

Forests - Ban on cutting and removal of trees - Restrictions to be continued - Orders issued

FOREST AND WILD LIFE (B) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms. 48/87/F & WLD

Dated, Trivandrum 15th May 1987

- Read:-
1. Government Circular No. 6668/F1/87/F&WLD dtd. 4-4-87
 2. Government Circular No. 6758/B1/87/F & WLD dtd. 10-4-87.
 3. Correspondence resting with the Letter No. C1-30016/86 dtd. 2-5-87 from the Chief Conservator of Forests.

ORDER

As per the Circular read as 1st paper above Government banned cutting of trees as well as ~~max~~ removal of felled trees in the State until further orders. In the circular read as 2nd paper above Government have clarified that the ban did not apply to the following cases:-

- i) Supply of raw materials for Hindustan Newsprint Limited, Velloor.
- ii) Drawing of Transmission lines for which clearance of Government of India under Forest Conservation Act 1980 obtained and orders issued viz. 220 KV line from Idukki to Udumalpet and 220 KV line from Sabarigiri to Trivandrum.
- iii) Lower periyar Hydro Electric Project for which sanction was already issued with the clearance of Government of India under Forest Conservation Act.
- iv) Supply of bamboos and reeds for the Kerala State Bamboo Corporation.

The Chief Conservator of Forests has now brought to the notice of Government the difficulties experienced by the Forest Department consequent on the issue of the ban order and requested relaxation to the ban order.

After having examined all aspects of the matter Government are pleased to issue the following orders on the extent of restrictions to be continued in the tree felling operations of the forest Department instead of the blanket ban imposed in the circular read as 1st paper above:-

- I. Natural Forests (in Reserve and Vested)
- a) The ban on clear felling will continue
 - b) contracts settled for selection felling prior to the imposition of ban on cutting any trees in Forest areas will be honoured strictly in accordance with the terms of the ~~contract~~ contract.

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- c) Trees felled and lying in coupes or stacked under concluded contracts will be permitted to be removed strictly in accordance with the terms of the contract.
- d) Extraction of bamboos and reeds will be permitted. Traditional artisans and Scheduled Tribes will be permitted to extract bamboos and reeds for their use according to general orders in force.
- e) Only departmental extraction of dead sandal wood and rosewood trees will be allowed.
- f) Felling of trees for projects or schemes or other purposes will be permitted strictly according to the terms and conditions prescribed by Government of India in their sanctions under the Forest Conservation Act 1980.

II. Plantations

- a) Clear felling, selection felling, thinning operations etc. will be done following the silvicultural norms scrupulously. Contracts entered into on this basis for felling and removal operations will be honoured strictly in accordance with the terms of the contract.
- b) However, in teak plantations located in sanctuary areas, final felling operation only will be done as Departmental work restricting removal only to 25% of the trees.
- c) Departmental extraction of dead and wind fallen trees in sanctuaries will be allowed without disturbance to animals.

III. Occupied areas of Forests

From areas in Cardamom Hills Reserve and other forest areas where there is wide spread destruction of trees by settlers, salvage felling are permitted only as a Departmental operation.

IV. Private lands

Passes will be issued for cutting of trees from private lands observing all the provisions of the Kerala Forest Act and the Kerala Preservation of Trees Act 1986.

By Order of the Governor,

N. Kalleswaran

Agricultural Production Commissioner.

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and all other C.C.F.
All Divl. Forest Officers of the Territorial Divisions
All Wild Life Wardens of the Wild Life Divisions.
All Divl. Forest Officers of the Spl. Divn. vested forests.
All Conservator of Forests.
All Officers and Sections of the Forest & Wild Life Dept.
Section Officer.

Encl. TR-3045/87 dt.27-5-87

Copy to Sections VC, CH, & ML, A.A., S.S., H.A.

Copy to Stock file.

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R. Manikrishnan
For Conservator of Forests, Trichur.