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 1605/1999

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Joint verification of occupied forest areas - Completion - seeking approval from Government of India for regularisation - Orders issued.

REVENUE (P) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.510/99/RD. Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 14-12-1999

Read: G.O.Ms.No.655/89/RD. dated 31-8-1989.

C R D E R

As per the reference cited, Government ordered joint verification of occupied forestlands including vested forest land, jointly by Forest and Revenue Departments in districts where joint verification of occupied forestlands had not been completed.

2. When the proposal of the State Government, submitted in 1986 for regularisation of 28588.159 hectares of occupied forestlands prior to 1-1-1977 in five districts (Idukki, Thri E. nakulam, Pathanamthitta and Kollam) was under consideration of Government of India for sanction, State Government was asked to intimate the details of forest area to be regularised in all the districts in prescribed proforma. When the correspondence was going on between State Government and Government of India for sanction for first proposal, Government of India on 2-4-1992 asked the State Government for details of forest area to be regularised with all details in the prescribed proforma. The State Government had written to Government of India in 17-7-1992 that the total area which will have to be regularised consequent on completion of joint verification exercise of encroached forest area in all the districts would be around 46000 hectares including 28,588.159 hectares (ocular assessment). It was also stated that the detailed proforma report along with other necessary documents with area to be regularised would be submitted after joint verification was over.

3. The joint verification was accordingly conducted as per reference cited in the following forest circles and the process have more or less been completed. The details of joint verification are as follows:

Name of the forest circle	Area to be jointly verified	Area subjected to joint verification	Area remaining to be verified.	Area found to be occupied prior to 1-1-1977
Kollam	3451.2534	3397.6194	53.734	2654.6334

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Kottayam	83997.27205	8205.6849	193.5871	5820.8320
Thrissur	5335.4003	3282.8017	1352.5986	3634.00
Palakkad	6829.4692	5233.3820	1596.9862	592.7045
Kozhikode	2343.9045	2279.0892	64.8193	365.5866
Field Director Kottayam	1320.928	830.900	490.028	824.718
Total	27680.23	23929.567	3750.7634	13892.478
				3751.7532

While granting sanction under section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act 1980 for diversion of 28588.159 hectares of forest land in five districts for regularisation of pre 1-1-77 encroachment and to assign land under Kerala Land Assignment (Regularisation of Occupation of Forest Land Prior to 1-1-77) Special Rules 1993, Government of India have stated that such sanction was subject to condition laid down vide letter No.8-118/86-FC dated 23-3-1993. In the said letter, Government of India had put following conditions:

- i. Ground verification and demarcation of area to be regularised in favour of individual encroachers shall be done by the State Government.
- ii. Regularisation of encroachments shall not be done in favour of encroachers (otherwise found eligible) either in the midst of the forest area or in the Periyar Tiger Reserve/Wild Life Sanctuary. For such encroachers area in excess of found acres available with other eligible encroachers may be utilised.
- iii. Detailed map showing demarcation of the area to be regularised in favour of individual encroachers shall be got prepared.
- iv. Regularisation of encroachments in favour of eligible encroachers shall not be done in excess of the area permissible as per Kerala Land Assignment Rules 1968. The excess area with such encroachers shall be taken from the possession of the encroachers and shall be utilised for shifting eligible encroachers from midst of the forest area or from Periyar Tiger Reserve area.

Such encroachers shall be taken back from the possession of the encroachers and shall be utilised for shifting eligible encroachers from the midst of the forest area or from Periyal Tiger Reserve area. 2

v) A comprehensive scheme for soil conservation and agro-forestry shall be prepared and implemented as a time bound programme to check accelerated soil erosion and siltation of dams taking place in the area.

vi) The State Government shall give firm commitment that funds for the compensatory afforestation scheme will be made available. The compensatory afforestation shall be done within a period not exceeding 5 years.

On the basis of Government order dated 31.8.1989, joint verification was conducted jointly by Forest and Revenue officials. The outcome of the joint verification and the area subject to joint verification by Forest and Revenue Officials is shown in the table above. Out of 27,680.23 hectares to be verified 23,929.567 hectares were subjected to joint verification and 13,892.47 hectares were found to be occupied prior to 1.1.1977. The area remaining to be verified is about 3750.76 hectares.

Government have examined the matter in details and orders as follows:

1. The State Government will submit proposal to Government of India for sanction under section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for regularisation of 13892.478 hectares that has already been found to be occupied prior to 1.1.1977 in the joint verification conducted. The District Collectors will immediately prepare a preliminary report for the said area from the joint verification records and submit to Government before 31st December 1999 for submission of a consolidated proposal to Government of India.

2. The remaining area of 3750.763 hectares for which joint verification is yet to be completed will be done within two months by Forest and Revenue officials as had been done in the past. On the basis of such joint verification, District Collectors will forward the preliminary details to Government before 31.12.2000.

(.....)

3. While submitting the proposal to Government of India, the State Government will undertake to stand by the same terms and conditions that were imposed in the earlier proposal by Government of India.

By Order of the Governor,

V.S. Senthil,

Special Secretary to Government.

To

11 District Collectors,.

The Commissioner, Land Revenue, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Chief Conservator of Forest, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Director of Survey and Land Records, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Secretary, Land Board, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Forest Department.

The General Adm. (SC) Department

(vide item No.O.A.13 dated 24.11.1999)

Forwarded/By order

SO/-

Section Officer.

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