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OFFICE OF THE CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
KAMLA NEHRU RIDGE, DELHI-110007.

No.F11(26)/PA/DCF/95/Vol.III/1408-25 Dated: 7/7/98

To

1. Vice-Chairman,
Delhi Development Authority,
Vikas Sadan, New Delhi.
2. Finance Secretary,
Govt. of NCT of Delhi,
5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi.
3. Prof. I.H.Khan,
Indian Society of Environmental Management,
B-II, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-25.
4. Mr. Akshay Kumar,
Prakarti, Centre for Environmental Protection
No.3, Shankracharya Marg, Delhi-54.
5. Sh. B.L.Nimesh, L&DO,
Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment,
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Director (Hort.), CPWD
Y-Shape Building, New Delhi.
7. Director (Hort.) MCD,
Rouse Avenue, New Delhi.
8. Mr. Manjeet Singh,
Addl. Commissioner, Slum & J.J.
Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Commissioner, MCD,
Town Hall, Delhi.
10. Mr. Manoj Kumar,
Forest Settlement Officer,
ADM(HQ) Tis Hazari, Delhi.
11. Director Survey (AR),
West Block-IV, Wing No. IV,
R.K.Puram, New Delhi.
12. Director (Panchayat),
Tis Hazari, Delhi.
13. Chief Engineer, CPWD
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
14. Chief Engineer, MCD,
Town Hall, Delhi.
15. DCP (Traffic),
I.T.O., IX Floor, N.D.

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- 16. Director (Hort.) DDA (South),
Vikas Minar, New Delhi.
- 17. O.S.D. to Chief Secretary,
5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi.
- 18. Secretary (Env. & Forests),
Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi.

Sir,

Enclosed please find herewith the minutes of the meeting of Ridge Management Board held on 09.06.1998 at 5.00 P.M. under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT Delhi for further necessary action.

Please acknowledge the receipt of the letter,


(R.K. GOEL)
MEMBER SECRETARY, RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD-Cum-
CONSERVATOR OF FOREST, DELHI

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

A meeting of the Ridge Management Board, was held under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary cum Chairman, Ridge Management Board on 09.06.98 in the conference hall. List of the participants is at Annexure -I.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. - I;

1. Shri. Manjit Singh, Addl. Commissioner, (Slum & J J) informed that 44 model houses are ready and the technical details and estimates will be evaluated by NEERI for which a team is going to Nagpur for detailed discussions. Therefore, it was decided that an affidavit should be filed in the Supreme Court by 30.06.98 after the team holds the discussions with NEERI officials.
2. Member Secretary, briefed the Board that fencing work has not been carried out by various agencies including CPWD, DDA, etc. on the land retrieved by way of removal of encroachment/taken over from various educational, religious institutions despite their commitment in the last meeting of the Ridge Management Board, held on 08.10.97. It was emphasised that the areas retrieved can be re-encroached if the immediate fencing is not done as the bench marks given after demarcation will be erased. Member Secretary gave the details of some of the institutions like DI Khan School, Balabharathi School, Janakidevi Mahavidyalaya, Ridge area with DDA, adjacent to Poosa service station etc., where the fencing has not been completed. DDA has not done fencing at Chouburja Marg, in the northern ridge. Chief Secretary desired that all the left over fencing shall be completed by 31.07.98 and for Chouburja Marg it will be completed within seven days, as it is only a small portion on which the boundary wall construction is to be completed.

At this juncture, Chairman Ridge Management Board, expressed the view that non-completion of the fencing /boundary wall amount to contempt of the Supreme Court order and in case land managing agency fail to complete the fencing by 31.07.98, Supreme Court should be informed. Further, he expressed his unhappiness

that members of the Ridge Management Board have not been attending the meetings and directed that members of the Ridge Management Board should be present in future and in case of defaulting members a serious view would be taken.

Director DDA informed that the residents are opposing erection of boundary wall on the Chauburja Road. Chairman directed that police help may be taken by the concerned Superintending Engineer, Mr. Goel & Mr. Banka, Chief Engr. of the DDA, who will be personally responsible to get the work completed within seven days.

- 3. Member Secretary briefed the Board that afforestation has not been undertaken especially in the central and south-central ridge areas retrieved from removal of encroachment/taken over from various educational and religious institutions as per the directions of the Supreme Court. He also informed that these plantation work were to be undertaken during monsoon season of 1997-98 itself and the afforestation has been delayed by one year. Member Secretary, further briefed that natural regeneration will not be sufficient on areas retrieved on which vegetation has been absent since long time and to cover it with the vegetation, intervention in the form of soil and moisture conservation measures, and subsequent planting will be required. It was decided by the Chairman, Ridge Management Board that in case land managing agencies fails to complete the plantation by 15th August, 1998 then Forest Department will undertake plantation on such areas and cost of the plantation etc., will be recovered from such agencies

“Greening Delhi Action Plan 1998 - 99” was discussed with special reference to the plantations in the ridge areas and the Chairman, directed that all the land managing agencies of the ridge should complete the plantation work by 15th August, positively. Further, he was of the opinion, that various roads between Vasant Vihar and Vasant Kunj and other adjacent areas should be undertaken by PWD and MCD as the area gives deserted look. He expressed the view that the targets reflected in the action plan shall be completed by 15th August, 98 along with the plantation on the various ridge areas as per the special chapter on it in the greening action plan on development and management of ridge areas.

4. It was reiterated by Chief Secretary, that ridge areas are susceptible to various biotic pressures including encroachment, grazing by domestic animals, breaking boundary wall/fencing, removal of fire-wood etc which if not controlled would negate the efforts made so far which has been reflected in the recovery of the ridge areas in the form of natural re-generation coming up there by making the ridge areas look dense.

Director - CPWD, Shri. Chotty Singh, further informed that he has taken steps to stop the grazing taking place in the central ridge area. Further, Chairman, Ridge Management Board expressed his unhappiness at the fact that some 'Jhuggis' had come up in the ridge area which is not a part of the Ridge Management but part of cantonment area and desired that measure should be taken by Cantonment Board and letter should be written to the Cantonment Board for the removal of the Jhuggis.

5. Member Secretary, briefed the Board that a piquant situation has arisen following orders of Supreme Court that Link Road Filling Station and Poosa service station are not part of the ridge. It is apprehended that more review petitions may be filed by other petrol filling station. In fact one such filling station has already filed a review during May 1998. It was, therefore, decided that a senior advocate should be engaged to defend the interest of the Ridge Management Board and Govt. of Delhi. The name of Shri. S.K. Battacharya, advocate in Supreme Court was proposed and which was approved by the Board. Further Shri Battacharya is already engaged in the Pollution matters on behalf of Delhi Pollution Control Committee.

Review of the minutes of the meeting held on 08.10.97 :

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

1. Member Secretary, informed that CPWD has already taken over 2.60 acres of the land from Janaki Devi Maha Vidyalaya and the management of the college has been informed that they would not undertake any construction on the balance area as it is part of the ridge.

2. Member Secretary, briefed that L&DO has been unable to remove the encroachments. Chief Secretary stated that he would also be taking up this matter with the Secretary Urban Development, Govt. of India. In the area retrieved behind Birla Mandir and after re-location of Valmiki Basti, during November 1997, it was decided that CPWD will undertake plantations on these ridge areas during coming monsoon season.
3. The Member Secretary, briefed that a notice was issued to the Management of Baba Ashram temple to which latter have replied that they will abide by the directions of the Supreme Court and shall undertake plantation and also has given in writing that they will not take any vehicle inside the area. It was decided that in case there is any violation by the temple management then R.M.B. may straight away file a contempt petition in the Supreme Court.
4. Member Secretary also briefed that Laldwara Management Committee case is being heard by Supreme Court and hence, it would not be appropriate to file contempt petition before Supreme Court as advised by our advocate.
5. Shifting of 11 squatters from Central Ridge: The Member Secretary, informed the Members, that this matter is still continuing in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
6. Already discussed.

AGENDA ITEM NO.2

1. The proposal to lay transmission line between Naraina and Park street by Delhi Vidyut Board was discussed by the Board, and it was observed that transmission line will not be allowed through the ridge. Delhi Vidyut Board may be asked to explore the feasibility of an alternative route after GIS study.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3

1. Matter already discussed above.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4

1. The Ministry of Defence was allowed to use Rabindra Rangshala in the Central Ridge, as a special case for the Republic day celebrations, 1998, on the condition

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that no further approval will be given in future as directed by Hon'ble Supreme Court and stated in our affidavit in this matter and which was also confirmed by Supreme Court at its hearing on 29.01.1998.

2. Construction of boundary pillars at Delhi-Haryana Border : Member Secretary, briefed the board about the slow progress in this matter as well as the dispute still continuing on the demarcation as highlighted by Brig. Amrik Singh, Survey of India. Chief Secretary desired that Revenue Secretary should coordinate and expedite the settlement of interstate boundary between Haryana and Delhi so that mining operations at this border are stopped. Mining at present is continuing on the pretext that the area falls under Haryana State.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

1. The site inspection of the International hotel complex at Vasant Vihar, was conducted by Member Secretary and it was observed that there may be overlapping of the protected forest and hotel complex site. DDA has been requested to supply the site map of the hotel complex to the Member Secretary, Ridge Management Board but till date DDA has not supplied the required maps. DDA has further, been requested to conduct a joint inspection of the site along with the forest officials to ensure that there is no overlapping of the protected forest area and the hotel complex land and DDA will ensure demarcation of protected forest, being the agency responsible for management of land.

The meeting ended with Vote of thanks to the Chair.