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

No.F11(26)/PA/DCF/95/4606-17

Dated: 24/12/98

To

1. Addl. Commissioner,
Slum & J.J.,
I.T.O., New Delhi.
2. Director(Hort.), CPWD,
Y-Shape Building, N.D.
3. Director(Hort.), MCD,
Rouse Avenue, N.D.
4. Land & Development Officer,
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Director(Hort.) (North),
Vikas Minar, I.T.O., New Delhi.
6. Director(Hort.) (South),
Vikas Minar, I.T.O., New Delhi.
7. Director(Hort.) NDMC,
Palika Kendra, New Delhi.
8. Dr. Iqbal Malik,
177 Zakir Bagh, Tower-II,
Opp. Surya Hotel, Okhla Road,
New Delhi-110025.

Sub:-Minutes of the Meeting held at Raj Niwas in respect of
Management of Ridge Forest areas.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith the copy of the minutes of the meeting held at Raj Niwas on 8.12.1998 in respect of the Management of Ridge Forest areas. You are requested to take immediate necessary follow up action and the action taken may kindly be communicated at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: Copy Enclosed.

(ISHWAR SINGH)
DY. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
DELHI

Dated:

No.F11(26)/PA/DCF/95/
Copy to:-

1. O.S.D. to Lt. Governor, Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi.
2. O.S.D. to Chief Secretary, 5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi.
3. P.S. to Secretary (Env. & Forests), Vikas Bhawan, N.D.
4. P.S. to Development Commissioner, 5/9, Under Hill Road, Delh

(ISHWAR SINGH)
DY. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
DELHI

Minutes of the meeting chaired by Hon'ble Lt. Governor on 08.12.98, in connection with the Management of Ridge areas.

A meeting under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble L.G., Delhi, was held on 08.12.98 at 12:00 Hrs. at Raj Niwas, for discussing progress of Management of Ridge areas in Delhi. The following officials were present:- Sh. H.A. Arfi, Secy. (Env. & Forest), Dr. Iqbal Malik, N.G.O., from Vatawaran, Sh. C.L. Munshi Chief Engineer, Slum & JJ, M.C.D., Sh. H.C. Dhawan, Conservator of Forests, and Sh. Ishwar Singh, Dy. Conservator of Forests.

The Hon'ble L.G., welcomed officials and N.G.O's, in the important meeting convened for the Management of all the four Ridge areas of Delhi. As the Ridge is the lifeline of Delhi, and is very important for aesthetic and environmental values, the L.G. therefore, stressed the need for time bound action in properly managing the ridge areas of Delhi including Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary. The Supreme Court in its directives had already fixed deadlines for removal of encroachments, shifting of villages, providing fencing and re-generation of vacated areas. Any further encroachments in the ridges is the responsibility of the ridge managing agencies namely CPWD, MCD, DDA, NDMC and Forest Deptt. of NCT of Delhi.

Action taken report on the minutes of the last meeting held at Raj Niwas on 14.10.98 along with other matters were para wise discussed, which are as per the details given below:-

1. Exploring possibilities of retrieval of further ridge areas:-

It was pointed out in the last meeting that certain agencies like ISRO, Police Center, abandoned Water tanks in the Central Ridge and some land behind Bara Hindu Rao Hospital, Maurice Nagar Police Station in the Northern Ridge, can be

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retrieved, as it appears that they can very well be shifted to other areas. To find out exact status of utility of these establishments, it was decided to immediately undertake joint inspection with user agencies and report be submitted in one month's time.

L.G. also desired that the possibility of the using of the abandoned water tanks near Bhuli Bhattari in the Central ridge, may also be explored so as to develop it as a water body.

2. Fencing of the retrieved ridge land and its afforestation:-

All the ridge managing agencies were asked to submit a report of the completion of fencing and afforestation works as per the target assigned to them during 1998 - 1999 along with targets to be taken up for plantation works for the year 1999 - 2000 in the left out areas. DDA expressed some difficulties in removal of encroachments due to non-availability of police force. L.G., directed to pursue the litigation cases promptly and submit the status report of encroachments within one month's time and also directed that in case of any difficulty of getting police help, L.G., office may be contacted by the DDA. Even Supreme Court has taken serious note of encroachments in ridge areas and no encroachment of any sort can be allowed by any land managing agencies at any cost.

3. Removal of left out structures in ridge areas:-

CPWD., and DDA had not submitted report on the left out structures of CRP camp in the Central and South Central ridge and therefore, L.G., desired that such structures should be removed immediately and the report be submitted within one month's time. L.G., also desired the submission of status report of the structure used by Ministry of Defence at Rabindra Ranghsala immediately.

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4. Taking over of land vacated by Petrol Pumps:-
L.G., expressed concern for not taking over till now the land vacated by Petrol Pumps by L & DO, and desired that L & DO should submit the action taken report within two weeks time and also directed the concerned land managing agency to do fencing and advance work for afforesting the retrieved areas urgently to avoid any future encroachments and dumping of garbage.

5. Monitoring of Plantations:-
C.F., informed that Delhi Productivity Council and 'Regional Centre' of 'National afforestation and Eco Development Board' of the Ministry of Environment were requested to conduct monitoring of the plantations created by various greening agencies. "Delhi Productivity Council" had conducted the monitoring of plantations raised by Forest Deptt. of N.C.T. of Delhi during 1997 - '98 also. It was stressed that the other ridge managing agencies should also take up Soil Conservation measures in the ridge areas like construction of Check Dams, Gulli plugging, Contour Bunding, Construction of Water ponds, percolation tanks etc., to improve the water regime in the ridge areas, with the technical guidance from the Deptt. of Forest, Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi.

6. Acquiring of land vacated by Marble shops, near Andheria More:-
The Supreme Court in its Judgement ordered the stoppage of the non-forest activities in the said area and only greening activity was allowed as per Master Plan Development-2001. However, there are reports that certain areas vacated by Marble Dealers are being used for other works by certain private individuals and slowly there is an attempt to construct structures there, which may lead to

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encroachment of the area in future. In order to save the area from further encroachments and from use for non-forestry purposes, L.G., desired that Secy. (Env. & Forest) should verify the Sajara plans to know the status of this land for exploring the possibility of the retrieval after acquiring. Necessary report in this connection to be submitted by him within one month's time.

7. Shifting of 3 colonies to Jaunapur from Asola Bhatti Sanctuary area :-

The Supreme Court in its '96 Judgement had ordered the shifting of three colonies namely Balbir Nagar, Sanjay Nagar, and Indira Nagar located inside the Sanctuary. Slum & JJ Deptt. of MCD started construction of model structures at Jaunapur. The money for the shifting of these colonies had already been deposited long back. Last date for submission of the report to Supreme Court, over shifting of the colonies was October '96 and extension was granted up to October '97. L.G., expressed deep concern for the inordinate delay in shifting of these colonies and non-compliance of the Supreme Court's order. He further, directed that within one and half month's time the 3,500 families should be shifted to Jaunapur, to avoid contempt of court. Chief Engineer, Slum, was directed to fix a meeting within three days time in this respect with Commissioner MCD, and additional Commissioner, Slum and JJ for apprising about the whole case to Hon'ble L.G.

8. Stoppage of Mining on the Haryana side of the Asola Bhatti Sanctuary:-

The mining in Delhi was banned by Supreme Court whereas the mining work on the borders of Haryana is still continuing and as a result hundreds of trucks with loaded material ply over to Delhi through ridge and thus causing severe interference to the Flora and Fauna of the area.

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L.G., desired that in pursuance with the objectives of National Forest Policy, opening of industry and mining activities within the surroundings of the National Parks or sanctuary should be banned. Haryana Govt. may be approached by arranging a meeting in this respect by Secy. (Env. & Forest), N.C.T. of Delhi, for stoppage of mining and afforesting the area for creation of Buffer Zone in the vicinity of Asola Bhatti Sanctuary, in order to provide a corridor to the Wild-life present there. If need be Supreme Court may be approached for the purpose for similar action in Haryana as under its authority the mining was banned in Delhi.

9. Preparation of Management plan for the Ridge Area:- Keeping in view the need to plant indigenous species in the ridge areas and to carryout Forestry and Soil and Water Conservation measures, the preparation of Management plan in the similar manner as was done for Asola Bhatti Sanctuary area, should be contemplated and the task for the purpose be assigned to Haryana Forest Deptt. as they have done good work in afforesting Aravalli Hills in Haryana. L.G., desired to give complete report in one month's time after conducting meeting with PCCF Haryana, and CCF, Gurgaon, by Forest Officials of NCT of Delhi.

The following points were also discussed in the meeting besides the above:-

- a) C.F., intimated the programme to release Black bucks and Deers, confiscated from illegal possession of people in Delhi in Asola Bhatti Sanctuary area in near future. For their safety shifting of three villages from Sanctuary area is very essential to allow the wild animals to fully roam in.

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- b) It was also pointed out for increasing the Sanctuary area from existing 28 Sq.K.M. to 62 Sq. K.M. by including the adjacent reserve Forest area of the entire Southern ridge.
 - c) L.G., stressed the need to repair broken boundary wall, if any, in the sanctuary area immediately and also to quickly take up the construction of wall in the left out areas of sanctuary for giving protection to Flora and Fauna.
 - d) L.G., directed to conduct inspection of the Budhajayanti and Mahavir Jayanti Park in the Central ridge and to submit the report within 15 days regarding the level of management. It was also reported that some non-forestry activity was going on the Shankar Road in the Central ridge. L.G., desired a report within two weeks time.
 - e) L.G., desired the Forest Deptt. to take over Ridge area for better management and for protection from encroachments etc. The Deptt. agreed with the proposal but informed about lack of staff and shortage of Vehicles etc.
 - f) L.G., also desired that the next meeting for Management of ridge areas should be held after six weeks of time and it should be attended by senior officials of Ridge Managing agencies.
9. Dr. Iqbal Malik N.G.O., from Vatawaran desired the need to fully protect greenery of Delhi and also wanted to know to whom ordinary citizen should inform in case of emergency about the felling of trees or some illegalities in Forest or wildlife produce. It was informed that any informer may contact the following Telephone Nos.

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