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HARYANA VIDHAN SABHA  
**COMMITTEE**  
ON  
**PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS**  
**(1986-87)**  
(SIXTH VIDHAN SABHA)  
**TWENTYFIFTH REPORT**  
ON THE  
GENERAL WORKING OF  
**Kurukshetra Development Board**



Presented to the House on  6 MAR 1987

HARYANA VIDHAN SABHA SECRETARIAT  
CHANDIGARH  
1987

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## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

( 1986 87 )

### CHAIRMAN

\*1 Shri A C Chaudhry

2 Shri Kanwal Singh

### MEMBERS

3 Shri Bhalle Ram

\*\*\*4 Shri Brij Mohan

5 Shri Dharam Bir Gauba

\*\*\*\*6 Shri Jagdish Nehra

7 Shri Nihal Singh

\*\*8 Shri Phool Chand Mullana

9 Shri Sahab Singh Saini

10 Shri Shiv Parshad

11 Shri Sube Singh Punia

### SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G L Batra, Secretary

2. Shri Surinder Kumar, Dy Secretary/Under Secretary

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\* Shri A C Chaudhry, M L A , resigned from Chairmanship of the Committee w e f 5 6 1986 on his appointment as Minister and Shri Kanwal Singh, M L A , a member of the Committee was appointed Chairman of the Committee w e f 8 6 1986

\*\*Shri Phool Chand Mullana, M L A , resigned from the Committee w e f 5 6 1986 on his appointment as Minister

\*\*\*Shri Brij Mohan, M L A , was elected member of the Committee w e f 28 11 1986

\*\*\*\*Shri Jagdish Nehra, M L A , was elected member of the Committee w e f 28 11 1986 He resigned from the Committee w e f 6-12 1986 on his appointment as Minister of State

**INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairman of the Committee on Public Undertakings, having been authorised by the Committee in this behalf, present this Twenty-fifth Report on the general working of Kurukshetra Development Board

2 During oral evidence the Committee examined the representatives of the Department /Board concerned. A brief record of the proceedings of each meeting of the Committee during the year 1986-87 has been kept in the Haryana Vidhan Sabha Secretariat

3 The Committee place on record their appreciation of the valuable assistance given to them by the Accountant General, Haryana, and his staff and are thankful to the Secretary to Government, Haryana, Finance Department including his representatives and the representatives of the Department/Board who appeared before them from time to time. The Committee are also thankful to the Secretary, Under Secretary and the staff of the Haryana Vidhan Sabha Secretariat for the whole hearted co operation and unstinted assistance given in preparing this report

Chandigarh  
the 7th January, 1987

KANWAL SINGH  
CHAIRMAN

## KURUKSHETRA DEVELOPMENT BOARD

### 1 Brief History

The Kurukshetra Development Board was created primarily for the purpose of taking better care of the precious cultural heritage of the Nation which is located in the Kurukshetra Area traditionally known to cover an expanse of about 100 miles than had been possible in the earlier years. The sacred tanks and places of pilgrimage in this area remained in a deplorable state of neglect. Lakhs of pilgrims from all parts of the country impelled by their faith have been resorting to these places periodically and continuously, for centuries. They faced the hazards and hardship arising from inadequate bathing facilities, absence of clean water for the sacred tanks, prevalence of squalor and extraordinary insanitary conditions generally. Their religious sensibilities were hurt. The Kurukshetra Development Board was constituted to remove these blemishes and deficiencies and to improve the environments making pilgrimage a more agreeable experience.

The Haryana Government realising its responsibilities for the protection of the glorious heritage of the past and what it owed to posterity, thus made institutional arrangements for the discharge of the functions. A notification was issued on the 1st of August 1968 (see Annexure—1) constituting the Kurukshetra Development Board for the overall comprehensive development of Kurukshetra including its landscaping, renovation of historical places and tanks and provision of facilities to pilgrims and tourists etc. The Kurukshetra Development Board was registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, on 4th September 1968.

### 2 The Kurukshetra Development Board is controlled by Local Go-

(i) Organisation  
al set up in the  
Administrative  
Department  
which co-ordina-  
tes/Controls the  
work of the  
board

vernment of Haryana Government. The Commissioner & Secretary to Govt. Haryana Local Government Department is the administrative Secretary who is assisted by the Joint Secretary, Under Secretary, Section Officer and other Ministerial staff.

The organisational set up of the Kurukshetra Development Board is as under —

**(ii) Organisation  
al set up of the  
Board**

**Chairman** The Headquarter of the Chairman Kurukshetra Development Board is at Delhi. One Private Secretary, One Steno Typist and One Peon is attached with the Chairman to assist him.

**Member Secretary** Joint Secretary to Government, Haryana Local Government Department works as Member Secretary of the Kurukshetra Development Board.

**Technical Secretary** Senior Architect, Haryana works as Technical Secretary of the Kurukshetra Development Board. He is paid Rs 150/- as monthly fees for the purpose. The functions of the Technical Secretary are to coordinate the working of the various executing agencies. The Junior Draftsmen prepare drawing for the works of the Board under the supervision of Technical Secretary.

**Office Secretary** Besides performing the duties of Drawing and Disbursing Officer, the Office Secretary Kurukshetra Development Board has to keep liaison with various executing agencies and to take effective steps to implement the decisions taken by the Board of Governors. One Accountant, one Steno-Typist and three Clerks assist him in this work. One post of Driver is for driving the vehicles of the Board. Two posts of peons are for office duty and one Chowkidar for watch and ward of Board's office at night. The Board have appointed thirteen Swimmer/Rescuers at the Brahmarsarover for watch and ward of Board's property and to take rescue operation in case any mishap is noticed in the Brahmarsarover. Besides this, there are three posts of Sweepers for the cleanliness of the Brahmarsarover. There is one post of Supervisor to keep effective control on these officials.

The duties of Public Relation Officer are to provide information/guidance to the visiting pilgrims and tourists etc. and to publicise the activities of the Board.

**Executive Engineer** The Executive Engineer is responsible for the maintenance of completed works and execution of new works which are entrusted to him from time to time. One Assistant Engineer

and three Sectional Officers are to assist him in this work. For proper maintenance of the accounts of the Technical Cell one post of S D C cum Store Keeper has been provided. The Peon cum Chowkidar is for watch and ward of stores of Technical Cell and to attend office.

Chart showing the organisational set up of the staff of the Board and their scales of pay is given at Annexure II

3 The functions of Kurukshetra Development Board are to under

#### Functions of the Board

take the overall comprehensive development of Kurukshetra, including its landscaping, renovation of historical places and sacred religious tanks, provision of facilities to pilgrims and tourists etc. Other schemes involve construction of roads and drains, rest houses, serais and dharamshala, laying out of parks and orchards, provision of transport and sanitary facilities etc.

The Committee observe from the written material and also noticed during oral examination of the representatives of the Govt/Board that the Board has not been able to achieve its objectives to any appreciable degree primarily on account of paucity of funds. While the Committee do recognise the limitations of the State Government, in providing all the funds needed for the implementation of the schemes of the Board, they feel inclined to observe that so long as the Board is considered by the public to be a Government body it would be difficult to attract sufficient donations from public/institutions/private bodies. The Committee are, therefore, of the view that to attract funds and expertise from private sources, broad based re constitution of the Board, so as to include eminent personalities from various fields, e.g. social, cultural, religious, trade, industry and political, is called for so as to give to the Board an image of a representative public body. Such re constitution of the Board will, the Committee believe, go a long way in activating the functioning of the Board and in popularising the rich heritage of this holy land of religious purity and cultural significance for millions all over the country.

4 The schemes of Kurukshetra Development Board are mainly

#### Financial Resources of the Board

financed by Haryana Government which has so far sanctioned grants in aid to the tune of Rs 483.98 lakh upto 31st March, 1986 under plan as well as non plan schemes from the very inception of the Board. In order to supplement the huge programme the Board also tried to attract donations from the people to rebuild this sacred site by voluntary contributions but the response has been very negligible.

5 The Committee noticed from the written replies sent by the Board that following posts were lying vacant in the office of the Board from the dates noted against each. The reasons for not filling up these posts are also shown against each post —

Sr No	Name of post	Date from which lying vacant	Reasons
1	Office Secretary (One)	22 10 1982	To effect economy in the expenditure
2	Executive Engineer (One)	24-4-1985	These posts were created for the maintenance of completed works as well as execution of new works by the Board itself. The question whether this job may be carried out by the Board itself or through the concerned executing agencies remained under consideration of the Govt /Board since very long. Now finally it has been decided that this job be handled by the Board itself. The case for the filling up of the post of Executive Engineer is under consideration with the Government. The remaining posts will be filled thereafter according to need and requirements.
3	Assistant Engineer (One)	October 1977	
4	Junior Draftsman (One)	July 1981	
5	Sectional Officer (Two)	August 1978 January 1982	
6	Sub Divisional Clerk cum Store Keeper (One)	June 1982	
7	Chowkidar (One)	Sept 1979	
8	Public Relation Officer (One)	24 4 85	To effect economy in expenditure
9	Swimmer/Rescuer (Three)	Sept 1978	To effect economy in expenditure

The Committee recommend that the Board should examine the necessity and utility of the posts mentioned above and keeping in view the regular and effective implementation of the works and functions of the Board such posts out of those which are lying vacant for long periods, as are found to be surplus of the actual requirements be, surrendered.



## 6 The Committee noticed from the written replies of the Board that

**Donations from  
Municipalities/  
Marketing  
Committees**

grant in aid received from the Haryana Government is the main source of income of the Board. In the year 1969 an appeal was made by Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda, Chairman of the Board, to all the Chief Ministers of the States in India and to the general public for making generous donations to the Board.

In 1973-74, Haryana Government directed all the Municipalities in the State to donate funds to the Board. In 1978, the Chief Minister Haryana, also made an appeal to the industrialists/welfare associations/general public to donate funds to the Board but the response was very poor.

The Committee feel that the grants-in aid received by the Board from the Government are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Board. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Government should issue another directive to all the Municipalities and Marketing Committees in the State to donate funds to the Board for its developmental activities.

The Committee also desire that the exemption from the levy of income-tax, under section 80 C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 be got extended for the future on a permanent basis and the fact of exemption be given due publicity so as to attract donation from industrialists and individuals. Since the Indian religion philosophy and mythology <sup>are</sup> intimately connected with innumerable hallowed spots in this cradle of Indian Civilization it will not be very difficult to augment funds by exploring all available sources through enthusiasm, imagination and planning. Improved financial position alone will enable the Board to provide the much needed facilities to the pilgrims and tourists visiting Kurukshetra.

## 7 The Committee noticed from the written reply submitted by the

**Utilisation of  
Railway Sur-  
charge Fund/  
collection of  
Toll Tax from  
passengers  
visiting by  
road**

Board that terminal tax is levied on all passengers carried by Railway from and to Kurukshetra and Thanesar City under the provision of the Terminal Tax of Railway Passengers Act. Before the constitution of the Kurukshetra Development Board this amount was placed at the disposal of Zila Parishad and was spent on the advice of Railway Surcharge Fund Committee constituted for the purpose. Consequent upon the constitution of Kurukshetra Development Board, it represented to the Government that the amount

of Railway Surcharge Fund be placed at its disposal. Instead of

placing this amount at the disposal of the Board, it was decided that the Zila Parishad will spend this amount on the advice of Kurukshetra Development Board. Besides this, the Panchayat Samiti, Thanesar also collects Toll Tax from the passengers entering Thanesar/Kurukshetra by road.

Consequent upon the abolition of Zila Parishads in Haryana in 1973 it was represented to the Government that the amount of Railway Surcharge Fund/Toll Tax be placed at the disposal of the Kurukshetra Development Board. But it was decided by the Government in the Development Department in November 1973, that the amount of Railway Surcharge Fund be placed at the disposal of Deputy Commissioner Kurukshetra who will utilize this amount for the beautification of Kurukshetra Town at his discretion.

Since then the Board has time and again been representing to the Government to place the amount of Railway Surcharge Fund/Toll Tax at its disposal but without success. Again in the 44th meeting of the Kurukshetra Development Board held on 28th July 1981 it was decided that these funds will be utilized by the Deputy Commissioner Kurukshetra for development works of Thanesar Town. As such there is no major source of income available to the Kurukshetra Development Board for development purposes.

The Committee observe that since the Board is presently dependent mainly on the Grants in aid from the Government, it would be appropriate if the funds so collected are placed at the disposal of the Kurukshetra Development Board instead of the Deputy Commissioner, Kurukshetra for utilisation of these funds for the developmental works in the area. The Committee, therefore, recommend that appropriate steps be taken accordingly.

- 8 From the written material submitted before the Committee it has been noticed that the matter regarding setting up of Indian Spiritual and Cultural Museum at Kurukshetra which will cost Rs 36 lakhs has remained under consideration of the Board since its inception. However, this idea has not so far taken any concrete shape for want of necessary funds. During oral evidence it was revealed that the building of Lecture Hall had been completed and the expansion programme of the Indian Spiritual and Cultural Museum at Kurukshetra formed part of the future programme.

Setting up of a Museum and creating of Infrastructure for attracting Tourist/Pilgrims from India and abroad

7

The Committee are of the definite view that setting up of a Museum at Kurukshetra will not only provide to the millions of people visiting this area visual glimpse of the precious cultural heritage and to the Divine Teaching of Mahabharata and Gita in its correct cultural and historical perspective, but it will also go a long way in attracting pilgrims and tourists not only from all over India but also from other countries as followers of the teaching contained in Gita are not confined to India alone. The Committee, therefore, recommend that immediate steps be taken by the Government to provide the required funds for the purpose. The Committee believe that if necessary infrastructure is created at Kurukshetra pilgrims/tourists from Foreign countries will be attracted to visit the sacred area in large number.

9	During the course of oral examination the Committee was informed that in order to attract more pilgrims/tourists to this famous land of Kurukshetra the Board proposed to arrange light and sound programmes on the banks of Brahm Sarovar
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The Committee recommend that immediate steps be taken to start light and sound programme as it will not only acquaint lakhs of pilgrims of the rich cultural, religious and spiritual heritage of this famous land but it will also be an entertaining experience for the vast multitude of devotees, particularly from rural areas visiting this area.

10	Rule 12 (i) of Kurukshetra Development Board Rules, inter-alia, provides that the meeting of the Board should be held once in every three months. Accordingly 12 meetings were required to be held during the last three years. The Committee were however, astonished to find that only three meetings were actually held during the last three years.
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The Committee are unhappy to observe that the Board has failed to hold its general meetings as per the requirement of the rules and desire that in future at least four general meetings of the Board be held every year, as required under the rules.

**ANNEXURE—I**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT**  
**COMMITTEE**

The 1st August, 1968

No 4524 CI-68/17917—The Governor of Haryana is pleased to constitute Kurukshetra Development Board on an ad hoc basis with the following members —

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| (1) Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda M P                                      | Chairman         |
| (2) Shri Bansi Lal<br>Chief Minister Haryana                        | Vice-Chairman    |
| (3) Smt Om Prabha Jain<br>Finance Minister, Haryana                 | Member           |
| (4) Shri Khurshid Ahmed Health and<br>Local Govt Minister Haryana   | Member           |
| (5) Shri Bhagwat Dayal Sharma                                       | Member           |
| (6) Commissioner for Planning<br>Finance, Haryana                   | Member           |
| (7) Home Secretary  | Member           |
| (8) Secretary to Government, Haryana<br>Health and Local Govt Depts | Member Secretary |
| (9) Principal Secretary to<br>Chief Minister Haryana                | Member           |

2 This Board shall be autonomous in character and its function will generally be to undertake the overall development of Kurukshetra including its landscaping renovation of historical places and tanks and provision of facilities to pilgrims and tourists etc

3 The Headquarters of the Board shall be at Kurukshetra

4 The Chairman shall have authority to appoint his Secretary in an appropriate scale with a starting salary of about Rs 500 per mensem plus other allowances admissible

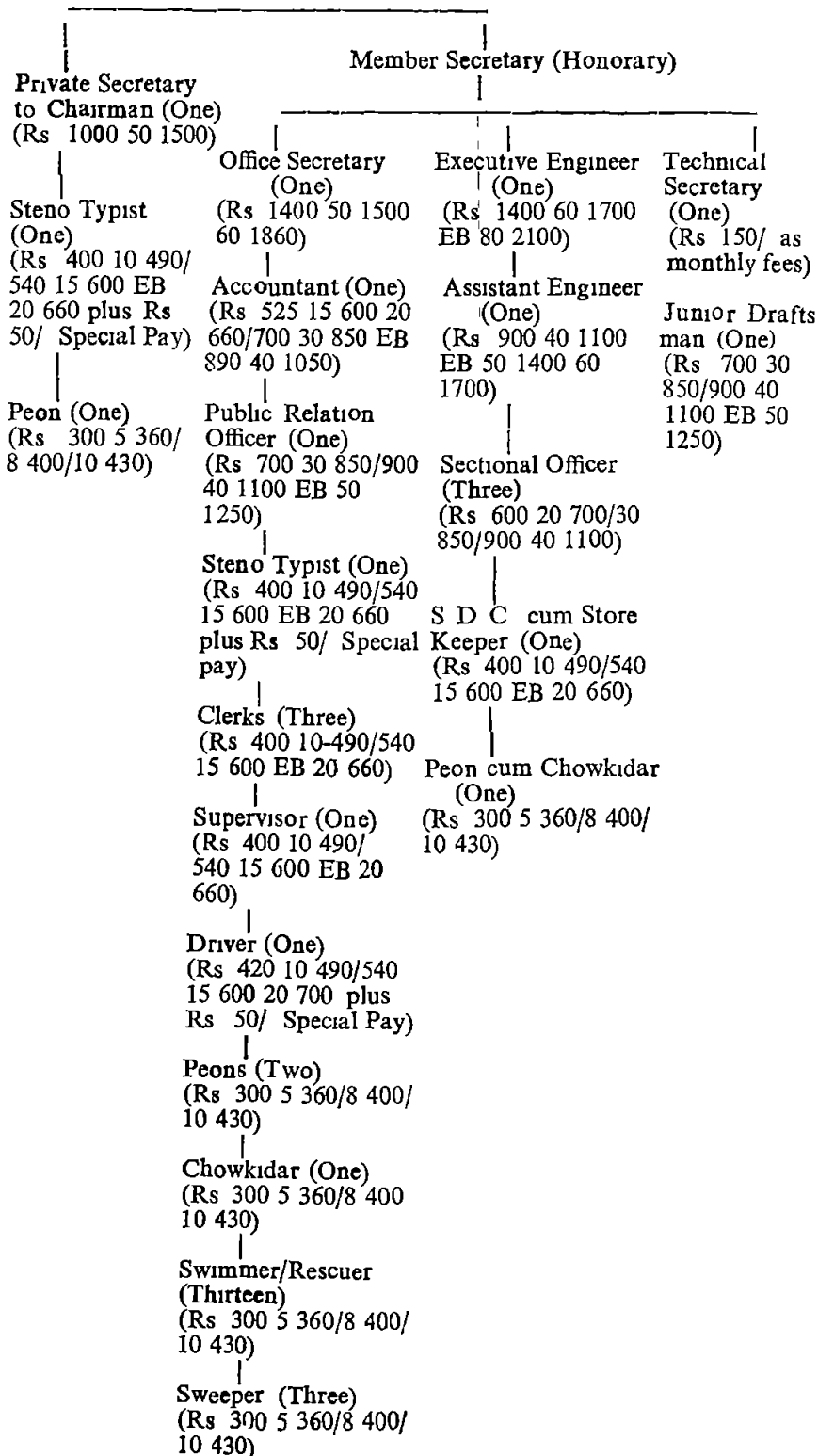
5 The T A of the non official members will be met by the Board from the grants received by the State Government and other sources

B L AHUJA,  
 Secretary to Government Haryana,  
 Local Government Department

## ANNEXURE—II

ORGANISATIONAL SET UP AND THE PAY SCALES OF STAFF  
APPOINTED BY THE KURUKSHETRA DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Chairman (Honorary)



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