.79 dated 10.10.2002 also stipulate about the methodology and procedure for tree cutting/trimming affecting OHE.
Zonal Railways are, accordingly, advised to chalk out a detailed plan in the form of JPO (in electrified territory) complying above directives of CVC and as per the nodal provisions mentioned in para 2 & 3 above for streamlining the procedure for cutting/trimming of trees to harmonize inter-departmental co-ordinations so as to minimize the incidences of traffic disruptions due to falling of trees/branches on track/OHE. The JPO may also include the provision of periodic joint checking and identification of trees for its cutting/trimming by Engineering and TRD organization at the Divisional level along with the action plan and target for tree cutting/trimming by the respective Department. This should also be monitored at Headquarter level regularly. A copy of JPO thus issued be sent to Board’s office for reference and record.

(Surinder Pal)
Exe. Dir. CE (P)
Railway Board

(S. K. Saxena)
Exe.Dir.Elect.Energy (Mgt.)
Railway Board

Copy to: PCEs and CEEs All Indian Railways for necessary action.