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INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS
2011

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD AT 1430 HOURS ON 24.10.2011 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHRI P.K. TRIPATHI, CHIEF SECRETARY TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSAL OF DMRC FOR CONSTRUCTION SHAFT, TUNNEL AND UNDERGROUND RAMP FOR MRTS LINE-8 (PHASE-III) AT SHANKAR VIHAR AND ARAVALLI BIO-DIVERSITY PARK, VASANT VIHAR IN THE NON-FOREST LAND IN THE RIDGE

The following attended the meeting:-

1	Shri Keshav Chandra, Secretary (Environment & Forests), GNCTD	Member
2	Shri B.L. Sharma, Addl. Secretary, Finance Rep. of Pr. Secretary (Finance), GNCTD	Member
3	Shri Ravi Aggarwal, Toxic Links	Member
4.	Shri Ajay Mahajan, Kalpavriksha	Member
5.	Shri R.S. Sinha, Conservator of Forests, GNCTD	Spl. Invitee
6.	Shri P.S. Chauhan, Chief Engineer/ General, DMRC	Spl. Invitee
7.	Shri Daljeet Singh, CPM, DMRC	Spl. Invitee
8.	Shri Keshav Kumar, DCF (West), GNCTD	Spl. Invitee
9.	Shri D.K. Goel, SE/ CCI, DDA	Spl. Invitee
10.	Smt. Savita Bhandari, Addl. Commissioner (Landscape)	Spl. Invitee
11.	Shri A.K. Chopra, Dy. L&DO, Ministry of Urban Development	Spl. Invitee
12.	Shri P.K. Soni, EE/ SWD-J, DDA	Spl. Invitee
13.	Shri S.K. Roy, Forest Officer, DMRC	Spl. Invitee
14.	Dr. M. Shah Hussain, Scientist In-charge, Aravalli Biodiversity Park	Spl. Invitee
15.	Shri D.M. Shukla, Chief Conservator of Forests, GNCTD.	Member-Secretary

The Chief Secretary & Chairman, Ridge Management Board (RMB), welcoming the Members and Special Invitees, informed that Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) had taken up the project of laying of 107 Km. of Metroline under MRTS Phase-III for its lines/ depots in NCT of Delhi which included the proposed Noida (Botanical Garden) – Janakpuri (West) Corridor, under consideration of the Board. Impressing upon the need for having an extensive metro network, the Chief Secretary was of the view that the proposed corridor, upon its construction, would not only provide much needed environment friendly mode of transport to the citizens of Delhi but also reduce the carbon footprint of the city in the long run. He, thereafter, requested the Chief Engineer, DMRC to explain the details of the proposal for consideration of other Members and Special Invitees present in the meeting.

The Chief Engineer, DMRC informed that the plan for the portion of Line-8 (37 Km. MRTS Line) submitted by DMRC entailed laying of 990 mtr of underground Metro Line between Vasant Vihar (DDA Land) & Shankar Vihar (Defence Land of the Ministry of Defence) and construction of a shaft, cut & cover tunnel, an underground ramp, 945 Mtr. long Viaduct from ramp upto NH-8 and a Metro Station at Shankar Vihar on Defence Land, involving removal of 210 trees from 16,830 Sq. Mtr. of non-forest land in the ridge, as per the details given below:

Sl. No.	Structures	Dimension	Area required
i.	Shaft	30 Mtr. x 30 Mtr	600 Sq. Mtr
ii.	Cut & Cover Tunnel	87 Mtr. in length and 16 Mtr in width	1392 Sq. Mtr
iii.	Underground Ramp	90 Mtr. in length and 16 Mtr. in width	1440 Sq. Mtr.
iv	Viaduct		
v.	Shankar Vihar Metro Station	945 Mtr in length	13407 Sq Mtr.
		Total	16839 Sq Mtr.

He further informed by DMRC that out of the total area of 16839 Sq. Mtr. of non-forest land in the ridge, 14487 Sq. Mtr. would be required by DMRC on a permanent basis for the above structures and the balance 2352 Sq. Mtr. shall be restored after construction of the structures. The total number of trees getting affected under the project from Aravalli Biodiversity Park upto NH-8 near Shankar Vihar on account of the construction was 210 trees i.e. 201 trees in the Defence Land at Shankar Vihar and 9 trees at Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Vasant Vihar from an affected area of 16839 Sq. Mtr. of non-forest land in the ridge.

Secretary (E&F) informed that DMRC had moved the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through IA No. 3094/2011 & IA No 3095/2011 in WP(C) 202/1995 in the matter of T.N. Godavarman vs. Union of Indian & Ors. for allowing them to take up the proposed construction which was thereafter referred to the Central Empowered Committee for examination of the facts and submission of its report within four weeks vide order dated 05.08.2011. He also added that the matter had come up for hearing in the Central Empowered Committee on 13.09.2011 wherein the Chairman, CEC had desired that the proposed sites of construction in the ridge area be inspected by the Chief Conservator of Forests and a report to that effect be submitted to CEC within 15 days. He further directed that DMRC in the meantime, should approach the Ridge Management Board for its clearance.

The Chief Conservator of Forests informed that the proposed sites of construction of DMRC, in the ridge at Shankar Vihar (Defence Land) and Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Vasant Vihar (DDA land) were inspected by him along with the Dy. Chief Engineer, DMRC, Dy. Conservator of Forests (West) and other officials of DMRC on 28.09.2011. He also informed that these sites were also inspected by the Chairman, Member, CEC along with the officials of the Forest Department and DMRC on 19.10.2011. The Board was, however, apprised that the copies of NOC from DDA in respect of DDA land at Aravalli Biodiversity Park, Vasant Vihar and the Memorandum of Understanding executed between DMRC & the Ministry of Defence for use of the Defence Land at Shankar Vihar, were yet to be furnished by DMRC.

Answering to the queries made by Shri Ajay Mahajan, Member, RMB, the Chief Conservator of Forests informed that the increase in the number of trees proposed for removal from 16 to 210 was on account of the fact that DMRC, in the initial stage, had not included 195 trees coming in the way of construction of 945 meter long viaduct from the proposed ramp upto NH-8 as also the Metro Station at Shankar Vihar in the Defence Land, which had the features of the ridge but was not part of the notified forest land.

Smt. Savita Bhandari from DDA, apprising the views of Prof. C.R.Babu on DMRC's proposal, expressed her concern about the impact of tunneling through cut and cover method on the ground water table in DDA land. It was, however, clarified that since DMRC was going 16 mtr. below the surface all through in DDA portion of the Aravalli Biodiversity Park except for a small portion of 30 mtr. x 20 mtr. on Vasant Vihar side in the Park for pushing the tunneling machine, there would not be adverse effect on the ground cover/ the soil moisture regime as the area after construction of the tunnel would be covered and restored to its original condition.

After detailed discussions, the proposal of DMRC for laying of 990 mtr of underground Metro Line between Vasant Vihar (DDA Land) & Shankar Vihar (Defence Land of the Ministry of Defence) and construction of a shaft, cut & cover tunnel; an underground ramp, 945 Mtr. long Viaduct from ramp to NH-8 and a Metro Station at Shankar Vihar on Defence Land, involving removal of 210 trees from 16,830 Sq. Mtr. of non-forest land in the ridge was cleared by the Ridge Management Board subject to the condition that DMRC shall obtain NOC from DDA in respect of DDA land at Aravalli Biodiversity Park and execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the

Ministry of Defence for use of the Defence Land at Shankar Vihar, before taking up any construction work in the ridge.

The meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair.

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Dated: 02/11/2011


D.M. Shukla
Chief Conservator of Forests &
Member Secretary, RMB

Distribution :

All Members of the Ridge Management Board (As per list enclosed).

Copy to:

1. The Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
2. The Addl. Secretary, Finance, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Sectt., IP Estate, New Delhi.
3. The Conservator of Forests, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
4. The Chief Engineer/ General, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Metro Bhawan, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-01.
5. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, West Forest Division, Mandir Marg, New Delhi.
6. The Addl. Commissioner (Landscape), DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.
7. The Dy. L&DO, Ministry of Urban Development, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-01.

Copy also to:

The Chief Secretary & Chairman, RMB, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, 5th Level, Delhi Sachivalaya, IP Estate, New Delhi.


D.M. Shukla
Chief Conservator of Forests &
Member Secretary, RMB

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ATTENDANCE SHEET

Date: 24.10.2011

Time: 02.30 PM

Sub: **Special Meeting of Ridge Management Board**

S.N.	Name	Designation	Tel. No.	Signature
1	P. S. CHAUDHAN	CE/Gen	23417916	<i>MS</i>
2	DALJEET SINGH	CDM/DMRC	9870598120	<i>DJ</i>
3	S.K. Roy	F.O./DMRC	23417916	<i>SR</i>
4	SAVITA BHANDARI	Add Comm. (Landscape)	23370585	<i>Savita</i>
5	Keshav Chandra	Seny Env.	23392108	<i>KC</i>
6	J.M. SHUKLA	CE/MS, RMB	23378513	<i>JMS</i>
7	B.L. SHARMA	Up. Secretary (En)	9810501516	<i>BS</i>
8	A.K. CHOPRA	B.O. Lt.D.O.	9971001512	<i>AKC</i>
9	R. S. Sinha	CF, Deptt. of Envt	9868948253	<i>RS</i>
10	Dr. M. Shah Hussain	Scientist Incharge ASO, Delhi Univ	9891055570	<i>MHS</i>
11	Ravi Agarwal	Dir TOXICS LINK	9810037355	<i>RA</i>
12	KESHAV KUMAR	Def (West)	9868224096	<i>KK</i>
13	D.K. Goyal	SE/CCI DDA	9870237810	<i>DKG</i>
14	P.K. Soni	EE/SWD-I	9899000228	<i>PKS</i>
15	Ajay Mahajan	member RMB Kalpaonik	9891282119	<i>Ajay M.</i>
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