

Minutes of the Meeting of Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board held under the Chairmanship of Sardar Parkash Singh Badal, Chief Minister, Punjab on 27-11-2007 at CM's Office, Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh

The meeting was attended by the following:-

1. Sh. Hira Singh Gabria,
Minister Tourism & Cultural Affairs, Punjab
2. Sh. Ramesh Inder Singh, IAS
Chief Secretary, Punjab
3. Sh. D.S. Guru, IAS
Principal Secretary to CM
4. Sh. D.S. Kalha, IAS
Principal Secretary, Finance
5. Mrs. Geetika Kalha, IAS
Principal Secretary, Tourism
6. Sh. D.S. Bains, IAS
Principal Secretary, Local Govt.
7. Dr. Swaran Singh, IAS
Principal Secretary, Cultural Affairs
8. Sh. Karan Avtar Singh, IAS
Secretary PWD (B&R)
9. Sh. Arun Goel, IAS
Secretary Housing & Urban Development
10. Sh. K.J. S. Cheema, IAS
Special Principal Secretary to CM
11. Sh. A.S. Miglani, PCS
Director Tourism & Cultural Affairs
12. Sh. Rajinder Sharma,
Chief Town Planner, Punjab
13. Mrs. Balwinder Saini
Chief Architect, Punjab

At the outset the Principal Secretary, Tourism thanked the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab for sparing the time for holding the meeting of the Board of Trustees. She explained that the Board had been constituted in August 2002 with the objective of development of tourism and preservation of the cultural heritage of Punjab. She also informed that the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned a number of tourism projects during the last 3 years. The funds allotted by the GOI have been released to Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board which is acting as the nodal agency for implementation of these projects. Thereafter the agenda items were taken up for discussion and following decisions were taken:-

1) Agenda Item No. 1 - Status of Tourism Projects

Principal Secretary, Tourism stated that Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has released Rs. 3647.18 lacs against its share of Rs. 6339.72 lacs to the Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board/PTDC.

However, the State Government has released only Rs. 491.04 lacs against the State Share of Rs. 2391.02 lacs. Out of this amount released by State Government, Rs. 362.00 Lacs are for the Luxury Train only. For all the other projects only Rs. 129.04 Lacs has been released. Thus there is a balance of Rs. 1899.98 Lacs from the State Government which is yet to be released. She suggested that State Government may be requested to release the State share at the earliest. After discussion it was decided that the Principal Secretary, Tourism may take up the matter with the Department of Planning and Finance.

The status of each project approved by the Ministry of Tourism, GOI was reviewed by the Board. It was decided that, the Board should not get involved in the day to day running of the Fast Food outlets that were being constructed. Rather these should be operated and maintained through Public Private Partnership.

The Chief Secretary observed that the Neem Chameli restaurant at Attari Wagha Border was not big enough to cater to the large number of tourists who visit the border to watch the Retreat Ceremony. Therefore there was an urgent need to upgrade the facilities at this important venue. The Principal Secretary, Tourism informed that the Department of Tourism had initiated the process to acquire 10 acres of land adjoining Neem Chameli Complex this would be used for parking and for creating tourist facilities in this area. The Hon'ble Chief Minister observed that 10 acres may not be adequate. Since this place is the entry to the country from Pakistan a tourist facility of international standards should be setup here. He directed that the PUDA should also acquire another 10 acres of land for this purpose.

Agenda Item No.2 - Approval of Consultancy Fee / Administrative Expenses

The Principal Secretary, Tourism informed that in order to implement the projects approved by the Ministry of Tourism, GOI, the Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board has to hire the services of various consultants/architects for preparation of project proposals, tender documents & supervision of projects etc. The Board has also engaged staff of four personnel for to look after the day to day working of the various projects which the Board is implementing. However the Board does not have any funds of its own to meet the expenditures on the above items and other misc. expenses as GOI gives money for development of infrastructure only and not for implementation of the works. Therefore expenses for such works are to be borne out of the funds to be provided by State Govt. She requested that the state government may give a suitable grant to the Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board so that it can effectively carry out the duties assigned to it.

Principal Secretary, Finance explained that around Rs. 8.00 crores are lying with the PTDC out of the sale proceeds of properties sold by the corporation. Since these properties were constructed with Central Financial

Assistance the government is bound to spend this money for development of tourism only. Therefore after the Bye-laws of the Board are approved the Department of Finance would ask PTDC to transfer these funds to the Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board. The Board would be required to invest these funds with the banks and the interest earned there upon may be utilized by the Board for its activities. The board would also get income from the lease of remaining properties of PTDC. These properties are to be transferred to the Tourism Deptt. as per the decision of the Cabinet Sub Committee on dis-investment. However, he added that not more than 10% of the income so earned would be utilized for payment of salaries of staff. Principal Secretary Tourism submitted that the Board needed more staff and this amount would not be sufficient to meet with the requirement. After discussing the matter in detail it was decided that in addition to the funds to be transferred from PTDC to the Board, the State government will give a grant of Rs. 20 Lacs to the Board for meeting the expenses on Salaries and other contingent expenses to tide over financial problems till the regular flow of funds starts from the interest on corpus fund and lease money of PTDC properties.

3) Agenda Item no. 3 - New Tourism Schemes under CFA

The Principal Secretary informed that the Department of Tourism had sent proposal to get Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 5.00 Crores each for Fatehgarh Sahib and Hoshiarpur. It was also in the process of preparing a proposal of getting Rs. 25.00 Crore for development of Amritsar as a Major Tourist Destination.

4) Agenda Item no. 4 - Approval of Bye-Laws of Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board.

The Bye-Laws were approved with the following amendments :-

- a) The Chief Secretary shall also be included as a member of the Board of Trustees.
- b) In addition to the official members, there shall be seven non-official members in the Board of Trustees, of whom atleast one shall be expert in tourism and one expert in cultural affairs. The non-official members shall be nominated by the Chief Minister. The tenure of the non-official members shall be two years which shall be extendable by one year.
- c) The Executive committee of the Board shall be headed by the Chief Secretary, Punjab.
- d) The Executive Committee may constitute a Tourism Sub-committee and Culture Sub-committee headed by the respective Administrative Secretaries.

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

Pr. Secy, Tourism
Chief Minister, Punjab

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