

Minutes of the meeting held in the room of JS(Q) on 8-8-1967 at 2.30 P.M. to consider the policy relating to lease of land for religious purpose

PRESENT

Ministry of Defence

Shri L.S. Lulla, JS(Q).....
Mrs. Girja Eswaran, DS(W)
Shri D. Krithnamurthi, US (Lands).

Chairman

Ministry of Finance (Defence)

Shri A.N. Joshi, Addl. FA (III)

ML & C Dte.

Shri Gajendra Singh, DML & C.
Shri S.N. Mathur, AD, ML & C.

Army HQrs.

Brig. R.S.S. Kohli, Dir. of Qtg.

Dir. of Qtg. initially stated that so far as the religious requirements of troops are concerned, the same are met by regimental religious institutions put up on Government land in accordance with the standing rules. There was thus no need to grant defence land to any religious body for administering to the religious need of the troops. Thus, the requirement has to be reviewed only from the needs of the civil population. In reply to a query, Dir. of Qtg. clarified that by practice the religious institutions in unit lines are normally open to the general public for worship.

2. It was agreed that by and large there were already a sufficient number of religious institutions in the various Cantonments. There was also a tendency to commercialise the use of land desired for religious purposes. It was agreed that a conservative policy should be adopted in the matter of grant of land for religious purposes by private treaty. Where such lease has to be given, the area must be restricted to the minimum necessary. Government must also be satisfied after consulting the Collector and/or the Cantonment Board there is a necessity for such a place of religious worship come up and that the sponsors are men generally recognised as leaders of the community. Further, the land in such case must be asked for purely for a religious purpose and not for an allied purpose like dharamshala. The grant of such land must also be contingent upon it being surplus to Defence requirements. It was agreed that in such a contingency where land was given for religious purposes, the full price on the basis of free-hold should be charged. The premium in lieu of rent will thus be the market price on the basis of free-hold, and the land will be granted free of rent on perpetual lease. Every request will be scrutinised on the basis indicated above and recommended to Government by the MI & C Dte. when it fulfils the above conditions, the Grant if any will be only by Government.

3. There are two cases of encroachments of 56 sq. ft. in respect of Ferozepur and Kanpur. These are old encroachments. JS(Q) stated that these will have to be regularised on nominal terms otherwise they will remain as they are. All. FA(III) stated that he will like to consider the cases on the file.

(D. Krishnamurthi)

Under Secretary

Tele : 33627

To

All Presents.

M of D I.D. No. 18/38/L/L & C/67/4949/D (Lands), dated 10-8-1967.