

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF RMB HELD UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY & CHAIRMAN, RMB AT 3:00 P.M. ON 02.06.2009 TO CONSIDER THE REPORT OF PR. SECRETARY, FINANCE ON THE USE OF RIDGE LAND FOR PROVIDING PASSAGE TO MANAVSTHALI SCHOOL, NEW RAJINDER NAGAR, NEW DELHI.**

The following attended the meeting:

1. Shri V.V. Bhat, Pr. Secretary, Finance & Member, RMB
2. Shri J.K. Dadoo, Secretary, Environment & Forests & Member, RMB
3. Shri Ajay Mahajan, Kalpavriksha & Member, RMB
4. Shri D.M. Shukla, Conservator of Forests & Member Secretary, RMB
5. Shri S. Das, Joint Director (Planning), DDA, Representative of VC-DDA
6. Smt. Smita Saxena, Asstt. Director, DDA
7. Shri Brij Lal, Dy. Director (Hort.), DDA

The Chief Secretary & Chairman, RMB, welcoming the Members of the Board informed that the Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri V.V. Bhat, Pr. Secretary (Finance), had submitted its Report dated 08.5.2009 for the consideration of the Board as decided in the last meeting of RMB held on 31.01.2008 in pursuance of the order dated 23.11.2007 in CWP No.10173/2006 in the matter of R-Block Welfare Association, New Rajinder Nagar Vs. NCT of Delhi on the issue of providing access to Manavsthal and JD Tytler Schools through the Central Ridge. He, thereafter, requested Pr. Secretary (Finance) to brief the Members of the findings of the Committee.

The Pr. Secretary, Finance & Member, RMB informed that allowing an access through the ridge would virtually split the forest block into two, thereby leading to different problems of the management of the forest and its ecology. He also added that the traffic problem caused by the buses to the residence of Rajinder Nagar, though genuine cannot override the importance of the area of the ridge in the background of the judicial decision about the paramount nature of ecological considerations. Therefore, taking a long term view of the matter would mean that the protection of the forest should take priority over the traffic problem in approaching the school by buses. He was also of the view that such a traffic problem may not be specific to this school alone; there may be other schools with similar traffic problems and, therefore, need traffic management solutions. Further, Manavsthal School as well as neighbouring school have managed the known problem of traffic by phasing the timings of school, moving away of the buses after dropping the children etc. It may be possible to refine the traffic circulation and management aspects with some more attention. In regard to access through ridge to the Army Public School, he clarified that the situation relating to the school was quite different as it did not involve any passing through the existing forest area.

Endorsing the findings of the Committee, Shri J.K. Dadoo, Secretary (E&F) and Member, RMB pointed out that the import of the directions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP(C) 4677/85 in the matter of M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India was to

Copy for information to:

1. The Dy. Commissioner of Police, Traffic, Police Headquarters, MSO Building, I.P. Estate, New Delhi.
2. The General Secretary, R-Block Welfare Association (Regd), R-814-B, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60 for information and necessary action.
3. The Principal, J.D. Tytler School, R-Block, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi for similar action as (4) above.
4. The Principal, Manavsthali School, R-Block, New Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi for similar action as (4) above.
5. The Dy. Conservator of Forests, Headquarters/South, Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
(D.M. Shukla) 15/6/09  
Conservator of Forests &  
Member-Secretary, RMB  
*[Handwritten initials]*