

METRO CARSHED AT AAREY: EXPERT COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT REPORT IN 2 WEEKS: FADNAVIS

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The plot of the proposed carshed at Aarey

By **Alka Dhupkar**

Confusion prevailed over future course of action for the proposed Metro-III carshed on Aarey Colony land, the construction of which has been opposed by activists and the Save Aarey movement as it would entail the felling of 2,298 trees.

While replying to a query during the Question Hour in the Legislative Council, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis told the House, "An expert committee has been set up which will look for an alternative location for the Metro-III carshed. The committee will submit its report in two weeks, and we will take a final call based on its recommendations."

The CM's statement had led to much speculation in the media, with reports doing the rounds that the project had been put on hold. Later, Fadnavis's PRO clarified that the CM had not mentioned putting it on hold. "A committee has been constituted for studying all possibilities for Aarey Colony Metro carshed. We will take a decision only after we get the report," Fadnavis tweeted.

Work on the carshed stopped on March 3, a day after Fadnavis announced the expert committee's formation.

Ashwini Bhide, managing director, Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL), said, "I have not been told about any such temporarily-on-hold announcement or decision about the Metro-III car depot shed at Aarey. When the BMC Tree Authority has not given its permission, how can we start our work? And if work is not started, how can it temporarily be put on hold?" she said.

"We are providing whatever information is necessary to the expert committee. As I am not part of the committee, I cannot say more," she added.

Stalin D, a community leader with the Save Aarey movement, was upbeat. "I am sure we will win. There's no doubt in my mind. With our efforts we cannot fail," he said.

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