

9641

259

23

348 7202

Government of Kerala - Abstract.
Forest Department - Cardamom Cultivation - Unification of Rules - IIInd
Report of the Committee on Petitions of Legislature - Recommendations
of the Committee - orders issued.

AGRICULTURE (FOREST GENERAL) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.14/73/AD

Dated: Trivandrum, 12--1--1973.

Read: Correspondence resting with letter No. GL-21153/70 dt. 25-2-1972
from the Chief Conservator of Forests.

Order.

Cardamom lands in the reserve forests of Thodumuzha Taluk were being leased out for a period of 20 years at a time under the rules regarding lease of Cardamom lands in Kannu Elam Tract issued in 1927. Government decided that the time expired leases need not be renewed and the lands might be resumed for departmental cultivation of Cardamom. In accordance with this decision, the Forest Department did not renew the leases of certain cardamom lands in the area. The former lessees of some of those lands moved the High Court and obtained stay orders restraining the department from terminating the leaseholds and prohibiting the sale of right of cultivation of lease-holds until further orders. These petitions were subsequently dismissed by the High Court. A batch of writ appeals filed by the petitioners were not pressed for the reason that Govt. were reconsidering the entire matter on the basis of a Report made by the Committee on petitions of this State Legislative Assembly.

2. The Committee on Petitions of the State Legislative Assembly, in its second Report (November 1968) after considering a petition from the Kerala State Small Cardamom Planters' Association, Munnar, had made the following recommendations:

- i) Land suitable for cardamom cultivation should be given on long term lease for a period of 45 years at a time, the right of renewal being given to those who are already in occupation of lands on lease terms.
- ii) Rules for the lease of Govt. lands for cardamom cultivation should be unified and made applicable throughout the State including Kannu Elam Tracts.
- iii) Kannu Elam lands should be surveyed before such lands are given on lease in future.
- iv) A scheme for giving loans to the long-term lease holders should be formulated.
- v) Effective steps should be taken to eradicate kattee disease.

3. After examining the case in detail, Govt. have come to the conclusion that their earlier decision that the Cardamom lands whose periods of lease have expired should be resumed and cultivated departmentally does not require any reconsideration. They are, therefore, pleased to issue the following orders in the matter.

- i) The cardamom lands whose periods of lease have expired will be resumed and cultivated departmentally. This will not apply to lands leased out to tribals which continue to be in their possession.
- ii) The lands whose term of lease will expire in future will expire in future will also be resumed and cultivated departmentally. The lands which have been leased out to tribals and which continue to be in their possession will not however be so resumed.
- iii) The Kannu Elam lands other than those leased out to the tribals and which continue to be in their possession will be resumed on the expiry of the present periods of lease.
- iv) The encroachers in the Kannu Elam lands will be penalised by realising the premium and arrear lease rent and by resuming the excess

Head: Correspondence relating with letter No. GL-21153/70 dt. 27.12.73 from the Chief Conservator of Forests.

area occupied by them unauthorisedly. Such areas will not be leased out to other persons.

- v) Financial assistance will not be given to leaseholders.
- vi) The Government departments concerned and the Cardamom Board will be requested to take effective steps to eradicate the kattee disease.

4. The Chief Conservator of Forests will take further action on the orders in paragraph 3 above.

By order of the Governor,
P.G.Muraleedharan,
Secretary to Government.

To The Chief Conservator of Forests, etc. etc. etc.

GL-21153/70 dt. 7-2-73.

Forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, Trichur for report in detail in case any serious difficulty is anticipated in implementing the orders in the Govt. order.

Sd/- for Chief Conservator of Forests.

Endt. on ML-11324/67 dt. 21-2-73.

Copy of GOF's Endt. on GL-21153/70 dt. 7-2-73 forwarded to the Divl. Forest Officers, Kottayam, Malayattur (his ref: CL-7526/69), and Munnar for necessary action and report.

Copy to stock file & Sections 'MR' and 'KT' for information.

Office of the Conservator of Forests, Central Circle, Trichur -1.

Pranav
H for CONSERVATOR of FORESTS.

RAM) (2) x 2.

24/2