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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON
12.01.2001 AT 3:00 P.M.**

Meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary at 3 PM on 12.01.2001. The list of participants is attached.

The following items were discussed and decisions taken as indicated below:

1. Shifting of three colonies from Wildlife Sanctuary to Jaunapur Project site:

The Conservator of Forests and Member Secretary, Ridge Management Board informed the board that the relocation of the three colonies from the Wildlife Sanctuary has been delayed considerably. He informed that the then Chief Secretary in his affidavit before Hon'ble Supreme Court in April '97 had stated that the re-location will be completed by 30th October, 1997. It is, therefore, a matter of great concern that this work has not been completed till date. The Forest Department had already paid Rs.11 crores to Slum & JJ, division of M.C.D in 1997 itself. This needs to be completed without further delay. The Additional Commissioner, Slum & JJ of MCD, informed that this matter is currently with the Principal Secretary, Urban Development and will be put up to the Chief Secretary within a week. The Chief Secretary, directed the Additional Commissioner, Slum & JJ to deal with the matter expeditiously.

2. Protection, fencing & afforestation of the Ridges:

Conservator of Forests, informed that the fencing and the boundary wall in Northern Ridge is damaged at many places because of which cattle are entering into the Ridge area and damaging the vegetation. Chief Secretary directed Director (Hort.), DDA, and Suptd., Engineer, DDA to inspect the entire ridge boundary in the Northern Ridge and take immediate measures and give compliance report to the Ridge Management Board within a week. Director (Hort.), DDA informed that the case of the meat shop in the Northern Ridge, has been finalised and the case of one Atta Chakki (Flour Mill) is before the Hon'ble L.G., of Delhi, and is likely to be decided on 14th of February, 2001.

The case of widening of roads within the Central ridge was also discussed. The various agencies which have undertaken this job have informed that the roads are being widened within their respective right of way. It was however, brought to the notice of all concerned that in the absence of the exact extent of the width of the road including right of way, it has become difficult to determine whether ridge area is encroached. The Board, therefore, directed the CPWD, PWD, MCD, NDMC and DDA to indicate the exact extent of the road including kutchha path and the right of way in respect of the roads within the ridge areas which are being widened or proposed to be widened.

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Conservator of Forests also informed about the construction of a park being undertaken by CPWD behind Balmiki Temple in Central ridge area. He further informed that since the construction of park was not approved by the R.M.B., or Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, CPWD was asked to stop the work. Chief Secretary, directed the Director (Hort.), CPWD., to submit the detailed plan of the park to the C.F. for scrutiny before it is considered by the board. It was also pointed out by the Forest Officer-present, that in many places in Northern and Central Ridge, Malba/Garbage is being dumped inside the ridge areas. Chief Secretary directed all the Ridge Managing agencies to issue notices to all agencies who are responsible for dumping of malba/garbage inside the Ridges and to take strong deterrent action to stop this practice forthwith.

3. **Settlement of Claims by Forest Settlement Officer & Final Notification of Ridge:**

The issue of shifting of Maurice Nagar Police Station and Wireless station out of Northern Ridge was discussed. It was informed by the DDA that the Police authorities have not been responding to their directions to shift the Wireless Station to some other sites outside the ridge area. Chief Secretary directed the D.D.A to issue notice to the Police Department.

The matter concerning the construction of boundary wall along the Interstate boundary in Asola Bhatti Sanctuary was discussed. There is a gap of about 500 mts in the boundary which is yet to be closed and this matter has been pending for many years. D.C(S) informed that there is a dispute about the Inter State boundary in this portion between Delhi and State of Haryana. The site has been jointly inspected by the officials of the Revenue department, Survey of India, D.C.F (South) and I& F Deptt. D.C(S), further informed that she has already requested Survey of India to survey the area beyond Bhatti Sanctuary and intimate exact boundary between Delhi and Haryana and only then the boundary wall will be constructed. Chief Secy. directed DC (South) to expedite the matter.

Divisional Commissioner raised the matter regarding demarcation of Gaonsabha lands vested with Forest department as per the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. D.C.F(S), clarified that in case of Rajokri, Rangpuri and Ghitorni, lands were demarcated but not handed over to the Forest Department. In accordance with the recent directions of Divisional Commissioner, the demolition of encroachments had been fixed during December, which could not be carried out due to intervention of the Minorities Commission. The DCF(S) informed that the demolition work has been fixed by B.D.O., in the 3rd week of January. Chief Secy., directed D.C.F(S) to expedite the removal of the encroachment.

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The Director, Land Scaping, DDA pointed out that there are a lot of discrepancies in the boundaries of the ridges particularly in the South Central Ridge. She informed that the boundary description as given in the notification Dtd. 31st May, 1994, does not tally with the boundaries of Regional Park as mentioned in the Delhi Master Plan - 2001. Chief Secy. directed the Conservator of Forests and Director Land Scapping, DDA, to study the matter and place it before the Ridge Management Board at its next meeting. They were directed to specifically point out if the boundaries need to be redefined and also indicate its implications.

4. **Taking over Petrol pumps in the Central Ridge :**

Director (Hort.), CPWD, informed that the Petrol pumps are being demolished. Chief Secy. directed the L & DO, to handover the site after demolition to CPWD and give compliance report to the Board.

5. **Taking over the land from Janaki Devi Mahavidhyalaya:**

It was informed that the Contempt petition filed by the Ridge Management Board in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against Janaki Devi Mahavidhyalaya has not come up for hearing.

6. **Construction of Flyover at Dhaulakuan:**

C.F. informed that the issue of demarcation of Central Ridge has been settled. The design of the proposed Flyover has been changed and no ridge area is now involved.

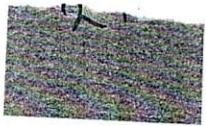
7. **Private Lands within Southern Ridge:**

Regarding details of the private land of 13 villages, D.C.(South), informed that she is already looking into the matter and necessary details are being collected. The Chief Secy. directed her to expedite.

8. **Metro Railway Project from ISBT to Delhi University along Mall Road passing through Northern Ridge:**

The High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of C.S. had recommended the use of two Pockets measuring about 2,300 Sq.mts. and 1,500 Sq.mts in Northern Ridge on Shamnath Marg at Timarpur by D.M.R.C., on temporary basis for three years.

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The Conservator of Forests sought clarification whether this would require the permission of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, once the Ridge Management Board recommends/approves such use by DMRC. This being a part of the Northern ridge which is a Reserve Forest will also require clearance from the Ministry of Env. & Forests, Govt. of India, under Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Chief Secretary desired that Law Department should be consulted whether the approval of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is required after its approval by the R.M.B.

9. **Damage to Central Ridge by Babu Asa Ram Ashram:**

L & DO had sought clarification from the Forest Department under what Acts this matter is to be dealt with as the Ashram has been in existence before the ridge was notified as reserve forest. They also sought clarification whether land is now to be allotted in favour of the Ashram. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has already permitted the area of 198' X 196' with 6' wide and 350' long path to be left with the Ashram. C.S. directed the L & DO that they must decide whether the area is now to be allotted to the Ashram or not and if necessary they could consult their own Law Department, keeping in view the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

10. **Encroachment in the Central Ridge at Bhuli Bhatiari by M/s. Bagga Link Service Ltd. :**

In the earlier meeting of the Ridge Management Board, CPWD had informed that the area comes under the jurisdiction of the DDA, and therefore DDA must take action if there is any encroachment by M/s. Bagga Link Service. DDA, subsequently informed that the land was under the jurisdiction of CPWD and that they had removed the encroachment some time ago. In the meeting, the Director Land Scaping, DDA, now informed that the site occupied by M/s. Bagga Link Service is outside the ridge and this being the case R.M.B. has no authority on this land. She also mentioned about an order of Hon'ble Supreme Court about this. The Director Land Scaping, DDA was directed to give a copy of the concerned letters/orders in this regard.

11. **Request from Manavsthal School to permit passage through ridge from upper ridge road:**

The R.M.B. in its last meeting held on 11.08.2000 had rejected the request of the Manavsthal School for the passage through the Central ridge. The School has again approached the R.M.B. through the Office of the Hon'ble L.G., and Chief Minister, Delhi. The R.M.B. did not find any merit to reconsider the issue.

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12. **Proposal for Solid Waste Disposal site in Bhatti Mines :**

Secy. Planning, made out a case for locating Solid waste Disposal sites in the Bhatti Mines area. He strongly recommended that the Bhatti Mines are most ideal for such disposal. C.F. informed that because of the various directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and Forest Conservation Act, 1980 locating Waste Disposal sites within the Wildlife Sanctuary and reserve forest may not be permissible. C.S. desired that this needs to be looked into in greater detail.

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.
