

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest – Hill men settlements to the State – Occupation by non –hill men assignment in favor of present occupants - orders

Agriculture (Forest - Central) Department

G.O.(MS) No.250/73/AD

Trivandrum, Dated, 24-7-1973.

Read:- 1. G.O.(P) 289/68/AD dated 7-7-1968.

2. Letter No.CC.225/72 dated 18-12-1972 from the Dist. Collector, Kottayam.

ORDER

After considering the report of the Maniyangadan Committee on the question of eviction of encroachments etc, Government internal is issued the following orders as per G.O.(P) 289/68/AD dated 7-6-1968.

“3 (1) The Sub – Committee has recommended that the eviction of non – hill Men occupying hill men settlements should be dropped and the land should be assigned to actual occupants.

The Government cannot accept this recommendation. If this is accepted in due course the entire hill men settlement would be in the hands of non-hill men and this will be against the fundamental principles of protecting the interests of scheduled castes and hill Tribes. Action will be taken accordingly.”

2. Accordingly the Chief Conservator of Forests had been directed to evict the non-hill men settlers from the hill men settlement. In pursuance of the above direction the Range Officers concerned initiated preliminary steps to evict the non – hill men. The local people Mundakayam etc had been agitating against the proposed eviction. It is reported that about 1000 non –hill men families are residing in the various hill men settlements in Erumeli Range alone. Many of them started living there years back. The District Collector, Kottayam reported that eviction of all these people at this stage would create a law and order problem and so it would be inadvisable to resort to it except for compelling reasons. In order to avoid the complications that were likely to arise in this context, the District Collector, Kottayam requested Government to reconsider the issue. Pending a decision, he instructed the Divisional Forest Officer, Kottayam to hold up the evictions.

3. The question was discussed in conferences held in the Secretariat on 19-2-1973 and 7-3-1973. On the basis of the decision arrived at in the Conferences, Government are pleased to issue the following order, in paragraphs 4 to 8 below, in modification of the orders issued in Paragraph 3 (1) of the Government Order, read above.

4. The entire hill men settlement areas in the state will be surveyed by the Survey and Land Records Department and handed over to the Revenue Department for assignment to the present occupants (both hill men and non – hill men). The assignment of the land to non – hill men will be subject to the conditions, that :-

- i) They should not be in possession of surplus land in terms of the Land in terms of the Land Reforms, Act.
- ii) They should be eligible for assignment of land under Land assignment Rules, and
- iii) On assignment they should pay the value of land that growth in accordance with the rules, if they are capable of doing do.

5. A special machinery will be set up in the Revenue Department for the expenditure Survey of the land and its assignment.

6. No further concessions will be given from the Forest Department to the hill men to whom lands are assigned. The Harijan Welfare Department will provide for the Social Cultural and other living amenities to the tribal population in the areas. That Department will also formulate necessary measures to prevent the hill men from alienating their rights over these lands to the non – hill men encroachers.

7. The Chief Conservator of Forests will forward proposed indicating the location particulars (Survey No: village beat, Range etc.) for the disseveration and transfer of the land to the Revenue Department.

8. The Chief Conservator of Forests the Director of Survey and Land Records and the Director of Harijan Welfare will take immediate further action in pursuance of these orders.

(By order of the Governor)

P.G.Muralidharan,
Secretary to Government.

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for Conservator of Forests,
Trichur.

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