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Tough job this

Despite '70 per cent' work having been completed in the metro rail project, the Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMR) authorities continue to be upset about "negative" news. The other day, HMR managing director N.V.S. Reddy took off on reports in a section of the media that "more than 5,000 trees" were cut for the project and L&T Metro Rail was "abandoning" the work.

"It's absolutely false. We have relocated 2,000 trees and planted scores of saplings in different parts of the city. Why can't the information be cross-checked with us instead of relying on individuals and organisations not having any other work but spread misinformation?" he retorted angrily.

Mr. Reddy's grouse is that as soon as any development happens on the metro rail front, multiple RTI applications are filed immediately asking all sorts of questions, and "we end up spending all our time replying to them." Other method to "harass" is through court cases, but the HMR has been able to get over the legal issues in 290 of the 300 cases filed, he disclosed.

"We have proved with Sultan Bazar stretch that we can take the people along with us. We need lots of patience for this job,

others would have had heart attacks by now," he quipped.