

Copy of the letter No.C2.3909/81 dated 16-8-62 from the Chief Conservator of forests, Trivandrum to the Secretary to Government Forest Department Trivandrum to the Secretary to Government (Forest) Department Trivandrum.

Sub:- Contract-release of Security- excess interest waiver of-

Referring to the G. O Rt.1724/61/Agri. Dated 6-10-'61 the Accountant General has requested to furnish the reasons for the delay from 13-1-51 to 31-8-60 for the release of the security. He has also requested to state whether the responsibility for the delay has been assessed, and if so to furnish the names of persons from whom the excess interest of Rs. 266.75 os to be recovered. I enclose copy of this office letter on even No dated 10-5-'62 sent in reply to the points raised by the Accountant General in his letter referred to above.

2. In his No FAD.11/5-13/61-63/756 dated 4-7-62, the Accountant General has remarked that the delay of over one year in the in the Conservator office seems quite abnormal and hence the responsibility of for the long delay may be fixed (ie, either in the forest Department in the Secretariat) and recovery effected accordingly in the absence of any government orders for the weiver of excess interest for the period from 1-8-59 to 31-8-'60 and to fix the responsibility for the delay in the Divisional Forest Office, and initiated the amount and action taken for the recovery of the amounts.

3. From the copy of letter enclosed, it may kindly be seen that the delay caused in the Conservator's office was unavoidable and no one is responsible for the some. It is therefore requested that Government may be pleased to waive the excess interest for the period from 1-5-'69 to 31-5-'60 as remarked by the Accountant General.

4. In this Connection a kind reference in invited to the amendment to Article 8223 Travancore Financial and Account code issued in G.O.P.No.146/61/Fin dated 25-3-'61. It is stated therein the settlement of liabilities and release of securities should be made within a period of one year from the date of expiry of the period of contract. Any delay beyond the above period noticed as the time of closing the account should be reported by the pledge is subordinate office of the department, and to government in the Administrative Department, in case the pledge is a Head of a department for appropriate disciplinary action. In case the pledge is the Divisional Forest Officer ,Kottayam and the Chief Conservator of forests is the final authority to decide whether any disciplinary section is necessary for the delay caused. Under those circumstances it is also requested that government orders have to be obtained in such cases as pointed out by the Accountant General in all similar cases.

5. Another point for consideration is whether the question of recovery of excess interest actually arise in view of the above amendment. According to the original article (Art.622) there was provision to recover the excess interest from the officers at felt. But the amended articles provides only for disciplinary action and the question of recovery of excess interest does not at all arise. Government have also in their No. G.O.Ms/55/Fin/C2 dated 20-2-'62 ordered that the above amendment is applicable retrospectively to all pending cases of recovery of excess interest due to the delay the release of security.

6. In the above circumstances, government may be pleased to be alight whether any section is required on the observations of the Accountant General.

7. Early orders are solicited.

Sd/- For Chief Conservator of forests.

Encl.copy of letter

Copy to the Accountant General. (with C.L)

„ „ „ Conservator of Forests, Chalakudy for information his No.Kt.2654/59 dated 4-8-60

Endt. On Kt.2654/59 dated 29-7-4-8-62 (Divisional Forest Officer AB-1504/58)

Copy to H.A and contract Accounts Sections.

Sd/- Conservator of forests.

True copy/Forwarded/

For Superintendent.