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2011



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Industries Department – Mining & Geology – Ways and means to prevent illegal quarrying, to bring all quarries within legal framework and to ensure availability of materials for the construction sector – approved - Orders issued.

Industries (A) Department

G.O(MS) No.239/2010/ID

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 1.12.2010.

Read:- Minutes of the High Level Meeting convened by the Hon. Minister (Revenue) and Hon. Minister (Industries) on 29.10.2010.

ORDER

In order to discuss ways and means to prevent the functioning of illegal quarries to bring all quarries within legal framework and to ensure availability of materials for the construction sector, a high level meeting was convened by Hon. Minister (Revenue), Hon. Minister (Industries), Hon. Minister (Fisheries & Registration) and Hon. Minister (Labour & Excise) on 29.10.2010.

After extensive deliberations certain decisions were taken in the meeting. After having examined the matter in detail Government are pleased to approve the following decisions taken in the high level meeting held on 29.10.10.

- 1) In certain areas land was leased for agriculture purpose and this was used for quarrying activity without specific approval of Government. Following complaints, District Collectors have cancelled the leases. Law Secretary will examine whether there is any need to amend the law to permit leasing of such lands for quarrying activity. He will also examine whether permission granted by Revenue Department for quarrying can be taken as deemed Government approval for change in activity. In respect of quarries that have made substantial investments in machinery etc., Revenue Department will examine whether after completing the formalities the land can be leased to the original assignees for quarrying.
- 2) Single Window Clearance Boards will be constituted in every district with District Collectors as Chairman, General Managers, District Industries Centres as Convenors, members from Police Department, Mining & Geology, Pollution Control Board, Local Self Government and other Departments/agencies wherever necessary, to grant licenses for quarrying.
- 3) District Collectors are empowered under the Explosive Rules 2008 to grant license for possession of Explosives for use up to 25 Kg of Class 2. District Collectors will be directed to issue licenses as per the Rules after following the formalities/procedures.
- 4) There is shortage of Blasters to work in the quarries. Additional Chief Secretary (Industries & Commerce) will address Director General of Mines Safety to permit holders of Shot Fires License to work as Blasters in stone quarries working with blast holes up to 50 mm in diameter. Till a reply is received from Government of India, existing procedure will continue.

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- 5) There are large deposits of granites/stones in plantation areas and degraded forest areas. Quarrying operation can be done without disturbance to the public in these isolated pockets of plantations and low-grade forests. Forest Department and Revenue Department will examine the feasibility of granting lease for quarrying operations in these areas. As a first step the Commissioner for Land Revenue will collect statistics of areas of such deposits and furnish the data to Government.
- 6) In order to bring in transparency, in the allotment of Government sites for quarrying operations, right to quarry can be auctioned. Medium or long term leases will be given by Revenue Department for quarrying in puramboke lands through a simplified auction system. Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) will examine all aspects.
- 7) In a meeting of Chief Controller of Explosives and State Government Officials it had been decided that Industrial Co-operative Societies would be given licenses for the storage of explosives to facilitate the operation of small quarries. Since small quarries by themselves will not be able to create the facilities required for storage of explosives, all officials especially Revenue, Police and Local Self Government will facilitate these Societies to obtain necessary license for the storage of explosives. Their functioning will also be monitored by these agencies.

(By Order of the Governor)

K.S. Srinivas
Special Secretary to Govt.
Industries (IP) Department.

To

The Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department.
The Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce. Department.
The Principal Secretary, Law Department.
The Principal Secretary, Forest Department.
The Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department.
The Commissioner for Land Revenue.
The Director General of Police
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.
All District Collectors.
The Director of Mining & Geology, Thiruvananthapuram.
PS to Minister (Industries)
PS to Minister (Revenue)
PS to Minister (Fisheries & Registration)
PS to Minister (Labour & Excise)
PS to Minister (Transport).
Additional Secretary to Chief Secretary.

Copy to- PA to Additional Chief Secretary, Industries & Commerce.
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Section Officer