

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest Works – schedule of rate-Revision for certain works - Sanctioned

AGRICULTURE (FOREST) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms.) No.4/75/AD

Dated, Trivandrum, 02-01-1975.

Read:- G.O.Ms.289/71/Agri. Dated 23-12-1971.

ORDER

As per Government order read above, a new wing for the vigilance and Evaluation of the Forest Department was created for combating corruption and misconduct among forest officials, detection and prevention of illicit transport of forest produce and for the evaluation of forestry programmes of the Department.

Governments are pleased to issue the following orders in regard to the set up and working of the vigilances and Evaluation wing of the Forest Department.

ORGANISATION CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE VIGILANCE AND EVALUATION WING.

Vigilance Wing: As per G.O.Rt. N.3431/71/PD dated 25-6-1973, the Conservator of Forests, Vigilance and Evaluation Wing, has been redesignated as Conservator of Forests, Evaluation. The Conservator of Forests, Evaluation Wing will be in charge of the Vigilance and Evaluation Wing under the general supervision and control of the Chief Conservator of Forests. His head quarters will be Trivandrum. He will be assisted at headquarters by a special Officer (Inspection), as Assistant Conservator of Forests, two Range Officers and for Foresters for the Vigilance Work.

The following zonal areas and jurisdiction will function under the control and supervision of the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation.

Zonal area	Jurisdiction	Regional officers
KANNUR	All division in southern Circle, all divisions in Rubber Plantation Circle, Forest Veterinary Officer, Konni.	All Divisional Forest Officer Flying squad, Punalur.
PERUMBAVOOR	All divisions in central Circle, All Divisions in industrial plantation circle, working plan division in central circle Silvicultural Unit in Central Circle.	Divisional Forest Officer, Flying Squad, Perumbavoor
KOZHICODE	All Divisions in Northern Circle, all Divisions in Kozhikode Special Circle, Kerala Forest School, Working Plan Division in Northern Circle, Assistant Forest Veterinary Officer, Kozhikode.	Divisional Forest Officer, Flying Squad, Kozhikode.
ERNAKULAM	Cochin Corporation area.	Divisional Forest Officer, Flying Squad, Ernakulam.

The Conservator of Forests, Evaluation, the Special Officer (Inspection), Deputy Conservator of Forests (Evaluation) and Assistant Conservators of this wing will exercise jurisdiction throughout the state in so far as the work of the Vigilance and Evaluation Wing is concerned. The Divisional Forest Officers in Charge of the Zonal units and the subordinate officers under them (Flying Squad) will exercise jurisdiction over the respective zonal units. But as and when necessity arises, the services of any Flying Squad may be Conservator of Forests Evaluation (copy of such orders Is to be forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief Conservator of Forests (Development) and to concerned zonal officers). Within a zone itself, the Flying Squad may be utilized for duties outside their jurisdiction but within the zone as directed, by the concerned Flying Squad Divisional Forest Officers. In all other cases, the Flying Squads will confine their activities to their respective jurisdiction. The Conservator of Forests, Evaluation may utilize the staff of vigilance for Evaluation works and vice versa, whenever such a step is found necessary. Before taking such a step, he must satisfy himself that normal work in both the branches do not suffer.

ii) The strength of each of the Zonal units will be determined by Government on the recommendation of the Chief Conservator of Forests from time to time.

iii) The selection of personnel from the Forest, Department will be made by the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation Wing after ascertaining from the Chief Conservator of Forests the availability of the required officers for posting to the vigilance and Evaluation Wing.

iv) Officers and men selected for the Vigilance and Evaluation wing will work in the wing normally for two years.

v) Nature of duties:

Vigilance Wing

1. The object of the Vigilance and Evaluation wing is to comet effectively corruption and misconduct in the Forest Department and also to detect and prevent illicit transport of forest produce.
2. Types of cases – This wing shall take up enquiry of cases falling under the following categories :-
 - i) Nepotism;
 - ii) Causing wrongful loss to Government property or revenue or claims or dues;
 - iii) Making false claims against Government, such as false T.A., House Rent etc;
 - iv) Any dishonest or intentionally improper conduct on the part of a Departmental officer or abuse of his powers as such;
 - v) Causing avoidable delay in the disposal of Government business;
 - vi) Misappropriation or misuse of any Government property.
 - vii) Gross of negligence or dereliction of duty.
 - viii) Any illegal or improper conduct;
 - ix) Abetment of the above offences; and
 - x) Illicit transport of forest produce.

3. The Officers of the Vigilance and Evaluation Wing can undertake action under the Kerala Forest Act, 1961 (Act 4 of 1962) for which they are duly empowered. Other enquiries will not be taken up suo motu except under the orders of Government, Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief Conservator of Forests (Development), or the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation.
4. In cases where enquiries are ordered by Government to be taken up by the Vigilance and Evaluation Wing the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation, shall forward the report to Government in duplicate, through the Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Conservator of Forests (Development).
5. The Conservator of Forests, Evaluation need initiate only a preliminary enquiry at first in cases referred for enquiry. He may himself order a detailed enquiry in such cases where it becomes evident that there is scope for a detailed enquiry.
6. Whenever the Vigilance Division (Police Department) or the Finance (Inspection) Wing propose to take up enquiries about matters relating to forest Department the Secretary to Government (Agriculture) may indicate about such proposed enquiries to the Chief Conservator of Forests on receipt of information from the Vigilance and Finance (Inspection Wing) Departments of Government. The Chief Conservator of Forests can immediately see that enquiries into the matters in progress or in the initial stages by the Vigilance wing (Forest Department) is kept under suspension. This will effectively prevent duplication of enquiries, and consequential difficulties.
7. The Conservator of Forests, Evaluation will keep under surveillance, officers of the forest Department whose integrity is doubtful and send promptly monthly confidential reports to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Development) in name cover till orders are received to discontinue the surveillance. This work will be done in a very confidential manner by personal enquiries wherever possible. Enquiries by vigilance and Evaluation Wing will usually give an indication of the nature of such allegations etc.
8. Requisitioning of records: If during enquiry of any case, the records of a Circle Office is required, the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation may address the concerned Conservator of Forests, requesting facility to peruse or to authorized for the purpose. For getting records from other subordinate officers, the Divisional Forest Officers of the Vigilance and Evaluation wing may similarly address the concerned officers.
9. Enquiry Report:
 - i) A time limit of three months is fixed for completing an enquiry. If the enquiry is not completed within this period, the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation may forward a special report to the Chief Conservator of Forests showing the progress of enquiry so far made and also indicating the probable time required for completing the enquiry. The Chief Conservator of Forests may forward the special report with his remarks to Government in cases which are initiated on the basis of Government references and in other cases on appropriate orders.
 - ii) After completion of the enquiry, the enquiry officer concerned shall forward a detailed report showing the allegations, the evidence collected, and the result of the enquiry on each item to the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation, who will scrutinize it and forward it with his report to (Government/Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief

Conservator of Forests (Development) as the case may be. In cases where statements of witnesses are recorded, such statements as well as documents if any obtained from any officer also should be forwarded along with the report (suggested form of enquiry report is appended).

iii) On receipt of the report of enquiry the Government Chief Conservator of Forests/Chief Conservator of Forests (Development) as the case may be, will decide about the further action to be taken in the case.

10. Before sending the enquiry report the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation will see that all the aspects relevant to the matter have been fully examined, so that the enquiry sufficiently in advance so that arrangements can be made for production of witnesses and for the presence of the offices the conducted the enquiry. This procedure should be followed only when the assistance of the Vigilance and Evaluation with is found essential for conducting the enquiry and not in a routine many in all departmental enquiries.
11. Departmental Action: When departmental action is taken up on a report from the Vigilance and Evaluation wing, the Officer conducting the enquiry should intimate the Vigilance and Evaluation Wing the exact date of enquiry sufficiently in advance so that arrangements can be made for production of witnesses and for the presence of the officer the conducted the enquiry. This procedure should be followed only when the assistance of the vigilance and Evaluation wing is found essential for conducting the enquiry and not in a routine many in all departmental enquiries.

SUSPENSION OR TRANSFER OF OFFICERS AGAINST WHOM PROCEEDINGS ARE TAKEN

12. Whenever during the enquiry the suspension or transfer of an officer is found necessary, the Conservator of Forests, Evaluation will recommend to the appropriate authority for further necessary action.
13. Surprise Checks: When information is received by the vigilance and Evaluation wing about a suspected case of misconduct in which no individual is coming forward to furnish details, the wing may conduct a surprise cheet and draw up mahazars which will be submitted to the Chief Conservator of Forests / Chief Conservator of Forests (Development) as well as the concerned local officers.
14. Evaluation Wing: The Conservator of Forests, Evaluation will be assisted by a deputy Conservator of Forests, an Assistant Conservator of Forests, two rangers and four foresters in the Evaluation work.
15. Nature of duties: The main function of the Evaluation will be the critical evaluation of all forestry programmes and present (eg: nursery planting, cultural, operations surveys, timber marking, enumeration, extraction, transport etc) with special emphasis on the success of failure, benefit and cost of each programme.
16. How the work of evaluation and the works to be evaluated will be decided by the Chief Conservator of Forests / Chief Conservator of Forests (Development).

17. The Evaluation Report from the Conservator of Forests Evaluation will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Chief Conservator of Forests, the Chief Conservator of Forests (Development) and such other officers as deemed necessary by them.

(By Order of the Governor)

K.K.GOPALAN,
Deputy Secretary.

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests.
The Chief Conservator of Forests (Development)
The Conservator of Forests, Vigilance and Evaluation Wing, Trivandrum.
The Vigilance Adviser, "Jayasree", Vellayambalam, Trivandrum
Copy to Vigilance Department.
Copy to Finance (Inspection Wing) Department.
Copy to private Secretary to Minister (Fin)

Forwarded/By Order.

Sd/-
SECTION OFFICER.