

Minutes of the Meeting of the Ridge Management Board held on 5.8.2003

The meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held on 5.08.2003 at 3:00 P.M. under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. List of the officers who attended the meeting is annexed.

The following items on the agenda were discussed and decisions taken on these items are as below:

1. **FRI's study on the flora of Ridge area:**

The Director, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun presented the Vegetation Survey and inventorization of Species in the Ridge Forest of Delhi containing following features:

- a. Distribution and vegetation pattern of ridge area.
- b. Status of disappeared floral species.
- c. Frequency of floral species ridge wise.
- d. Status of pollution hardy species.
- e. Medicinal plants in ridge area.

Director, FRI confirmed that due to protection measures introduced on the ridge area, the reappearance of 45 extinct species of ridge area was encouraging.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the study should have the comparison with some similar area of any other part of India or any study conducted in previous years for the Ridge area. The study should preferably be with respect to the data available for 1986 and 1996 i.e. the years in which notifications for Asola Sanctuary and Bhatti Mines area were issued and 1994 i.e. the year in which notification was issued under section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 for the ridge area. She desired the interim report should be finalized by incorporating the information pertaining to the following:

- i) Re-introduction of extinct species.
- (ii) Species recommended for regeneration

(iii) Analysis of the data with some conclusions for future guidance.

Chief Secretary desired that the interim report consisting of above points should be submitted with two months by FRI, Dehradun.

2.

Protection and fencing of Central Ridge:

The Chief Secretary took serious note of inordinate delay in providing effective and enduring fencing on the Central Ridge area by CPWD. She directed that CPWD should ensure both A/A and B/S of chain link fencing of the work within the month of August from competent authority and ensure completion of the enduring Chain link fencing.

The issue of laying of untreated water pipeline to Buddha Jyanti Park was discussed and it was observed that the possibility of rain water harvesting should be explored in consultation with Central Ground Water Board for Vanasthali as well as Buddha Jyanti Park.

The revised plan for the work on the Vanasthali Park was approved in principal incorporating (a) reduction in the cost of the lawn area (b) use of the porous interlocking tiles in the car parking, (c) use of only bazri/ badarpur in the jogging track. It has been also desired that a proto type model of proposed construction in the Mahavir Vanasthali should be made and shown to the Ridge Management Board Members as said area is notified as proposed Reserved Forests under Section 4 of Indian Forest Act 1927 and thus attracts the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980.

3. Unauthorised construction in Central Ridge by DDA and dumping of Malba in large scale:

The photograph of the works undertaken by the DDA regarding road pathway and crematorium etc. were shown but the DDA representative stated that the crematorium was in existence since long and the DDA improved the existing road/ pathway to the crematorium. This being the serious issue the Chief Secretary requested the Divisional Commissioner to ask the DC (South West) to submit the history/ background on how

long crematorium is in use. The MCD authority should also report on the system of death registration from this crematorium of central ridge area near village Dasghara. A letter to the Vice-Chairman (DDA) should be issued on the detailed facts about the unauthorized construction of roads, railings etc. in violation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Pending the receipt of these reports, no vehicular traffic of any kind should be allowed to ply inside the Ridge area.

Malba

A Sub Committee has been constituted consisting of DCF (West), Shri Ajay Mahajan, Member of the RMB and the representatives of the DDA. They should visit the area and should submit the report within seven days.

4. Shifting of Colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary to alternative site:


The Secretary (Environment & Forest) informed that PAC has taken serious note a for delay in shifting of colonies from wildlife sanctuary inspire of the fact that Forest Department has provided 10.7 Crores to the Slum and JJ Department in 1996. The Chief Secretary asked the Additional Commissioner, Slum & JJ Deptt. for early shifting of the colonies from wildlife sanctuary. He assured the Ridge Management Board that entire shifting of colonies will be completed by March 2004.

5. Shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station

It was directed that enough FAR/ space is available in the site already with Police Deptt. behind Daulat Ram College and therefore Maurice Nagar Police Station should be shifted there as suggested by L&DO on priority. The representative of the Police indicated that the lines were already situated there. The representative of DDA indicated that enhanced FAR had been also provided. The Chairperson viewed it seriously and asked the Police authorities to undertake the project at the site suggested by L&DO and cleared by DDA without further delay.

6. **Final Notification of the Ridge**

Out of 169 cases filed with the FSO, final orders have now been received for 168 cases and a committee of officers of the Forest department, L& DO as well as the Ridge area managing agencies would go into each case to decide whether the appeal should be filed or not. This would expedite the process of final notification.

 **Demarcation in the disputed portion of Southern Ridge**

While awaiting a final report from the Haryana Govt. DC (South) informed that the demarcation on the ground has been settled. To avoid any intrusions at the site of the 500 meter broken compound wall he suggested for construction of boundary wall on the site.

8. **DMRC proposal in Bhooli Bhatiari Ridge Area**

The Members welcomed the possibility of an alternative site of the Ridge area having been identified by the DMRC on the basis of recommendation made by the committee of the representatives of Forest Department, DDA and DMRC during the visit to the site on 30.7.03. The proposal was to be considered at the earliest.