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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY, GNCT OF
DELHI, SHRI R. NARAYANASWAMI ON 05.09.2007 AT 1700 HOURS IN THE
CONFERENCE HALL OF THE CHIEF SECRETARY.**

The following attended the meeting :-

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| 1. | Shri J.K. Dadoo, Secretary (Environment & Forests) | - Member |
| 2. | Shri Parimal Rai, Chairman, NDMC | - Spl Invitee |
| 3. | Shri Ravi Aggarwal, Srishti | - Member |
| 4. | Shri Ajay Mahajan, Kalpavriksh | - Member |
| 5. | Shri K.K. Mutreja, Engg.-in-Chief, NDMC | - Spl Invitee |
| 6. | Shri R.S. Thakur, SE, NDMC & Project Leader | - Spl Invitee |
| 7. | Shri Subhash Chandra, Director Hort., NDMC | - Spl Invitee |
| 8. | Shri V.K. Gulati, EE, NDMC | - Spl Invitee |
| 9. | Shri Shambhu Dayal, Director Hort., DDA | - Spl Invitee |
| 10. | Shri R.S. Sinha, DCF (Central) | - Spl Invitee |
| 11. | Smt. Kamal Preet, DCF (HQ) | - Spl Invitee |
| 12. | Shri D.M. Shukla, Conservator of Forests | Member Secretary |

2. The Vice-Chairman, DDA and the Pr. Secretary (Finance), Government of GNCT of Delhi did not attend the meeting due to prior commitments.
3. The Chief Secretary and Chairman, Ridge Management Board (RMB), welcoming the Members and the Special Invitees, explained the purpose of convening the Special meeting of the Board at short notice, and requested Secretary (E&F), Govt. of NCT of Delhi to brief the Members about the proposal requiring diversion of notified forest land for improvement/ upgradation of sports facilities at Talkatora Stadium of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) for the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, 2010.
4. Secretary (E&F) informed that as per the records, Talkatora Stadium extending over an area of 24.77 Ha. as per the details given below, being part of the Central Ridge, had been included in the Preliminary Notification No.F.10(42)-I/PA/DCF/93/2012-17(I) dated 24th May, 1994 for constitution of Reserve Forest under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

a.	Talkatora Garden (194256.89 sqm.)	19.43 Ha
b.	Swimming Pool (1394.98 sqm) constructed in the year 1962	0.14 Ha .
c.	Indoor Stadium (3038.85 sqm.) constructed in 1974	0.30 Ha.

d.	Misc. Civil Structures (AC Plant Room, Electric Sub Station etc. over an area of 3038.85 sqm.) constructed in 1980	0.084 Ha
e.	Road/ walkways/ parking space etc. (1000 sqm) constructed in 1962	1.0 Ha
	Total area of Talkatora Stadium including Talkatora Garden under possession of NDMC	24.77 Ha

5. He further apprised the Members of NDMC's proposed of constructing a four-storied building having a plinth area of 2189 Sq.Mt. (0.212 Ha) near the existing stadium with two basement parkings adjacent to it covering an area of 8680 Sq.Mt. (0.87 Ha.). The area had been jointly inspected by the Dy. Conservator of Forests (Central) and the Officials of NDMC and as per the inspection report, 114 trees were likely to be affected due to the proposed construction.
6. Shri Ajay Mahajan, Kalpvriksh pointed out that the trees for which the permission had been sought by NDMC, included the clusters of fully grown majestic trees of *Magnolia grandiflora*, Old. Neem, Chorisia and Arjun standing inside the stadium complex and suggested that feasibility of saving some these trees be explored alongwith their transplantation elsewhere, within the complex considering their aesthetic and natural value.
7. The Chairman, NDMC including the Project Leader of the Stadium Project, informed the Members present in the meeting that since the layout plan and design of the building/parkings have already been approved by DUAC and EKS, their relocation elsewhere within the precincts of Talkatora Stadium would be difficult to consider at this stage.
8. The Chairman, RMB appreciating the concern expressed by the Members and the suggestions made by him impressed upon NDMC to make special efforts to (i) save as many trees as possible (ii) transplant the trees being affected based on sound scientific practices and expertise available with IARI and other organizations in Delhi, and keep the RMB informed of the progress made in this regard as relocation of the building/ parking space to other site at this stage would further delay the construction works.

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2. The Members of the RMB, after careful consideration decided that they may submit NDMC's proposal for permission for diversion of 1.086 Ha of ridge land, notified as forest under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 for construction of a four-storied building for Boxing event of Commonwealth Games, and parking adjacent to it, for the kind consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, through the Central Empowered Committee. If the Hon'ble Supreme Court approves, the Ministry of Environment & Forests under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, will be approached by NDMC for their clearance, under the said Act.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

Office of Conservator of Forests & Member Secretary
Ridge Management Board
A Block, 2nd Floor, Vikas Bhawan, ITO, New Delhi-2.

No.F.11(26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol.VII/3484-91,

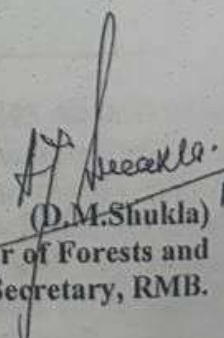
Dated: 12.09.2007

Distribution :-

All Members of Ridge Management Board. (Secretary (E & F), GNCTO, Delhi Sectt.)

Copy for information to:-

1. The Chairman, NDMC, Palika Kendra, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-1.
2. The Suprintending Engineer, NDMC and Project Leader Stadium Project, NDMC.
3. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (Central), Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
4. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (HQ), Govt. of NCT of Delhi.
5. Spare copy.


(D.M. Shukla) 12/9/07
Conservator of Forests and
Member Secretary, RMB.

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Agenda Note of the Special Meeting of the Ridge Management Board convened at 1700 Hours on 5th September, 2007 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Chairman, Ridge Management Board to consider the proposal of NDMC seeking permission for felling of trees in Talkatora Stadium, Central Ridge.

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) vide letter No.EE(BM-I)/8920 dated 16.07.2007 of the Executive Engineer (BM-I), NDMC addressed to the Dy. Conservator of Forests (Central) has sought permission for felling of 114 trees involving an area of 10869 sqm. (1.086 Ha) and around Talkatora Stadium for improvement/upgradation of the existing facilities for the Commonwealth Games, 2010 as per the details given below which has the approval of DUAC:-

- i) Construction of block (GF+4) adjacent to the existing stadium over an area of 2189 sqm.
- ii) Construction of two basement parking adjacent to proposed new block over an area of 8680 sqm.
- iii) Refurbishment of the existing stadium.

As per the records made available, Talkatora Stadium of NDMC situated in the Central Ridge and consists of the following structures/garden :-

A.	Talkatora Stadium including Talkatora Garden	24.77 Ha
(i)	Talkatora Garden (194256.89 sqm.)	19.43 Ha
(ii)	Swimming Pool (1394.98 sqm) constructed in the year 1962	0.14 Ha
(iii)	Indoor Stadium (3038.85 sqm.) constructed in 1974	0.30 Ha.
(iv)	Misc. Civil Structures (AC Plant Room, Electric Sub Station etc. over an area of 840 sqm.) constructed in 1980	0.084 Ha
(v)	Road/ walkways/ parking space etc. (48200 sqm) constructed in 1962	4.82 Ha

DCF (Central) vide his letters No.F.8(29)/COT/CFD/07-08/840-845 dated 02.08.07 and No.F.8(29)/COT/CFD/07-08/935-36 dated 10.08.07 had informed the Executive Engineer (BM-I), NDMC that since the land upon which the stadium was situated was part of the Central Ridge notified as Reserved Forest vide Notification No.F.10(42)-I/PA/DCF/93/2012-17(I) dated 24th May, 1994, clearance of RMB, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and the Ministry of Environment & Forests would be required before granting them permission for felling of trees and non-forestry works to be undertaken over 10869 sqm. (1.086 Ha.) forest land.

The issue of felling of trees in Talkatora Stadium also came up for discussions in the meeting of the Empowered Committee held on 17.08.07 under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary wherein the requirement of the above clearances was informed to the Members including the Chairman, NDMC. The status was further reviewed by the Chief Secretary in a separate meeting convened by him on 27.08.07 in his chamber attended by the officials from

NDMC and Pr. Secretary, PWD wherein it was decided that the required clearances be expeditiously obtained by NDMC before taking up the renovation works.

The proposal of NDMC seeking diversion of forest land/ felling of 114 trees standing in the Central Ridge in and around Talkatora Stadium is placed for consideration of the Members of Ridge Management Board.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ridge Management Board held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, GNCTD, Sh. R. Narayanswami on 10.07.07 at 1800 Hrs. in the Conference Hall of the Chief Secretary.

The list of the Members and Special Invitees attended the meeting is enclosed at Annexure - 1.

The Chief Secretary and Chairman, Ridge Management Board (RMB) welcomed the Members and Special Invitees. As the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had some pressing prior commitments, the Agenda Item No.8 pertaining to the Corporation regarding the use of abandoned mining pits in Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary as sanitary landfills was taken up first.

1. Agenda Item No.8: Proposal of MCD for use of abandoned mining pits No.2, 6, 10 and 12 in Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary as Sanitary Land fill:

MCD had made a request for allowing them to use the abandoned mining pit No. 2, 6, 10 and 12 extending over an area of 193 Ha in Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary as sanitary landfill.

Secretary (E&F) informed that he had inspected the area with the Conservator of Forests and since the pits proposed to be used as land fills were falling within the notified Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary, the request of MCD cannot be considered. However monkeys trapped from various places in Delhi had been translocated there as per the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of New Friends Colony Vs. Union of India & Others in WP (C) No.2600 of 2001. He further informed that dumping of solid waste in the Wildlife Sanctuary was not permissible as per the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Sh. Ravi Aggarwal, Member, RMB expressing his concern, apprised the Members and Special Invitees that use of abandoned pits in Bhatti area as land fill would further contaminate the groundwater/ aquifers and, therefore, should not be permitted as it would adversely affect the wildlife habitat.

Agreeing with the views expressed by the Members, the Chairman informed that the proposal of MCD would be difficult to agree to in view of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in such matters. However, before taking a final view in the matter, he desired that area be revisited by Additional Commissioner, MCD and Secretary (E&F) to see if there was any scope for RMB to consider the request of MCD for using one of the pits lying on Delhi-Haryana Border in a manner which would not affect the groundwater and wildlife, provided that the area falls outside the notified Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary.

2. Agenda Item No. 1:- Protection and Fencing of Central Ridge:

Secretary (E&F) informed that the Land and Development Officer, Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviations, Govt. of India vide Notification No.E&F.157(5173)/02 dated 19.5.2004 had placed an area of 864 ha of the Central Ridge at the disposal of the Govt. of

NCT of Delhi of which 640 Ha was with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD). It was informed that CPWD had handed over an area of 423 Ha. out of 640 Ha to the Forest Department and the balance 217 Ha. of the ridge was yet to be transferred.

In the last meeting of RMB held on 28.12.2006, it was decided that a team comprising of the representatives of L&DO, CPWD and DCF (Central) would undertake a joint inspection of the area and submit its report by 31.1.2007 to enable CPWD to hand over the balance 217 Ha of notified ridge land to the Forest Department. However, the representative of CPWD informed that the entire area of the ridge had been handed over to the Forest Department and they have nothing more to part with.

The Chairman, expressing his concern about the pace at which the progress was made, decided that the entire issue of transfer of ridge land to the Forest Deptt. be revisited by the Conservator of Forests, GNCTD who would submit his factual report to RMB in its next meeting. (The Chairman also directed L&DO and CPWD to make available the records and render all assistance to the Conservator of Forests in completing the task in a time bound manner.)

3. Agenda Item No. 2:- Works at Mahavir Vanasthali:

CPWD had undertaken certain non-forestry works at Mahavir Vanasthali, S.P. Marg near Dhaula Kuan in the Central Ridge. The Deptt of Law & Justice of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi had opined that since the preliminary notification for declaring the said area as RF had been issued under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, any non-forestry activity like the one undertaken by CPWD would require clearance of the Central Govt., Ministry of Env. & Forests under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, DCF (Central) had requested CPWD to submit a formal proposal in prescribed format seeking approval of the Central Government which was still awaited.

After detailed discussions, it was decided that RMB does not have any objection to CPWD's seeking clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 of the Central Government and the Central Empowered Committee to the non-forestry use of the ridge land, notified as RF under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

4. Agenda Item No. 3:- Unauthorized Construction in the Central Ridge near Dasghara Village by DDA and Dumping of Malba:

It was informed that the Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide NoF.11(40)/PA/DCF/96(1) dated 19.03.1996 had issued Notification under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 for constitution of 17.5 ha of the Central Ridge opposite Nanakpura Gurudwara in lieu of exclusion of Dasghara Village as Reserved Forests. RMB, in its last meeting held on 28.12.2006, had directed DDA to put up a check post to monitor the right of way of the pedestrians of Dasghara village and protection of the forests by putting up fencing on either side of the way and removal of malba. The officials of DDA informed that the check post had been put up for monitoring the right of way for pedestrians as per the directions of RMB, and the malba removed from the ridge area.

The Chairman, RMB impressed upon the officials of DDA that the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court be faithfully complied with to ensure that no *malba* was dumped in the ridge, by maintaining strict vigilance over the area.

5. **Agenda Item No. 4:- Relocation of Sanjay Nagar Colony from Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary:**

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 7.2.2006 had directed that Sanjay Nagar Colony be shifted out of the notified Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. The matter was discussed at length in the last meeting of RMB held on 28.12.2006, wherein it was decided that the Slum & JJ Department of MCD should create infrastructure for Transport, Health, Water Supply and provide basic amenities such as Post Office, FPS, Toilet in Savda Ghera identified for relocating the residents of Sanjay Nagar. The Addl Commissioner, Slum & JJ informed that work of creation of infrastructure / providing amenities was in progress and would be completed soon so that the relocation could be started from the first week of September, 2007.

It was also brought to notice of the Chairman that the residents of Sanjay Colony had obtained a stay from the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi vide order dated 30.05.2007 in WP(C) No 4360/2007 in the matter of Navyuvak Gram Vikas Samity Vrs GNCT against the eviction process initiated by the Government of NCT of Delhi in compliance of the above said directions of the Supreme Court..

The Chairman, having taken note of the position stated above, impressed upon the S&JJ Department of MCD to complete the creation of amenities and other infrastructure in a time bound manner for complying with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court

As regards the stay obtained by the residents of Sanjay Nagar from Hon'ble High Court, the Deptt of the Forests and Wildlife was requested to get the same vacated by filing the counter through the State Govt. Standing Counsel already appointed by the State Govt.

6. **Agenda Item No. 5:- Final Notification of Ridge:**

Notification under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 declaring part of the Ridge as Reserved Forest was issued on 24/5/94 and the then Additional District Magistrate (HQ) in the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi was appointed as Forest Settlement Officer to enquire into and determine the existence, nature and extent of any rights/ claims alleged to exist in favour of any person in or over any land comprised within such limits of above notification.

Consequent upon the reorganization of the Revenue Districts, ADM (HQ), ADM (South District) and ADM (South-West District) have been appointed Forest Settlement Officers vide Notification No.F.3(42)-I/PA/DCF/93/II/181-198 dated 10th May, 2006 to complete the settlement rights and claims in respect of the areas of Ridge notified under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Thus all claims/ rights of the individuals in or over the ridge proposal to be notified as RF, were required to be settled by the above three FSOs in accordance with the provisions made in the Indian Forest Act, 1927. It was also informed that the settlement process

as per IFA, 1927 was in process and the final reports of FSOs were awaited for issuance of their finally notified as RF under Section 20 of IFA, 1927.

The Chairman, RMB expressing his concern about the slow progress made in the matter, directed that all the rights and claims of the individuals be settled by FSOs by 15th of September, 2007 and reports submitted to the Secretary (E&F), Govt. of NCT of Delhi for obtaining approval of the competent authority for issuance of final notification under Section 20 of IFA, 1927 by 30th September, 2007.

7. Agenda Item No. 6: Demarcation of the Disputed Portion of Inter-State boundary between Haryana & Delhi:

The Government of NCT of Delhi had decided to have a permanent boundary wall constructed along the Inter-State boundary between Haryana and Delhi for protection of ridge land in Dera Mandi area in Delhi against encroachments and illegal mining. As stay had been obtained Jajj Electroics & Others from Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh against the Survey of India's demarcation of 1133.23 Mtrs. out of 9091.88 Mtrs. in village Dera Mandi of Delhi, the construction of the inter-state boundary wall for a length of 1133.23 Mtrs. could not be completed. In the last meeting of RMB, it was decided that the stay granted by the Hon'ble Court be got vacated through the State Govt. Counsel. The Counsel has informed that no relief from the Hon'ble Court in the matter was possible at this stage till the report of the Survey of India was filed and disposed off by the Court. It was, however, clarified that the High Court had issued direction to the Survey of India to file its report by August, 2007

As the matter was listed for hearing on 8.10.2007, the Chairman desired that SOI be formally requested to submit its report to the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana, Chandigarh at the earliest for final adjudication in the matter.

8. Agenda Item No. 7:- Status of Encroachment of Southern Ridge Land:

In the affidavit filed jointly by the Chief Secretary, Vice-Chairman, DDA; Commissioner MCD; Divisional Commissioner and Conservator of Forests, GNCTD in July, 2006 in the matter of Kalyan Sanstha Social Welfare Organisation vs UOI and Ors, it was stated that 121 Ha of Southern Ridge i.e. 24.4 in South-West District and 97.7 ha in South Distt. would be handed over to the Forest Department after eviction of the encroachments. In the last meeting, it was decided that the balance area, after removing the encroachments, be also handed over to the Forests Department by March 2007.

As no progress was made in this regard, the Chairman impressed upon the Revenue Deptt. to expedite handing over the balance area of the ridge to the Forest Deptt. after removing the encroachments. He also desired that the item be clubbed with Agenda No.5 for reviewing the status of its progress in the next meeting.

9. Agenda Item No. 9:- Setting up of farmers market at Andheria Mor:

It was informed that DAMB was allotted a piece of land ad-measuring 19 Bigha & 6 Biswas near Andheria Mor in 2002 by Director (Panchayat) for setting up farmers' market. It

was reported by DAMB that out of the allotted land, an area of 9 bighas was taken possession of by APMC, Azadpur in Jan.2003 and the balance area having encroachments, could not be taken over by them. They also informed that an amount of Rs. 97 lakhs had also been paid by them to the Director (Panchayat) for allotted land (19 bighas and 6 biswas).

To the request made by DAMB for issuance of NOC for construction of farmers' market, DDA intimated that APMC, Azadpur to approach the Ridge Management Board for clearance. Accordingly APMC, Azadpur vide their letter dated 25/11/03 requested RMB for granting permission for development of farmers' market at Andheria Mor. The Dy. Conservator of Forests vide his letter No. F-27/PA/DCF(S)/04/6526 dated 23/1/04 informed APMC that the land proposed for construction of farmers' market at Andheria Mor was not falling within the ambit of Notifications dated 24.5.1994 and 2/4/96. issued under Section 4 of IFA, 1927 for constitution of Reserve Forests.

The Chairman, RMB desired that the status of the land in question be re-ascertained by the Conservator of Forests as per records available in the Department and communicated to DAMB. He also desired that the Agenda item be dropped.

10. Agenda Item No. 10:- Non-forestry activities in Sanjay Van, South-Central Ridge maintained by DDA:

On receipt of the report of non-forestry activities taking place in Sanjay Van, South-Central Ridge maintained by DDA, RMB in its meeting held on 28.12.2006 had asked CF and Representatives of DDA to undertake a joint inspection of the area and submit their report to RMB. During the joint inspection carried out on 23.05.2007, the following non-forestry activities were reported :-

- (1) Existence of Gorakh temple, Idgah, Graveyard near Idgah and two cremation grounds in use.
- (2) Existence of two nos. of schools run by MCD for boys and girls.
- (3) Existence of liquor shop operated by DSIDC.
- (4) Damage at various places to existing boundary walls.

The Director (Horticulture), DDA informed that they have already removed the liquor shops and the breaches in the boundaries have been plugged by putting barbed wire fencing. He further informed that the relocation of the schools, cremation ground, burial places and temples etc. could not be done by them so far for want of suitable alternate sites therefor.

The Chairman, impressed upon DDA to identify suitable area outside the park for relocation of above structures in consultation with the Divisional Commissioner and Commissioner, MCD so that the part of Sanjay Van was maintained as Reserve Forest.

11. Agenda Item No. 11:- Re allotment of land at Maidan Garhi to Forest Department:

The Deputy Commissioner (South) had proposed to re-allot a piece of land bearing Khasra No. 1, 553, 687/570, 689/570 in Maidan Garhi Village, originally allotted to NDMC, to

the Delhi Transport and Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. for development of Eco-Park. RMB in its last meeting had decided that the above said piece of land be handed over to the Forest Department after demarcation. The DC informed that the said piece of land after demarcation, had been handed over to the Forest Department. Having noted the position, the Chairman, RMB decided that the Agenda item be dropped.

12. Agenda Item No. 12 Removal of unauthorized structures from the Ridge area in Nanakpura and raising of Compensatory Afforestation as per the direction of the Apex Court:

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its order dated 25th January, 1996 in IA No.18 in WP (C) No.4677/1985 in the matter of MC Mehta Vs Union of India & Others directed the Delhi Development Authority that 17.5 ha of land at Nanakpura opposite to Nanakpura Gurudwara in lieu of Dasghara village be taken over for compensatory afforestation and its inclusion in the ridge.

As there was a large number of encroachments, the Department of Forests & Wildlife had requested DDA to remove the unauthorized structures from the ridge area at Nanakpura. In absence of any report of eviction of encroachments from DDA, the Ridge Management Board, in its last meeting held on 28.12.2006, had decided that the encroachments be urgently removed. It was also pointed out by DDA that instead of 17.5 acres, the extent of area to be included in the Ridge had been erroneously mentioned as 17.5 Ha. in the said order. It was, therefore, decided that the copies of the affidavit filed by DDA and the certified copy of the order dated 25.06.1999 in the above IA be obtained and placed in the next meeting of RMB.

It was informed that the certified copy of the said order had been obtained from the Hon'ble Supreme Court wherein the area proposed to be included in the ridge had been inadvertently mentioned as 17.5 Ha instead of 17.5 Acres. As the copy of the affidavit filed in the said matter could not be obtained from DDA, the Chairman, RMB requested DDA to immediately move the Hon'ble Supreme Court for getting extent of area corrected.

13. Agenda Item No. 13 Submission of Action Taken Report to the Monitoring Committee constituted by the Hon'ble High Court :

The Action Taken Report on the directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court in its order dated 18.05.2006 and 31.07.2006 in the matter of Kalyan Sanstha Social Welfare Organisation Vs. Union of India & Others in WP (C) No.4582/2003 is required to be submitted to the Monitoring Committee constituted by the Hon'ble High Court.

The Action Taken Report on the directions of the Court was filed jointly by the Chief Secretary, Divisional Commissioner, Vice Chairman, DDA, Commissioner, MCD and Conservator of Forests on 31.07.2006, thereafter, the minutes of the meeting of the Task Force submitted to the Monitoring Committee were filed as part of the Action Taken Report in the Court. The Chief Secretary had reviewed the progress of the action points emanating from the above said order in a meeting convened on 24.04.2007 wherein he had desired that henceforth the Secretary (E&F), Govt. of NCT of Delhi should convene the meetings of the Task Force for

better inter-departmental coordination and submit his report to the Monitoring Committee. Pursuant to the decision taken in the meeting, the Task Force could meet only once.

Considering the importance of matter, the Chairman, RMB urged that meetings of the Task Force be convened at regular intervals and that the status of compliance of the directions reported to the Hon'ble High Court through the Monitoring Committee.

14. Agenda Item No. 14 Construction of Bridge at Neela Hauz Pond:

The Public Works Department (PWD), Govt. of Delhi had submitted a proposal seeking permission for felling of 230 trees in the South Central Ridge for construction of bridge over Neela Hauz Pond on Aruna Asaf Ali Road, Delhi. The proposal was discussed in the last meeting of the Ridge Management Board held on 28.12.2006 wherein it was decided that PWD and Forest Department would obtain the relevant records including the copy of the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter before RMB so that the legal status of the land in question could be ascertained.

In the meantime, PWD had moved CEC for permission for use of ridge land for construction of the bridge over Neela Hauz Pond in the South Central Ridge. CEC vide letter No. 1-19/CEC/SC/2006-Pt.XV dated 17.04.2007 had recommended the proposal for the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with certain conditions.

The Chairman, RMB vide Notice No.F.11(26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol.VII/1850-1858 dated 28.06.2007 had convened a Special meeting of the Ridge Management Board on 3rd July, 2007 and discussed the issues requiring immediate intervention of the Ridge Management Board. The Board, after careful consideration, accorded its no objection for the use of 1.134 Ha. of South Central Ridge for construction of the proposed bridge over Neela Hauz Pond by PWD subject to the orders of the Supreme Court of India. Since the Ridge Management Board had already given its no objection, in its meeting held on 3rd July, 2007, it was decided that the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court be awaited.

15. Agenda Item No.15: Permission for Felling of 2950 Trees for Construction of Qutab Minar- Gurgaon Corridor by DMRC.

DMRC had sought permission for felling of 2950 trees for construction of Qutab Minar-Gurgaon corridor. As part of the proposed corridor was falling within Southern/South Central Ridge, DMRC had approached the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through CEC for allowing them to use the part of ridge for construction of above corridor. The Hon'ble Court disposing of DMRC's IA No.2030 in WP(C) No.4677/1985 allowed them to use 5.56 ha of forest land and 3.96 non-forest land falling within Ridge as also 2.1725 ha of forest land (Ridge land) for temporary use subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Approval of the Central Government be obtained for use of forest land for the above purpose under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- 2) Clearance of RMB be obtained in respect of forest/non-forest land falling within Delhi Ridge..

- 3) NPV of forest land required for the project to be deposited in Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAF).
- 4) Rs.12.10 crore be deposited by DMRC with the Forest Department for conservation and development of Delhi Ridge. This money shall be utilized for gap planting of suitable indigenous species under supervision and guidance of RMB.
- 5) The area falling within Delhi ridge shall not be used by DMRC for any commercial purpose.
- 6) As far as possible, compensatory afforestation be carried out near the area of impact.
- 7) Instead of felling of trees, transplanting of trees should be resorted to.

The Ridge Management Board, after carefully considering the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed on the recommendations of CEC, agreed to the DMRC's proposal for the use of ridge land subject to their obtaining clearance under Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and compliance of the stipulations made by the Supreme Court of India in its above said order.

16. Agenda Item No 16: Mapping of Water Bodies in Ridge

Kalpriksha, a NGO offered their services for digital mapping of the water bodies of the Ridge. As none from the organisation was present in the meeting to explain the details, the Chairman, RMB asked the Forest Department to ascertain from Kalpriksha about the details as also the wherewithal available with them for digital imaging of the water bodies supported with GPS readings for monitoring their status/future analysis.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
"A" BLOCK, II FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P.ESTATE, NEW DELHI 02

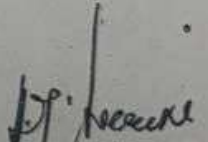
No.F.11(26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol.VII/

Dated:

Copy to:-

1. The O.S.D. to the Chief Secretary, Delhi for favour of information to the Chief Secretary cum Chairman, RMB.
2. The Vice Chairman, D.D.A., Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.
3. The Finance Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Delhi Sachivalaya, New Delhi.
4. The Secretary (Env. & Forests), GNCTD, Delhi Sachivalaya, New Delhi.
5. Sh. Ajay Mahajan (Kalpavriksh), D-805, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-65
6. Sh. Ravi Aggarwal (Shristi), H-2, Ground Floor, Jungpura Extn, New Delhi -1
7. Prakriti Centre for Environmental Protection, No. 3, Sankaracharya Marg, Delhi-54.
8. The Divisional Commissioner, Tis Hazari, Delhi.
9. The Development Commissioner, 5/9, Under Hill Rd., Delhi.
10. The Commissioner, M.C.D., Town Hall, New Delhi.

11. The Commissioner of Police, Police Head Quarters, IP Estate, New Delhi.
12. The CEO, Delhi Jal Board, Varunalaya, Karol Bagh, Delhi.
13. The Addl. Commissioner, Slum & JJ, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi.
14. Land & Development Officer, Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
15. The Dy. Commissioner, South District, Saket, New Delhi.
16. The Dy. Commissioner, South -West Distt., Kapashera Border, Terminal Tax Bldg., New Delhi.
17. The Forest Settlement Officers, ADM(HQ), 5 Sham Nath Marg, ADM (South), M.B. Road, Saket & ADM (South-West), Kapashera Border, N.D.
18. The Director General, C.P.W.D., Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. The Commissioner, Planning, D.D.A., Vikas Minar, New Delhi.
20. Chief Engineer, CPWD, (NDZ - I), Nirman Bhawan, Room No. 216, A Wing, New Delhi.
21. The Chief Engg., IFCD, ISBT, Kashmere Gate, Delhi.
22. Prof. I.H.Khan, Indian Society of Environment Management, 177, Zakir Bagh, Tower II, Opp. Surya Hotel, Okhla Road, New Delhi.
23. The Director, Horticulture, CPWD, New Delhi.
24. Director D Survey (AR) & DGCS, Survey of India, West Block -4, Wing No.4, R.K. Puram, New Delhi-66.
25. Pr. Secy., Deptt. of Urban Development, 9th Level, C Wing, Delhi Sectt.
26. Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, NBCC Place, Bhishma Pitamah Marg, New Delhi-110002
27. Vice Chairman, Delhi Agricultural Marketing Board, 9, Instt. Area, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi-58
28. Pr. Secretary, PWD, 5th Floor, Delhi Sectt., New Delhi.
29. The Dy. Conservator of Forests (HQ/ Central/ South/ West)


 (D.M. Shukla)
 Conservator of Forests &
 Member Secretary, RMI