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F-8(193)CF(HQ)/TA/07-08/DP+A-BRANCH/5485-89
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
GOVT. OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
A-BLOCK, 2ND FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, NEW DELHI-110002

Dated 15-3-17

Minutes of the review meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (E&F) on 28/02/2016 at 4.00PM in the Conference Hall.

The weekly review meeting was held on 28.2.2017 in the Conference Hall of the Secretary (Env & Forests), Government of NCT of Delhi in connection with pending issues in the department, problems being faced by DCFs in the field and review of functioning of the department in view of acute shortage of frontline forestry staff in the Department of Forests & Wildlife, GNCTD.

The following attended the meeting:-

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1) Shri Chandrakar Bharti | Secretary (E&F), GNCT of Delhi |
| 2) Smt. Archana Singh | Addl. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forest |
| 3) Shri A.K. Shukla | Chief Conservator of Forest |
| 4) Shri Tarun Johri | Conservator of Forest |
| 5) Dr.R.Gopinath | Dy. Conservator of Forest (West) |
| 6) Smt.Indhu Vijayan N. | Dy. Conservator of Forest (P&M) |
| 7) Shri S.K.Muan Guite | Dy. Conservator of Forest (South) |
| 8) Shri Bharat Maheswari | Dy. Conservator of Forest (HQ) |

1. It was informed by APCCF that a fresh batch of newly recruited forest guards were likely to arrive in April, 2017 after undergoing three months basic forestry training at Haryana. The provision of uniforms for the forest guards along with emblem and other liveries essential for effective patrolling and statutory obligations of the department was highlighted. To exercise discipline and enforce various forest laws and acts in force, a uniformed forest force with liveries was essential in Delhi as was prevalent in rest of the country. It was decided that a formal proposal along with estimates may be submitted by the department to the Govt in line with other states with justification for required liveries. for approval of competent authority and concurrence from the Finance Department.
2. The utilization of funds allocated by MOEF & CC during the current financial year 2016-17 was discussed. The Chief Conservator of Forest informed that the Central Ridge had been selected for survey in coordination with L&DO, Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India and the fund will be utilized in the survey and demarcation of Central Ridge after the approved rates were

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intimated by the Revenue Department. It was decided that the department may explore more options for effective utilization of funds due to the impending closure of the current financial year.

3. The problem of dealing with monkey menace was discussed. The Chief Conservator of Forest/ CWLW informed that catching of monkeys from the residential areas is presently done by MCD as urban area menace was to be tackled by concerned civic agency as per direction of Hon'ble High Court in New Friends Colony case. Moreover, it was not possible for the forest department to undertake the same due to absence of manpower and resources. It was decided that the present arrangement of catching monkeys from urban areas by Civic agencies will continue and forest department will supply cages to civic agencies on receipt of requisitions from them.
4. It was informed that the e-forest web portal had been launched and tested successfully and training for the staff in the divisions for online receipt of applications for tree cutting permission will be conducted on 09/03/2017. The DCF (HQ) also informed that the issue of e-payment in all transactions had been done by the department and a provision had been made in the e-payment gateway for other payments like compounding fee as well. It was decided that a provision in the e-payment gateway should be made for payment of security amount in cases where offline applications have already been submitted.

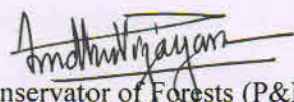
It was decided that the acceptance of online applications for tree cutting permissions is made mandatory and the applications for tree cutting permission should not be accepted offline by the territorial DCFs henceforth. It was also decided that an advertisement will be published on the launch of e-forest platform for online tree cutting permissions and a sample letter will be circulated to all department/ land owning agencies regarding the non acceptance of the manual applications for the tree cutting permission. It was also decided that steps shall be taken for bringing all the tree cutting applications in public domain.

5. As regards two vigilance cases, it was decided that since the status report in one case had already been sent so the department will send the status report for the other case within reasonable time.
6. It was informed by DCF(HQ) that most portion of the departmental website had been updated. It was decided that the department will regularly update the website. Further a register shall be maintained for recording the complaints on tree cutting and encroachment in excel sheet including the date of arrival of complaint, date of disposal etc. so that effective monitoring can be ensured for which the task was assigned to DCF(P&M).
7. It was also decided that a detailed SOP regarding the procedure for clearance of the proposals involving the diversion of ridge forest land, morphological ridge, any other classified forest land

and deemed forest land shall be prepared and circulated to all departments / land owning agencies at the earliest.

8. As regards matter of unauthorized colonies requiring NOC from Forest Department it was decided that the cases should be disposed at the earliest by stating the factual position thereof.
9. In the matter of creation of new posts in the department, DCF(HQ) informed that field visits were already completed by the Administrative Reforms Department and an informal meeting will be convened shortly for finalizing the details.
10. While reviewing the decision of the then Secretary (E&F) regarding imposition of maximum penalty while compounding of the offence cases booked under DPTA, 1994 conveyed vide No. F.8(224)/08/CF/Meetings/Vol.I/8339-45 dated 7.1.2011, it was seen that the compounding fees for tree offence was Rs. 30,000 for each tree felled while it was Rs. 10,000 for each tree pruned in accordance to the minutes of meeting. It was brought to the notice that the security deposit for each tree felled had been enhanced from Rs. 28,000 to Rs. 34,500 in case of individuals and Rs. 57,000 in case of commercial projects. It was decided that pending amendment in the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994 and in order to deter illegal tree felling/ pruning without obtaining proper permissions and to safeguard public interest, the offence cases related to pruning and felling of petty nature be considered for compounding by imposition of composition fee Rs. 60,000 (minimum) for each tree felled and Rs. 20,000 (minimum) for each tree pruned.
11. The matter of complaint of one Shri Devender with NHRC reference and removal of a dead tree in respect Justice Shali will be expedited by the department and necessary action will be taken by all concerned.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.


Deputy Conservator of Forests (P&M)
GNCT of Delhi.

No. F. 8 (193) CF/TA/07-08/DPTA Branch/5485-89

Dated : 14.3.2017

Copy to:

1. The Secretary (E&F), Govt of NCT of Delhi.
2. The Addl PCCF, Govt of NCT of Delhi.
3. The CCF, Govt of NCT of Delhi
4. The CF, Govt of NCT of Delhi
5. All DCFs, Govt of NCT of Delhi.