



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department – Guidelines for felling and removal of trees in the plantations raised by Social Forestry wing of Kerala Forest Department – Approved – Orders issued.

FOREST & WILDLIFE (E) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(MS) 32/2001 F&WLD

Dated. Thiruvananthapuram 26.4.2001

Read:- Letter No. SW3-97/2000 dated. 22.01.2001 from the Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), Thiruvananthapuram

ORDER

The Social Forestry wing of the Kerala Forest Department has been raising plantations on various categories of lands in the State. It has come to the notice of Government that some institutions/departments have put forth dispute/claims on the felling and removal of trees in the plantation raised by the Social Forestry Wing Government, therefore, felt it necessary to evolve a uniform guideline for felling and removal of trees from such plantations. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) in his letter read above has proposed a draft guideline for this purpose.

After examining the proposal in detail, Government are pleased to approve the guideline proposed by the Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) as follows.

1. LAND ALONG THE SIDES OF HIGHWAYS

- a. No tree shall be felled with out the cutting permission granted by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the concerned district.
- b. Proposal for felling trees with specific reasons should be sent by the Executive Engineer concerned to the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the respective District, who will consider the application and issue cutting permission or reject the application within 15 days.
- c. For issuing permission for felling trees from plantations along the National Highways the guidelines issued by the National Highway authorities may be considered.
- d. Permission shall be granted for felling trees which are dead, wind fallen and standing dangerous to the life and property and those which are required to be felled for the development of infrastructure.
- e. At least the last row from the road sides shall be retained for aesthetic value.

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- f. As far as possible all ornamental and fruit bearing trees shall be retained. If required a 10-m. gap between these trees may be allowed wherever absolutely necessary.
 - g. In such cases felling will be done by the Public Works Department and the produce shall be sold by them in public auction based on the upset price fixed by the Forest authorities.
 - h. Profit sharing may be done in 1:4 ratio between the Forest Department and the Public Works Department.
 - i. If the Forest Department desires to fell the plantation due to silvicultural reasons, the felling shall be under taken by the Forests Department after giving due notice to the Public Works Department. In such cases sale of the produce will be done by the Forest authorities.
 - j. In case of any dispute regarding cutting permission, felling sale of produce etc. the matter shall be referred to the concerned Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry who will consider the matter and take appropriate decisions. The decisions of the Conservator of Forests will be final.

2. RAILWAY LANDS

- a. No tree shall be felled with out the cutting permission granted by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the concerned district.
- b. Proposal for felling trees with specific reasons should be sent by the concerned Railway Authority to the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the respective district who will consider the application and issue cutting permission or reject the application within 15 days.
- c. Permission shall be granted for felling trees which are dead wind fallen and standing dangerous to the life and property and those which are required to be felled for the development of infrastructure.
- d. At least the farthest row from the rail track side shall be retained for aesthetic value.
- e. As far as possible all ornamental and fruit bearing trees shall be retained. If required a 10-m. gap between these trees may be allowed wherever felling is absolutely necessary.
- f. In such cases felling will be done by the Railway Authorities and the produce shall be sold by them in public auction based on the upset price fixed by the Forest Authorities.
- g. Trees or branches obstructing visibility and which require emergency removal may be felled or lopped by the Railway authorities after informing the concerned Assistant Conservator of Forests ,Social Forestry .
- h. Profit sharing may be done in 1:1 ration between the Forest Department and the Railways.
- i. If the Forest Department desires to fell the plantation due to silvicultural reasons the felling shall be under taken by the Forest Department after giving due notice

to the Railway Authorities. In such cases sale of the produce will be done by the Forest Authorities.

- j. In case of any dispute regarding cutting permission, felling sale of produce etc. the matter shall be referred to the concerned Conservator of Forests, Social Forestry who will consider the matter and take appropriate decisions. The decisions of the Conservator of Forests will be final.

3. LAND AT THE DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT

1. Public Institution Compound (Both State & Central Government)

- a. No tree shall be felled with out the cutting permission granted by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the concerned district.
- b. Proposal for felling the trees with specific reasons should be sent by the concerned Authority to the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the respective district who will consider the application and issue cutting permission or reject the application within 15 days.
- c. Permission shall be granted for felling trees which are dead, wind fallen and standing dangerous to the life and property and those which are required to be felled for the development of infrastructure.
- d. As far as possible all ornamental and fruit bearing trees shall be retained.
- e. Cutting permission shall be restricted to the least number of trees required to be removed for the purpose and as far as possible clear felling of the areas shall be avoided and sufficient number of trees shall be retained.
- f. In such cases felling will be done by the Institution Authorities and the produce shall be sold by them in public auction based on the upset price fixed by the Forest Authorities.
- g. The Institution will undertake the responsibility of planting suitable species in lieu of the trees for which cutting permission have been granted being dead, wind fallen and standing dangerous.
- h. Profit will be shared in 1:4 ratio between the Forest Department and the Institution.
- i. If the Forest Department desires to fell the plantation due to silvicultural reasons the felling shall be under taken by the Forest Department after giving due notice to the Institution Authorities . In such cases sale of the produce will be done by the Forest Authorities.
- j. In case of any dispute regarding cutting permission, felling sale of produce etc. the matter shall be referred to the concerned Conservator of Forests , Social Forestry who will consider the matter and take appropriate decisions. The decisions of the Conservator of Forests will be final.

2. REVENUE LANDS.

These lands are mainly puramboke lands and Coastal area.

- a. No tree shall be felled without the cutting permission granted by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the concerned District.
- b. Proposal for felling the trees with specific reasons should be sent by the concerned Thahsildar to the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the respective district who will consider the application and issue cutting permission or reject the application within 15 days.
- c. Permission shall be granted for felling trees which are dead, wind fallen and standing dangerous to the life and property and those which are required to be felled for the development of infrastructure.
- d. As far as possible all ornamental and fruit bearing trees shall be retained.
- e. Cutting permission shall be restricted to the least number of trees required to be removed for the purpose and as far as possible clear felling of the trees shall be avoided and sufficient number of trees shall be retained.
- f. In such cases felling will be done by the concerned Thahsildar and the produce shall be sold by him in public auction based on the upset price fixed by the Forest Authorities.
- g. The Institution will undertake the responsibility of planting suitable species in lieu of the trees for which cutting permission have been granted being dead, wind fallen and standing dangerous.
- h. Profit will be shared in 1:4 ratio between the Forest Department and the Revenue Department.
- i. If the Forest Department desires to fell the plantations due to silvicultural reasons the felling shall be undertaken by the Forest Department after giving due notice to the Revenue Department. In such cases sale of the produce will be done by the Forest Authorities.
- j. In case of any disputes regarding cutting permission, felling sale of produce etc. the matter shall be referred to the concerned Conservator of Forests ,Social Forestry who will consider matter and take appropriate decisions. The decisions of the Conservator of Forests will be final.

4. LAND OF PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

- a. No tree shall be felled without the cutting permission granted by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the concerned district.
- b. Proposal for felling the trees with specific reasons should be sent by the head of the institution to the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the respective district who will consider the application and issue cutting permission or reject the application within 15 days.

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- c. Permission shall be granted for felling trees which are dead, wind fallen and standing dangerous to life and property and those which are required to be felled for the development of infrastructure.
- d. As far as possible all ornamental and fruit bearing shall be retained.
- e. Cutting permission shall be restricted to the least number of trees required to be removed for the purpose and as far as possible clear felling of the areas shall be avoided and sufficient number of trees shall be retained.
- f. In such cases felling will be done by the concerned institutions and the produce shall be soled by the Assistant Conservator of Forests or the officer authorized by him in public auction as per the rules prevailing in the Forest Department.
- g. The institution will undertake the responsibility of planting suitable species in lieu of the trees for which cutting permission have been granted being dead, wind fallen and standing dangerous.
- h. Profit will be shared in 1:4 ratio between the Forest Department and Revenue Department.
- i. If the Forest Department desires to fell the plantation due to silvicultural reasons the felling shall be undertaken by the Forest Department after giving due notice to the Revenue Department. In such cases sale of the produce will be done by the Forest Authorities.
- j. In case of any dispute regarding cutting permission, felling sale of produce etc the matter shall be referred to the Conservator of Forests ,Social Forestry who will consider the matter and take appropriate decisions. The decisions of the Conservator of Forests will be final.

(By Order of the Governor)
C.N. Rajendra Prasad,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), Thiruvananthapuram