

OFFICE OF THE DY. CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
KAMLA NEHRU RIDGE, DELHI-7.

No.F.11(26)/PA/DCF/95/ 5245-60

Dated: 14/3/98

To

1. Ms. Suman Swarup,
Secretary Land & Building,
Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Shri Dev Trivedi,
Secretary Finance,
Govt. of NCT of Delhi,
5, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi.
3. Shri B.L.Nimesh,
L & D O. Ministry of Urban Affairs
And Employment,
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Shri O.P.Kelkar,
Commissioner,
Municipal Corporation of Delhi,
Town Hall, Delhi.
5. Shri Prakash Chander,
Addl. Commissioner,
Slum & J.J.
Municipal Corporation of Delhi,
Delhi.
6. Shri K.J.Apphons
Commissioner land & Project
Vikas Sadan,
New Delhi.
7. Shri R.K.Jhingen,
Director landscape,
Vikas Minar, New Delhi.
8. Shri R.C.Tiwari,
ADM(R) cum FSO,
Tis Hazari Court,
Delhi.
9. Shri G.S.Patnaik,
Dy. Commissioner,
Tis Hazari, Delhi.
10. Shri Akasha Kumar,
Prakarti,
Centre for Environmental Protection
and Development,
No.9, Vishwa Apartments,
No. 3, Shankracharya Marg,
Delhi-54.
11. Shri L.D.Gengotra,
L & D O. Ministry of Urban Affairs
And Employment,
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
12. Shri Manjit Singh,
Director (Slum & J.J.),
Municipal Corporation of Delhi,
Vikas Bhawan, Indraprastha Estate,
New Delhi.

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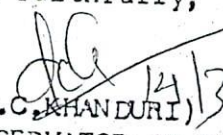
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13. Shri D.P.Singh,
Director,
Rouse Avenue, Delhi.
14. Shri Chhetey Singh,
Director(Horticulture),
C.P.W.D.,
IInd Floor, Y-Shape Building,
Near I.T.O., New Delhi.
15. Shri C.P.Singh,
NDMC, Palika Kendra,
New Delhi.

Sir,

I enclose herewith the minutes of the Ridge Management Board meeting held on 1.3.96 in the chamber of Chief Secretary, NCT of Delhi, for information.

Yours faithfully,


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

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DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD HELD ON 01.03.96 AT 11.30 A.M.
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF SECRETARY, DELHI

A meeting of the Ridge Management Board was held to consider the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court on 22.02.96 in I.A. No. 18 in WP(C) No. 4677/1985. The list of participants is annexed.

Shri Ramesh Tiwari, ADM(R)-cum-Forest Settlement Officer and Mr. K.J. Alphons, Commissioner Land Management (DDA) informed the board that action is being taken regarding claims of 63 institutions and religious institutions by them respectively accordance with orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Regarding issuance of notification under section-4 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 of 17.5 acre land at Nanak Pura, Dy. Conservator of Forest informed the members that the information supplied by DDA is not complete and action to notify the said area will be taken as soon as, this additional information is supplied by Shri R.K. Jhingan, Director (Land Scape) DDA, who assured that this information will be made available to Dy. Conservator of Forest by 4th March, 1996 positively.

In pursuance of court orders dated 22.02.96, detailed discussion was held about shifting of the jhuggies of Devali Pahari, Balbir Nagar and Indira Nagar to Sanjay Nagar. Chief Secretary wanted to know that if the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court are carried out and three colonies shifted to Sanjay Nagar, what will be the requirement of funds for providing civic amenities, such as water, electricity etc. Since the

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Supreme Court has clearly mentioned that this is going to be a temporary arrangement and all the families will ultimately have to be shifted from Sanjay Nagar to somewhere else, it was felt that this would cause dislocation to these families twice. Identification of the area, where those families are to be settled ultimately, was also discussed. One view was that if the families are to be settled in some other area, then why we should not identify the area right now and shift all of them, including families from Sanjay Nagar to that area. However, the other view was that locating the land for ultimate settlement will be time consuming and Supreme Court may not approve postponing of shifting of families from Devali Pahari, Balbir Nagar and Indira Nagar to Sanjay Nagar.

Dy. Commissioner, Delhi, suggested that they should be settled away from the Ridge area. Mr. Alphones, suggested that Gaon Sabha lands may be identified for their permanent settlement and thereafter shift them to that place in one operation. Secretary (L&B) was of the opinion that if they are to be ultimately settled elsewhere in that case DDA should make available developed land for such purpose. However, Mr. Alphones expressed his inability to provide any land through DDA for such settlements. Secretary (L&B) was of the view that even if Gaon Sabha lands is identified, it will have to be acquired before it is used for such settlements.

Against the background of these conflicting

views, Chief Secretary directed that at present, there is no option but to follow the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court. However, the administrative problems faced in shifting should be highlighted and brought before the Supreme Court, indicating the cost involved in shifting as well as categorisation of families as per established policy of the Govt. Chief Secretary further directed that ADM(R), in consultation with DDA, should identify Gaon Sabha lands, outside the Ridge area, where these families are ultimately to be shifted, his information may be furnished before 8th March, 1996. It was also decided that based on the information supplied by ADM(R), Hon'ble Supreme Court will be informed about the two options available with Ridge Management Board - first being the orders as passed by Hon'ble Supreme Court and the other suggesting the shifting of all the colonies to Gaon Sabha lands, identified by the team headed by ADM(R). It was further decided that in both the cases, administrative problems faced and funds required should be clearly spelt out and placed before Hon'ble Supreme Court for their consideration.

Chief Secretary requested the Dy. Commissioner, Delhi, to implement the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to the Gaon Sabha land in accordance with the time schedule fixed by the Supreme Court.

Acquisition of about 70 bighas of land pertaining to Shri Jatan Singh was also discussed at length. Development Commissioner informed that even before receiving orders from the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the case for such acquisition was initiated and land acquisition collector was asked to deposit Rs. 80 lacs

so that further action in the matter could be taken. The case of release of additional funds was taken up by Forest Department, but in view of over all cut due to economy measures proposed, there was little possibility of additional Funds. F.S. suggested that if savings can be located from Forestry Sector/Agri. Sector the funds could be diverted for such acquisition. Chief Secretary desired that if no saving from Forestry/Agri. Sector is possible, reference may be made to F.D. to explore possibility of releasing the required funds from someother source. The Chief Secretary also directed the Forest Settlement Officer to intimate the Ridge Management Board within one week as to whether the acquisition of said land will be done by the Forest Department or action would be taken under section 11 of Indian Forest Act, 1927 as directed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Discussing the Gurmohan Singh case, it was brought to the notice of the board that in view of latest orders of the Supreme Court the entire matter *hinges* around demarcation of the land. It was therefore, decided that demarcation will be done by Revenue Authorities of Mehrauli Tehsil in pursuance of representative of Forest Department and I&F Department on Monday, the 4th March, 1996. ADM(R) was directed to issue necessary instructions to his staff to demarcate the area on 4.3.96. Development Commissioner assured that once the demarcation is done any encroachment within the sanctuary area will be removed.

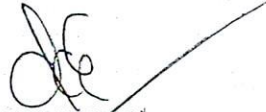
Chief Secretary directed to various land Management agencies to take necessary action on the orders passed by Supreme Court regarding water reservoir on the Ridge, Hindu Rao Hospital and South Central Ridge.

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It was pointed out by Secretary (Ridge Management Board) that the affidavit filed by him regarding fencing of ridge and planting of vacated area will be taken up by court on 13th March, 1996. However, till this date no action taken report has been submitted by DDA managing the Northern Ridge and by CPWD and DDA who are managing the Central Ridge. Chief Secretary directed the various land managing agencies that this information be sent to Dy. Conservator of Forests, Delhi, latest by 6th March, 1996. Failing which the matter will be brought to the notice of Supreme Court.

The meeting ended with the thanks to the Chair.



(D.C. KHANDURI)
SECRETARY
RIDGE MANAGEMENT BOARD