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[REDACTED]

GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
(OFFICE OF THE DY. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS)
KAMLA NEHRU RIDGE, DELHI

No. F11(26)/PA/DCF/95/

Dated:

To

111 Road,

Sub: Minutes of the meeting of the Ridge Management Board held on 9.1.96

Sir,

Enclosed is the minutes of the meeting of the Ridge Management Board held in the chamber of Chief Secretary, Govt. of NCT of Delhi on 9.1.96.

The concerned officers are requested to take immediate action to implement decisions taken and assurances given in the above said meeting without fail immediately.

Yours faithfully,


(D.C. KHANDURI)
DY. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

Encl: As above/

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD
HELD ON 09.01.1996 AT 4.30 p.m.
IN THE CHAMBER OF CHIEF SECRETARY, GOVT. OF NCT OF D

List of members who attended the meeting of the Management Board held on 9.1.96 is annexed.

1. Consequent upon the orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 3.1.1996 in Writ Petition (C No.4677/85, M.C. Mehta Vs Union of India and other emergent meeting was convened by the Chief Secretary, of Delhi to discuss the various issues. The Secretary, at the very outset, categorically stated the responsibility of securing the Ridge from future encroachments lies with the respective agencies who are managing the ridges. He reiterated his direction issued on the subject in the earlier meetings also. He further informed the Members of the Ridge Management Board that the Hon'ble Lt. Governor has desired that the orders issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court should be complied with by the concerned agencies in toto. Any lapse on the part of the concerned authority will be taken seriously and the responsibility fixed on the concerned officers. The directions arising out of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions of 3.1.1996 were discussed sequentially.

2. It was clarified that fencing the ridge to prevent against encroachments does not mean that the fencing should be carried out only in those areas from which encroachments have been removed, consequent upon the Hon'ble Lt. Governor's directions. The basic idea of fencing is to ensure that the entire ridge is made inaccessible to encroachments, which a very firm and enduring fencing will have to be provided on the periphery of the ridge so that the basic objective can be achieved. It is the responsibility of the concerned agencies who are managing the ridge to ensure immediate fencing of the ridge wherever the boundaries are

vacant areas, adjoining to the ridge, Shri Jhingran informed that the DDA has fixed a meeting on 12.1.96 to discuss the same issues.

7. The issues relating to the filing of affidavit by the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding re-location of para military forces located in the ridge area was discussed in detail. Shri Suresh Rai, IGP, CRPF representing the MHA informed that the land has been identified in Bhawana (100 acres) and Burari (50 acres). However, requisition has not been sent to the Land & Building Deptt. as the total cost of land acquisition amounting to Rs.9 crores as per the MHA has to be borne by the Delhi Government. The Chief Secretary remarked that the issues pertaining to payments can be decided later at an appropriate level. However, the MHA should immediately identify the exact area in Bawana and Burari for the relocation of the para military forces, place firm requisition with the Secretary (L&B), Govt. of Delhi immediately and deposit the amount of Rs.9 crores pending a decision whether the land cost should be borne by MHA or Delhi Government. Chief Secretary further stated that since the entire Central Plan assistance of Delhi Government had been deducted by MHA for payment of BTPS dues, it may be difficult for Govt. of Delhi to bear the expenditure of Rs.9 crores at this juncture. Shri Suresh Rai assured that he will take up the matter with the MHA accordingly.

8. Discussing the issues pertaining to plantation of trees on the ridge, the Chief Secretary directed that the concerned land management agencies should clear the debris from the sites, from which encroachments have been removed, within a week. The concerned agencies should thereafter start plantation immediately through their respective Horticulture Wings. The DDA, MCD, NDMC and CPWD authorities assured that the same will be done within the stipulated period. The Chief Secretary further directed

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that the concerned agencies should submit a report on the subject within two weeks to Shri Khanduri, to enable him to file an appropriate affidavit as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

9. Shri Khanduri, DCF informed that the Development Department had the details of only one litigation pertaining to the Delhi Ridge which will be intimated to the Hon'ble Supreme Court, as directed. However, the Chief Secretary also directed that if such litigations exist in the lands managed by other agencies, the same may also be brought to the notice of Mr. Khanduri in writing, who in turn will inform the Hon'ble Court accordingly.

10. The Dy. Commissioner, Delhi informed that he would be submitting proposals to the Lt. Governor relating to conversion of Gaonⁿ Sabha land into forest/reserved forest within the next three days.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.