

OBERRAI



वन महानिदेशक एवं विशेष सचिव  
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय  
भारत सरकार

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FORESTS & SPECIAL SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

No.DGF&SS/2001  
February 27, 2001

Dear Shri Kumar,

I am to invite your kind attention to the "Coimbatore Charter" compendium of the resolutions made in the recently held National Conference of Ministers of Environment and Forests on 29-30, January, 2001 at Coimbatore.

National Forest Policy envisages that 33% of geographical area should be under 'Tree/forest Cover'. However, in most of these states, the area under the forest/treecover is far below the stipulated extent. The main reason for the inability of the state governments to achieve the desired goals has been shortage of funds for carrying out the forestry programmes, particularly in areas outside government forests. Earlier, about 15-20% funds were being allocated under various Rural Development Schemes for such programmes. However, no such allocations have been made during the 9<sup>th</sup> Plan period. You may kindly take up the matter with the Planning Commission and ensure that the allocation to forestry sector is considerably increased and successful plantations are carried out in degraded forests, community wastelands, road sides, canal side and along the railway lines. These measures are absolutely essential for improving the productivity of forests, providing rural people, implementing activities that are congenial to the overall environment of the country and their social and economic upliftment. The selection of species has to be area specific and priority is to be given to bamboos and medicinal plants.

Central Government, on its part would also make funds to provide financial assistance for afforestation on private lands in coastal areas so that coastal shelter belts can be created for safeguarding against likely damage caused by cyclones and winds. Such facility has already been extended to Orissa Government.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
(C.P. Oberai)

Shri M. Mohan Kumar  
Chief Secretary  
Government of Kerala  
Secretariat, Trivandrum  
KERALA 695 001

P.T.O 79

(29)  
Endt. on P1. 32943/2000. Dated 25.5.2001.

Forest Headquarters,  
Thiruvananthapuram.

Copy forwarded to Chief Conservator of Forests Social Forestry/Chief Conservator of Forests (N) & (S) for necessary action. Necessary project proposals may kindly be prepared and sent to this office at the earliest.

*Ramalam V*

for Chief Conservator of Forests (D)

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