

Minutes of the senior forest Officers Conference held on 7-5-1985 & 8-5-1985 in the conference Hall of the Chief Conservator's Office,
Trivandrum

The following officers have attended the conference:-

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| 1. Sri. M. Sivarajan, I.F.S. | .. | Chief Conservator of Forests |
| 2. Sri. N.M. Pillai, I.F.S. | .. | Chief Conservator of Forests(Special Officer) |
| 3. Sri. C.K. Karunakaran, I.F.S. | .. | Conservator of Forests, working plan & Research circle |
| 4. Sri. S. Chand Basha, I.F.S. | .. | Conservator of Forests, Quilon |
| 5. Sri. P.N. Surendran, I.F.S. | .. | Conservator of Forests, Planing |
| 6. Sri. B.C. Kharbanda, I.F.S. | .. | Conservator of Forests, Calicut |
| 7. Sri. P.K. Surendranathan Asari | .. | Conservator of Forests, Kottayam |
| 8. Sri. K. Dharmapalan, I.F.S. | .. | Conservator of Forests. Trivandrum |
| 9. Sri. K. Achuthan, I.F.S. | .. | Asst. Chief Conservator of Forests. |

The meeting was commenced at 10.30 A.M. chief conservator of forests who chaired the meeting in his introductory remarks mentioned that it would be desirable to fix a definite periodicity for the conservator's conference so that important technical and administrative issues could be discussed. It was decided that the conservator's conference should be held at the last two continuous working days of a quarter. Conservator of forests (planning) will initiate action for organizing conservator of forests conference on these lines hereafter.

A GENDA ITEM I. SELECTION WORKING – REWIVEW OF :

Chief conservator of forests stated that when recent review regarding the working of the selection coupes of the Division was made it was found that the coupes earmarked as per the working plan prescriptions not were being worked fully. As a result a situation appears to exist under which only 50 per- cent of the demand for timber both for public and private requirements of the wood based industries can be met, Hence it was stressed on the urgency of taking all the coupes prescription as per the working plan both arrears and current coupes after excluding coupes in the catchment areas of commission river projects.

The circle wise and Division – wise assessment was made Division wise and the details tabulated separately. Chief conservator of forests in his concluding remarks urged the conservator of forests to periodically review this work expedite action.

ITEM II. REVIEW OF DISCIPLINARY CASES.

The various reasons for the delay which is being caused in the disposal of disciplinary cases were discussed in detail. It was found that the main reasons are the following:-

- 1) Delay in furnishing detailed investigation report.
 - 2) Difficulty in assessing exact loss caused to Government in the alleged irregularities with details of each item and amount of lose.
 - 3) Delay in serving charge memo and getting back acknowledged copy of the charge memo after serving the same on the accused.
 - 4) Delay in finalizing the oral enquiry by the inquiry Authority and submitting his enquiry report.
 - 5) Large number of accused person involved in most of the cases.
 - 6) In certain cases the connected records will be in the custody of the police vigilance Department because that departmental office might have sized the record in connection with the cases they have originated. As a result, delay will be caused in drafting the memo of charges and to follow subsequent formalities for wan of connected records.
 - 7) In certain cases, some of the parties involved will be approaching the high court or other courts with pert ions as a result of which some of the records will have to be submitted either before the Government Advocates. As result departmental action will be delayed for want of records.
- 2) It was decided that special attention will be bestowed by all the officers of the department with a view to finalise as many disciplinary cases as possible in spite of the various reason for delay which are detailed above. The chief conservator of forests invited the attention of conservator of forest to the Government order fixing arrear clearance weeks from 15.5.1985 to 22.5.1985 and from 1.6.1985. It was

decided that maximum no: of files dealing with disciplinary cases should be finalized during the above arrears clearance weeks.

- 3) It was also decided that a separate register showing the details of disciplinary cases should be appended in each office.
- 4) It was further decided to maintain a punishment register in each office which will show among other relevant things, the nature of punishments imposed, date on which appeal time expires, whether any appeal has been submitted within the allowed time decision taken on the appeal etc.
- 5) The prescribed quarterly statement on the review of disciplinary cases should be submitted by each office to its Higher Offices. The Conservator's will prepare consolidated quarterly review reports on disciplinary cases to the Chief Conservator of Forests regularly in future.
- 6) For finding a solution to the problem of delay in serving the charge memo notice etc. On the accused Officers, it was decided that such memo, notices, etc., can be sent by Registered post acknowledgement due so that date of receipt by the accused can be calculated with effect from the date shown in the postal acknowledgement receipt. In such cases duplicate copy of the Memo etc. with dated acknowledgement need not be submission of defense statement replies etc.

Another decision taken was to the effect that the disciplinary authority should make necessary entries in the Services Books of the Accused Officers at the time of issuing orders inflicting such punishment.

ITEM.III (Review of working of Forest Timber sales Division)

Due to paucity of supply coupes and selection coupes the flow of timber to the sales Deposits has been considerably reduced. In the circumstances a review of the working of the sales Division has been necessitated. The Chief Conservator of Forests pointedly put forth before the conference the recent practice in the northern circle especially of stocking timber in "dumping Depots" in the extraction sites and disposal from these Depots by the territorial Depots. The general Conservator was that this is undesirable practice which can lead to lot of irregularities. The conservator of forests, Kozhikode explained that dumping Depots were formed on the basis of reports from the territorial Divl. Forest officers that

loading and unloading charges as per the schedule of rate were not adequate to meet the local demands of the labour and it was more profitable to the department if timber stocked and sold in the “dumping Depots” but the general consensus in the conference was that this claim calls for a detailed study based on facts and figures and the general principles on supply and sale demands that supply and sale of forest produce should be by two separate agencies and the sale divisions have been constituted with this aim. As such all major forests produce should as far as possible be worked down to the regular Depots disposal and only interior timber and poles that could not be profitably worked down permitted to be disposed locally at site, after careful examination by the concerned conservators of forests. This has to be so, in view of the short- age of stock in various depots.

A review of the stock position in various Depots of the different sales divisions and the staff position in depots and sales Division was conducted based on the discussion the following decision were taken .

I . Southern circle .Quilon

a). Timber sales Division , Trivandrum .

Thirumala Depot and Annex at Valiamala

At present there is no stocked at these Depots some timber is expected from mineral water project area of Kallar and also from Peppara Dam area. This is proposed for delivery at Valiamala Annex. The Thirumala Depot compound is proposed for construction of quarter’s forest staff and a few have already been constructed. The Depot at Thirumala need not be continued and the Depot at Valiamala continued with a skeltals staff. One L.D. clerk and 3 watches are to taken out from the Depot. The conservator of forests, Qulion will send up proposals.

2. Kulathupuzha Depot :-

There is a stock of 2000 cum. at presents and more stock is expected. As such the Depot is to be retained as such with the present strength.

3. Maravanchira Depot :-

There is no stock in the Depot and no arrivable expected. The conservator of forests, Qulion has already send up proposal vide his. D.O. No: OC.3612/81/dt.1...4...1985 for closure of the Depot. This may be accepted and staff deployed elsewhere. The Range officer may be deployed in Punalur paper mills and the one U.D. clerk, one L.D. clerk taken to common pool. The two watchers and one poem will be suitably deployed by.

6. Arienkavu Depot:-

The present stock is 450 cum. and over 3800 cum are expected from Ranni. The present staff is to be retained.

7. Angamoozi Depot:-

Present stock is 250 cum. nearly 9500 cum. expected form coupes of Ranni Division .

Action :

Conservator of forests, Qulion,/ administrative officer/
Forest utilization officer .

II. Kottayam circle

Timber sales Division , perumbavoor

There are four depots in this circle and the position was discussed and the following decisions taken.

1. Kothamangalam Depot:-

The staff in this Depot is to continue. Even thought present stock is very little stock is expected from Kothamangalam Divn.

2. Kumily Depot:-

The stock is only 35 cum. But stock form collect form the cardamom areas are expected. Moreover this is the only Depot this area hence the present Depot with staff is to continue.

3. Parambuzha Depot:-

Present stock is over 2000cum. more stock is expected from salvage extraction. The present staff strength is to be retained.

4. Thalacode Depot :-

The present stock is 5650cum. and more stock is expected from Mankulam. It was resolved to continue present staff.

5. Vetticadu Depot :-

The present stock is 1264cum. timber is arrive in from the salvage felling sand extraction from Thodupuzha Range plantation. The present staff is to continue.

6. Veetoor Depot:-

Present stock 2504 cum. timber from salvage fell are expected. And it was resolved to continue present staff.

III. Trichur circle & Kalady sale Division

There are six depots in this circle. The timber extraction has been reduced to a great extent in the forests of Trichur circle and hence after a review of the present position and the future working it was resolved to amalgamate the Kalady sales Division with the Perumbavoor sales Division. Only the Trichur, Chalkudy and Mudical Depots are+ to continue. The Chettikulam, Ernakulam and Varapuzha depots are to be discontinued. The conservator of Forests, Trichur will send up proposals for amalgamation of Kalady with the Perumbavoor Division and abolition of the Depots that are to be discontinued, He will also send up proposal for the deployment of surplus staff.

Action:- conservator of forests, Trichur/ Administrative officers/ Forests utilization officers.

IV. Kozhikode circle

(a) Kozhikode sale Division

There are at present, ten Depot under Kozhikode sale Division. The Present position of stock and future working were reviewed. The conservator of forests, Kozhikode stated that the main reason for shortage of stock in the Depot was the practice in many divisions of the circle of stocking timber in the 'dumping site depots' and disposal by the territorial Divl. Forest officers themselves. He stated that the very purpose of formulation of

the sale Division was defeated by the above practice. He was also of the view that the extraction and selling agencies should not be one and the same. The Depots in the circle can be retained if the timber and 1st, IInd and IIIrd class poles at least are delivered in the Depots. The sale of produce in at centralized Depots would ensure better prices as there will be more participating bidders and keen competition than in the interior “dumping depots” the consensus in the conference subscribed to the view that forest produce as much as possible should be delivered and sold at the regular Depots and the stocking and sale at dumping depots should not be permitted. The following decisions were taken with regard to the depots in Kozhikode sales Division.

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| 1. | Mysore Depot | : - | The present staff to continue |
| 2. | Nanjancode | : - | The present staff to continue |
| 3. | Baveli Depot | : - | The present staff to continue |
| 4. | Kannoth Depot | : - | present staff to continue |
| 5. | Kuppady Depot | : - | present staff to continue |
| 6. | Chaliyam Depot | : - | present staff to continue |
| 7. | Kalladi Depot | : - | |

There is no stock at present. The Depot at Chaliyam will be sufficient to hold the stock. Hence it was resolved to abolish the Depot. The forester now in the Depot will be sent to the field and the remaining staff to Chaliyam. The property mark registration work and issue of permits done by this Depot officers will be done at Chaliyam.

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| 8. | Aruvacode Depot | : - | The Depot will continue with present Strength. |
| 9. | Nedumgayam Depot | : - | This will continue with the present Strength. |
| 10 | Nemmara Depots | : - | The Depot to continue with the present Strength. |
| 11. | Pollachi Depot | : - | |

This depot is under the control of the Divl. Forest officer, Nemmara. At present there is no stock in this Depot. The conservator of forests, Kozhikode circle and arrange for stocking of timber for regular sale.

Action :- Conservator of Forests, Kozhikode/ Administrative officers / Forest Utilization Officer.

Royalty from Minerals.

During the conference the chief conservator of forests (Vigilance) pointed out the as per the present rules for every unit of Rock collected under the seignior age passes an

amount of rupee one is to be collected and adjusted to the Geological Department towards Royalty. It was doubtful if this is done in the Ranges. It was decided that the chief conservator of forests will send suitable direction in this connection to the sub-offices and to see that the Royalty of Re. one per cum. is collected along with the seignior age and adjusted to the Geological Department.

Action :- All conservator of forests/ forest utilization officer

ITEM IV. Selection of venerable Rosewood

The conference opened at 10.30 A.M. before taking up the discussion of items as per the Agenda the chief conservator of forests placed before the meeting the procedure for selection of Rosewood logs of venerable quality for supply to the wood industries complex, Nilambur and for open sale. As per present producer the representative of the wood complex prepares a list of the selected venerable rose wood logs in the order of cubical contents and from this list the odd serials are allotted to the wood complex and the even numbers put up for open auction. Recently a dispute arose in respect of the selection of rosewood Timber in Mudical Depot and the members of the Association of plywood manufacture boycotted two actions notified at Mudical alleging irregularities in the selection. After the discussion the consensus was that there need not be any change in the existing procedure but at the time of selection of the logs, the stock number, measurements and volume should not be divulged to the representative of the kerala wood Industries Ltd. Also here after the selection will be jointly done by the forest utilization officer and the representative of the Kerala wood industries Ltd. the sales Divl. Forest officers will see that this procedure is followed here after.

Action :- All conservator of forests/ forest utilization officers

Sd/-
For conservator of forests (D)
For conservator of forests,
Central circle ,
Trichur -20.