

Copy of letter No.A2-908/73 dt.7-4-1974 from the Chief Conservator of Forests,Trivandrum to the Secretary. To Government, Agriculture (Forest) Department.

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Sub:- Inspection report on the accounts of the Divisional Forest Office, Konni for the period from 25-1-68 to 15-1-1969.

Ref:- Govt. no.43365/FG3/72/AD dt.16/23.12.1972.

With reference to the above I may inform Government that the departmental extraction of timber from supply coupes and keeping of elephants for that purpose will have to be linked with producing equipment, keeping permanent labour force and timely arrangement for transport etc. Some extract staff will also require. In view of the additional financial commitment on account of the additional staff, labour and equipment that might be required, for the work and the limitations of the Department to get the work executed more economically and also since it is difficult to get contractors for transport work alone. I am not in a position to recommend the proposal of the Divl.Forest Officer, Konni to undertake departmental extraction of timber from supply coupes as a general policy for keeping the department of elephant engaged in work. In thinning and final felling in Teak Plantations departmental elephants can be utilized. Surplus elephant can also be disposed of when they are not requires, at all.

However it will be advantageous to include a condition in tender notices, for working down timber to depots that the contractor will engage departmental elephants for the work if and when available at the rate fixed by the Department. Such condition will ensure that the departmental elephants are not be kept idle when they can be spared.

Another aspect that has to be considered is that elephants are found only in Government reserve Forests, or Forests vested with Government. If elephants are not captures or trained, they will not be available for timber dragging, for circus, for temples, zoos and similar purposes. They may also increase in numbers beyond a desirable limit. Therefore there are other aspects other than purely economic considerations in the matter of capture of elephants by the department. This too cannot be overlooked.

Sd/-

Chief Conservator of Forests.

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*For Chief conservator of Forests,
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