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GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
IInd FLOOR, 'A', BLOCK VIKAS BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-02.

F. No.: - PA/Secy/Env/ 2004/

Dated:

Sub: Minutes of Meeting held in the Raj Niwas on Delhi Ridge on 16.07.2004

A Presentation was made on Delhi Ridge by the Secretary (E&F) before the Lt. Governor, Delhi at Raj Niwas on 16.07.2004 at 3:30 P.M. The list of Officers who attended the meeting is annexed.

During the presentation, the Secretary, (E&F) informed L.G. on the various issues pertaining to Delhi Ridge with the historical background, Lovraj Kumar Committee Report, Supreme Court of India's intervention, Ridge Management Board's decision and present position as regards to all Ridges. L.G. desired to know the status of encroachment in the Ridge. The issues pertaining to each Ridge and direction of the L.G. are as under: -

1. Northern Ridge:

The boundary wall of Northern Ridge is complete and there is no encroachment.

The issue of Shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station out of the Northern Ridge is pending since 1996. Special Commissioner, Police informed that alternative land has been made available for shifting the Maurice Nagar Police Station.

LG directed to expedite the shifting of Police Station outside the Ridge area.

(Action: Commissioner Police)

2. Central Ridge:

- (i) Secretary, (E & F) informed that effective fencing of Central Ridge has not been taken up by CPWD authorities even after repeated directions of RMB. The Secretary, (E & F) further informed that in response to the decision taken in a meeting held between the Secretary, Urban Development, Govt. of India and the Chief secretary, Delhi to transfer the management and protection of Central Ridge under CPWD to the Forest

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Deptt. of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, a Notification has been issued by L &DO during May 2004 to this effect. Subsequently, a proposal for construction of boundary wall has already been submitted to the Finance Deptt. She further informed that the process of taking over of Central ridge has started.

(ii) LG desired L&DO to provide details of all the allotments and encroachments in the Central Ridge within a week.
(Action: L&DO)

(iii) Secretary, (E&F) informed that there is serious problem of dumping of malba along the roads passing through Ridge. Chief Engineer, CPWD informed that malba is usually from waste building materials originating from nearby colonies and dumped during the odd hours. Conservator of Forests proposed restriction on the entry of the trucks on the road within the Ridge during nighttime by Delhi Police. Shri Sewa Das, Special Commissioner, Police was requested to look into this aspect and do the needful.

L.G. directed CPWD to ensure proper watch & ward in the vulnerable area and remove the existing malba.

(Action: Police Commissioner; DG, CPWD; Conservator of Forests)

(iv) L.G. desired that the encroachment of the Ridge area should be removed on priority jointly with the Forest Deptt., Revenue Deptt., MCD. A time limit should be framed for the removal of the encroachment.

(Action: L&DO; DG, CPWD; Commissioner of Police; Conservator of Forests)

(v) L.G. desired that effective fencing of Central Ridge should be completed without further delay to prevent any encroachment in future.

(Action: Conservator of Forests)

3. Unauthorized Construction in Central ridge near Dasghara:

Hon'ble Delhi High Court passed order in the hearing held on 14.07.2004 directing DDA to take following action:

- (i) The path or the paths must be turn into green area by DDA.
- (ii) The malba, bricks, etc., which are lying in the ridge area shall be removed.
- (iii) DDA has to see that nobody is permitted to dump malba.

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- (iv) Water body to be restored as a water body.
- (v) Crematorium shed should be removed.
- (vi) RMB to decide whether the R-Block, Rajinder Nagar Park initially formed part of Ridge or not. To protect the ridge as in existence today, it is the duty of RMB to see that the park area is segregated by fencing and the ridge is maintained as ridge only.

VC, DDA said that he would take action as per directions of Delhi High Court in this regard. Although some Law and order problem could be anticipated, LG desired that VC, DDA may explore the possibility of transferring the management of the area to the Forest Deptt.
(Action: VC, DDA; Commissioner Police)

4. Southern- Central Ridge:

The Secretary, Forest informed that there are incidents of throwing of malba waste along the roads passing through Sanjay Van, Nanakpura and other parts of South- central Ridge and urged VC, DDA for taking necessary steps to keep ridge area clean. VC, DDA informed that there is no encroachment in the Southern Central Ridge.

LG advised VC, DDA to explore the possibility of transferring the management of the area to the Forest Deptt. for scientific management.
(Action: VC, DDA)

5.

Southern Ridge:

- (a) **Shifting of colonies:** LG was apprised that Slum & JJ Wing of MCD was provided Rs. 10.70 Crores during 1997 for shifting of 3 colonies namely Sanjay Nagar, Balbir Nagar & Indira Nagar out of Southern Ridge. In the last RMB meeting on 16/04/2004, it was committed by the MCD that the shifting of colonies would be completed by 25.04.2004. However, no progress has been communicated in this regard so far. LG advised Additional Commissioner, MCD to submit the status report on the progress made in shifting of the colonies out of the Southern Ridge.

- (b) **Encroachment in Notified area:**

LG desired that action on the following points should be taken on priority and in a time bound manner:

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LG desired that action on the following points should be taken on priority and in a time bound manner:

- (i) Pre 1996 and post 1996 allotments/ encroachments should be ascertained jointly by Forest & Revenue Deptt within a fortnight.
- (ii) The notified area with reference to Gaon Sabha land should be reconciled and demarcated immediately.
- (iii) Post 1996 encroachments should be removed in a time bound manner jointly by Revenue & Forest Deptt.
- (iv) Habitation in 116 ha area to be explained in detail to the LG.
- (v) As regards to allotments made under the 20 Point Programmes and to IGNOU, Sports Authority of India, NDMC and Air Force, these are pre 1996. These should be brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Supreme Court so that the area may be excluded from the notification, if the Court so agrees.
- (vi) DDA may consider handing over of possession of 5 ha area to the Forest Deptt.
- (vii) A detailed report of the cases pending before various Courts, along with Khasra numbers, should be placed before the LG for his information.
(Action: Divisional Commissioner)
- (viii) A committee of officers of the Divisional Commissioner's office along with the Conservator of Forests may give a final report regarding the exact extent of area demarcated/ handed over etc.
(Action: Div. Commissioner; Conservator of Forests; VC,DDA)

6. **Final Notification of Ridge:**

LG was apprised that FSO has already settled claims in 166 cases and 2 claims are pending with him. Further appeals have been filed in 4 cases pertaining to the Central ridge with the Appellate Authority (Secretary, Revenue). LG directed all concerned that action should be taken for issuance of Final Notification with respect to the ridges without further delay.

(Action: Forest Settlement Officer; Conservator of Forests)

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.