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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Abstract



Joint verification of occupied forest areas and issue of copy of Record of Joint verification to the occupants- Clarification issued.

REVENUE (P) DEPARTMENT
G.O.MS.No.172/92/RD. Dated, Thiruvananthapuram 3--3--1992.,

Read:- 1.G.O.(MS)No.655/89/RD dated 31-8-1989.

Order

In the G.O.read above detailed instructions were issued for the Joint Verification of occupied forest lands, including vested forest lands, by a team of officers of the Forest and Revenue Departments. At the time of identification of occupied lands, the team is to fully satisfy itself that the holding is one which is in occupation from dates prior to 1-1-1977. For this purpose the details to be recorded are the age of the crops raised by the occupant, age of the structures, whether house number has been assigned by the Panchayat and, if so, its date; and, such other factors as will help establish the correct age of the occupation and month and year in which the land come under occupation.

2. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that in some Districts a majority of Pre-1977 occupants of forest lands is being declared ineligible for granting records/pattayams for want of evidence because of the fact that only seasonal annual crops were being raised and trees and other crops were repeatedly destroyed by the Forest Department between 1974 and 1977.

3. The matter was discussed by the Minister for Revenue and the Minister for Forests with the concerned officers. After having examined all aspects of the matter Government are pleased to clarify that any corroborative evidence like Tax receipts, patta chits, Panchayat registration, records showing purchase of land from Jenmi or any other documentary evidence will also be accepted as sufficient proof to establish that the holding is one in occupation from dates prior to 1-1-1977. Besides, extracts of case diary or eviction notices issued by the Forest Department and Forest Records containing names and number of people evicted from Vested Forest Lands before 1-1-1977 will also be considered as sufficient proof of occupation. Genuine occupants will also be permitted to produce evidence of eviction to prove their occupation. However, Orale evidence of eviction or oral transactions will not be accepted.

4. District Collectors will make arrangements to assess the records of joint verification on the basis of these clarifications and take such steps to issue extract of possession certificate.

By Order of the Governor
PALAT MOHANDAS
Secretary to Government.

To All Dist.Collectors.
The Secretary, Board of Revenue, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Chief Conservator of Forests, Thiruvananthapuram.

Endt.L3- 24794/90 dt.16-3-92. URGENT. Chief Conservators Office, Thiruvananthapuram.

Copy forwarded to All DFOs (other than Social Forestry) and All Conservators of Forests for information and necessary action.
Copy to all Branch Officers.

For Chief Conservator of Forests.(P)

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