

W8

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD ON DT: 09.06.99.

A meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary on 09.06.99 in the conference hall of Chief Secretary office. The list of participants is at Annexure - I.

Details of items discussed and decisions taken are indicated below:-

(A) Review of the minutes of the Ridge Management Board meeting held on 31.08.98.

1. Shifting of three colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary to Jaunapur Project site :-

Chief Engineer (Slum) MCD informed that NEERI has submitted its report regarding examining the provisions of infrastructure and disposal of sewerage/Sullage/storm water and distribution of water supply at Jaunapur project site. Chief Engineer (Slum) MCD requested that in absence of the physical & social infrastructural facilities on and around this allotted land site, relocation work of the above colonies is slow. Now since NEERI report on the above issues have been received, action on report is in progress. However, it will take 1 1/2 years to complete the job of shifting three colonies fully.

Chairman, desired that Slum Deptt. shall submit a detailed proposed action plan clearly depicting the time to be taken for each & every activity so that the completion of the shifting within 1 1/2 year from now may be ensured and monthly monitoring of work as per the dates fixed for each activity may be done & intimated to the Ridge Management Board. Three weeks time is given to Slum Department to submit the detailed Action Plan to Secretary (Env. & Forests).

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2 & 3. Protection, fencing and afforestation of Ridge :

Director, Hort. CPWD, explained that fencing is broken & stolen repeatedly in the Central Ridge and thereby making the protection of ridge difficult. He also said that he has put 15 persons for regular petrolling but even then the fencing posts are stolen. It was suggested that in future, R.C.C. posts should be used in place of Angle iron posts to reduce the possibility of theft. Secretary, (Env. & Forests) stressed the need to identify the areas where repeated breaches are there and petrolling should be intensified in those problem areas. The breaches plugged should be recorded so that repeated breaches on the same place are known.

Chairman, directed all Ridge Managing agencies to intensify regular petrolling for the protection of ridge as well as its fencing. It is also decided that all Ridge Managing agencies will complete the afforestation & moisture conservation works by 15th September positively. Proposed afforestation plan should be given by all agencies facilitating monitoring of the same.

4. Use of Rabindra Rangshalla for Republic Day parade:

The request from Defence Ministry for use of Rabindra Rangshalla to accommodate tableau artists for Republic Day Parade 2000 was discussed. It was decided that in view of the national importance of the festival and non-identification of alternative site by Defence Ministry, the R.M.B. may give permission to use Rabindra Rangshalla on the following conditions:-

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- (i) No damage to the flora & fauna on the site shall be done.
- (ii) No permanent structure shall be erected in the ridge.
- (iii) The entry to the camp site should be restricted to the tableau artists only.
- (iv) After completion of function, the site shall be vacated by the tableau artists without leaving any materials etc.
- (v) The entry gate (from upper ridge road) to the camp site shall be closed permanently by Defence Ministry after the completion of Republic Day function.
- (vi) No fire wood shall be collected from the ridge and kindling of fire shall not be allowed.
- (vii) Defence Ministry shall nominate a nodal officer to Co-ordinate all activities and with whom R.M.B may liaise if needed.

5. Settlement of claims by Forest Settlement Officer :-

Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 11.05.99 asked for a copy of final notification of the Ridge if issued under section-20 of Indian Forest Act. As all claims are not settled, so it is not possible to issue final notification of the ridge as Reserve Forest. Forest Settlement Officer informed that only one case is left to be settled by him which he will do within 15 days. But there are various religious structures, un-authorized colonies falling under the category of identified J.J. Clusters & Private land allotted under 20 Point Programme are located inside the notified ridge boundaries and therefore, these issues are required to be settled before issuing notification under section 20 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927. Chief Secretary desired that all these issues i/c encroachments should be sorted out by Development Commissioner, Divisional Commissioner and Forest Settlement Officer. Chief Secretary further desired that Director (Panchayat) may file claims from villagers side if they don't do :

6. Taking over of the Petrol Pumps in Central Ridge:-

Member Secretary intimated that many of the petrol pumps which were to be taken over by L & DO for further handing over to CPWD are not yet taken over even when some of these petrol pumps have stopped working. As a result these sites are being used as dumping sites. Therefore, action to take these pumps should be expedite. L & DO stated that out of nine petrol pumps sites to be taken over by Ridge Management Board, five have already been taken over by L&DO and the sites for four petrol pumps are still left which the oil company had not handed over to L&DO. It was decided that L & DO will give names of those four petrol pumps and the concerned oil company to Secy. (Env. & Forests) & Secy. Env. & Forests will then issue notice to all these oil companies to handover the vacated site in the ridge to L & DO by 30.06.99. If the oil companies fail to do so, contempt petition will be filed against them.

NEW ITEMS:

1. Taking over the land from Janki Devi Mahavidhayalaya:-

Ridge Management Board decided to file a contempt petition against Janki Devi Mahavidhayalaya for not handing over 0.9 acres of land as per Hon'ble Supreme Court's order dtd. 11.09.96 and for violation of directions of R.M.B not to do any construction work in this remaining area till the issue was settled.

2. Request of Mangvsthal School to permit passage through ridge from upper ridge road side:-

Chief Secy., desired that keeping in view the spirit of the Supreme Court's order, R.M.B. may allow the use of Kachcha road by children with restricted use of buses with no parking allowed in the ridge. There shall not be any damage to ridge flora by buses as well as by school childrens. This may be settled with concerned institutions and Associations.

3. Construction of fly over at Dhaula Kuan :-

Conservator of Forests informed that on one side there is Ridge Reserve Forest and on the other side there is protected forest managed by D D A. For protected forest proposal for diversion of forests for non-forestry purpose is to be sent to Ministry of Env. & Forests, Govt. of India, and for diversion of Ridge Reserve Forest land for non-forestry purpose, the prior permission from Hon'ble Supreme Court is required before sending the diversion proposal to Govt. of India as Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed specific judgements on Ridge Reserve Forests.

Chief Secy., desired that PWD may amend the design of the flyover so that Ridge should be maintained as per the spirit of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's orders.

7. Development Scheme of Ridge Areas:-

All Ridge Managing Agencies were directed to submit the schemes within 3 weeks for the development of ridge under their management. The Development schemes should include regeneration, afforestation, soil & moisture conservation measures, protection of ridge, details of plantations.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

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