

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (WILDLIFE) AND CHIEF  
WILDLIFE WARDEN, KERALA**

**PRESENT: V.GOPINATHAN, IFS**

Sub: Recognition of exemplary work done for the preservation of the ecological integrity of Nelliampathy hills - award of **Good Service Entry** - Orders issued - reg:

Read : Lr.No. B2-340/11 dated 02.11.11 from the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Regional North), Kozhikkode.

**Order No.WL5 - 3645/2012 Dated 06..06..2012**

Nelliampathy Hills of Nenmara Forest Division are part of a unique landscape supporting rich floral and faunal biodiversity. The area supports natural forests and also plantations of cardamom, arecanut, pepper, rubber, coffee, tea etc. Many of these estates are situated adjacent to the Parambikulam Tiger Reserve. About 43 sq.km and 46 sq.km of Nelliampathy Forest Range form part of the core and buffer of Parambikulam Tiger Reserve respectively. In the past, a portion of Nelliampathy hills was under the control of erstwhile princely State of Cochin and the remaining areas were under the administrative control of Madras Presidency. The estates of Nelliampathy Hills are either forest or private leases. These estates were set up in the area many years back and over the years, many irregularities and manipulations have been taking place by way of encroachment and falsification of records. Many such irregularities of the following nature could be unearthed during 2008-2011 period.

1. Violation of lease conditions and Forest Conservation Act, 1980 which involves:
  - a. Sale of land by lessees,
  - b. Transfer of leases,
  - c. Mortgaging the forest land for procuring loans from Banks and other financial institutions,
  - d. Construction of buildings and roads,

- e. Diversion of forest land illegally for tourism purposes,
  - f. Conversion of forest land to other crops, and
  - g. Illegal felling of trees for monetary gains or construction of buildings, roads or opening the canopy for new crops.
2. Encroachment by lessees in the surrounding forest areas.
  3. Grabbing of forest land on some forged documents
  4. Retaining possession of vested forest lands even after they lost the cases in the competent courts.
  5. Possession of vested forest lands in the locations different than the location indicated in the title / lease deed or schedule in the O.A filed before Forest Tribunal.

The nature and dimension of these irregularities came to light due to the hard work, dedication, sincerity and courage shown by Shri.P.Dhanesh Kumar, who was the Divisional Forest Officer, Nenmara from 26..06..2008 to 15..07..2011 and the unstinting support he received from Shri.N.K.Sasidharan, Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Circle, Palakkad, who has been in charge of the Circle since 08..11..2006. The deeds of the above officers in protecting the forests and preserving the ecological integrity of Nelliampathy Hills have been profusely praised and recommended to be recognized by the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Regional North) in his report cited in the reference.

Some of the irregularities and land grabbing incidents detected by Shri.Dhanesh Kumar, Divisional Forest Officer are:-

Sl.No.	Name of Estate	Extent in acres	Present stage
1.	Miraflores (5 nos)	486.63	Resumed back to Government on 27.06.2011
2.	Monkwood	232.82	Lease terminated. Court stayed order for 3 months. Pending before High court
3.	Rajakkad	288.85	-do-

Sl.No.	Name of Estate	Extent in acres	Present stage
4.	Karappara A (Kairali)	541.37	Proposal for termination of lease submitted to Government.
5.	Karappara B (Kairali)	577.12	-do-
6.	Shernelly lower	278.80	Lease terminated. Court stayed order for 3 months. Pending before High Court.
7.	Shernelly upper	28.40	Declared as EFL – with Department.
8.	Alexandria A (8 Nos)	250.00	Proposal for termination of lease submitted to Government.
	Alexandria B (6 Nos)	251.75	-do-
	Brookland	250.00	-do-
9.	Beatrice	33.68	Proposal for resumption of land submitted to Government.
10.	Chandramala (5 nos)	808.41	Proposal for termination of lease submitted to Government.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4027.83</b>	

Similar cases were also detected in Meenampara, Golden Valley, Sakthi, Green Estates operated in old lease lands from Vengunadu Kovilakom.

As pointed out by the Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Regional North), Kozhikkode vide the reference cited above, rarely officers possess skill, right attitude and capacity to do hard work together with courage and sincerity as exhibited by Shri.P.Dhanesh Kumar during his tenure as Divisional Forest Officer, Nenmara. Shri.N.K.Sasidharan, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Circle, Palakkad, who was the immediate superior officer of Shri.P.Dhanesh Kumar gave him full support and advice in unearthing the irregularities and then for taking strict follow up actions both in the field and in courts of law. They could resume back to Government large tracts of land which were in illegal custody of private

persons. In the annals of Forest Department the deeds of the above officers shall always stand out. Their action ultimately contributes towards the actualization of the vision of the forest department which includes conservation of biodiversity and protection of environment. Hence their services deserve to be recognized.

In the above circumstances, I, V.Gopinathan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden hereby award "**Good Service Entry**" to the following officers of the Forest Department as recognition of the excellent work done by them in connection with the protection of the biodiversity and preservation of the ecological integrity of Nelliampathy Hills.

1. **Shri.N.K.Sasidharan, IFS**, Chief Conservator of Forests, Eastern Circle, Palakkad.
2. **Shri.P.Dhanesh Kumar**, Addl. Divisional Forest Officer, South Wayanad.



V.Gopinathan  
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Chief Wildlife Warden, Kerala.

To

Shri.N.K.Sasidharan, IFS,  
Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Eastern Circle, Palakkad.

Shri.P.Dhanesh Kumar,  
Divisional Forest Officer,  
South Wayanad.

The Head of Forest Force

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (SF)

The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests  
(NR)/(Admn)/(Protection)/(Biodiversity Cell).