

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Assignment of Vested Forests – Procedures to be followed:
Difficulties to be reviewed – field requirements – Staff
Requirements etc. Orders issued.

REVENUE (P) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS. No. 247/77/RE.

Dated, Trivandrum 24.09-1977

ORDER

Government have decided that 10,000 hectares of Vested Forest land shall be assigned during the financial year. The following orders are issued in the ..

I(i) The Custodian shall furnish to the Special Secretary (Revenue) before the 86th September, he list of areas extending to total of 10,000 hetaeras which can be formally transferred to the District Collector by the First of February, 1978. the actual handing ever need take place by the above date. During the interest period of four Shall be the responsibility of the District Collector the survey of the areas, the .. of the blocks issued individual to the assigned and of beneficiaries. This s to that once the stipulated period, the lands in question can be formally taken ever by the first of February and the selected beneficiaries put into physical possession within a fortnight.

(ii) In order to enable the survey work to be completed in time, the Director of Survey is authorized to divers from the Forest Survey particles, 6 Surveyors. I Ead Surveyor and Draftsmen for the work in each district. The Director of Survey shall also place at the disposal of each Collector 12 chairmen from the Supernumerary Chairmen already functioning else where. The District Collector are authorized to appoint Chairman on a daily wage basis to cover the periods of gap, if any, in the posting and functioning of these chairman.

(iii) As seen as the lists of lands to be assigned are communicated to the collector by the Revenue Secretary, on receipt of the details from the Custodian, the Collectors are to take immediate action under Kerala Private Forests (Vesting and Assignment) Rules for the section of beneficiaries.

II Government have examined the staff requirements for the above work wit reference to the actual physical activities ad wok load under each activity and are pleases to sanctioned the following staff.

Staff under the Wasted Forests Deputy Collectors (Collect rate)

<u>District</u>	<u>Lower Division Clerk</u>	<u>Lower Division Typists</u>	<u>Peon</u>
Cannanore	1	1	1
Calicut.	1	1	1
Malappuram	1	1	1
Palakkad	1	1	1
	-----	-----	-----
Total	4	4	4
	=====	=====	=====

Special Tahsildars

Cnnannore	2
Calicut	2
Malappuram	2
Palakkad	2

Total	8
	=====

Staff Under Special Tahsildars

<u>District</u>	<u>Lower Division Clerk</u>	<u>Lower Division Typists</u>	<u>Upper Division Revenue Inspector</u>	<u>Peon</u>
Cnnannore	6	2	2	2
Calicut	6	2	2	2
Malappuram	6	2	2	2
Palakkad	6	2	2	2
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	24	8	8	8
	=====	=====	=====	=====

III The following clarification are also ordered:

(i) As provided under the Act, the lands in question will in the Custodian until the actual handling over on 1st February although the woks relating, to the Revenue Department during the intervening period of four months. This is an account of the necessity to educe to the minimum possible the scope for encroachments during the reduce to the minimum possible the over of lands and actual assignment and the fact what the custodian under the , Act has summary powers of coition while similar action by the Collector under the Revenue laws and to take over of stray cases pf encroachments if any, after the take over and assignment the question of investing the Collector with after the formal over of the land an February.

(ii) In a number of cases, the recommendations of the Vested Forests Committee are to undertake cultivation in compact blocks through co – operative societies consisting of assignees. Now ever, since the formation or such co – operative societies are still in the very preliminary stages, the actual assignment needs not wit for the formation of bunch selection. Forever as provided under Ruled 13, it will be stipulated, as a condition of assignment in all cases that the assignee shall join the co – operative society as when it is formed.

(iii) On the basis of the recommendation of the Vested Forest Committee, the crops be cultivated by the assigned are to be indicated in the assignment orders. It is offered that in addition to such other corps as may be specified, the Custodian will arrange to remove valuable trees from the areas to be rule and indicated in the assignment orders.

(iv) Under the rules, where clear felling is considered necessary, such clear felling is to be complete before the lands are handed over to the Revenue Department for assignment. The Custodian will arrange to remove valuable trees from the areas to be handed over for assignment.

(v) It has already been decided that a minimum of 50% of the total area assigned shall be in favour of the members of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Since the required adjustments and calculation may be difficult on a State-wide basis, it is ordered that this percentage be implemented on a District-wise basis. The areas, if any, to be set apart exclusively for the tribals will be taken into account in the calculation of the above 50%

(vi) The District will be notified as Assigning authorities as required under Section 10 (2) of the Act.

(vii) Since the Act provides that all the persons within the State can apply, irrespective of districts, the Board of Revenue may ensure that the required forests are made available in all the Taluk Officers of the State. A Press release will also be issued indicating the proposed assignment of 10,000 ha.

(viii) The District Collectors are authorized to arrange the local printing of the specified forms in Malayalam.

(ix) From the lands handed over for assignment, Rocky and unfit areas discovered during survey are to be excluded. Such enclaves within assigned areas will be treated as promotes.

(x) The Custodian shall ensure that the lands handed over for assignments are free of encroachments and litigation.

(xi) Since the application for assignment itself is accompanied by a certificate from the Village Officer, on his own responsibility relating to the eligibility for assignment, no further field enquiries relating to such eligibility are contemplated under the Rules.

IV. In addition to the above mentioned .. the following amendments to the Rules are also offered. Formal amendments to the Rules will issue from the Agriculture (F.S) Department

(a) Under the Rules, the maximum area to be assigned per beneficiary is a hectare, in the case of all other crops and Shrub trees in the case of cashew. Deferment is new of the view that all assignments may be on a flat rate of a hectare.

(b) The list of categories of persons eligible for assignment includes "unemployed young persons who have no sufficient means of livelihood". This being too vague, an income eligibility limit of Rs. 300/- per annum is prescribed.

(c) All allotments of lands will be in the form of assignment on registry.

(d) The term of assignment order prescribed under the rules grant the assignee 6 months to take up cultivation, whereas rule 12 gives only 3 months time. The period under rule 12 will be changed to 6 months.

By Order of the Governor
S.PADMAKUMAR
SPECIAL SECRETARY

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests, etc. etc

Sd/- Section Officer.

Endt.on VF. 53316/77/dt.17.10.1977

Copy forwarded to all Conservators for Forests for attention. The Conservator of Forests (Vested Forests) will report details of staff, if any, required for the clearance work.

Copy to all Divl. Forest Officers for attention.

Copy to Stock file

Office of the Chief }
Conservator of Forests }
Trivandrum }

Sd/-
For Chief Conservator of Forests
(Development)

Forwarded/By Order,

Head Accountant

Pnk/27.10