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Copy of letter No.80833/D2/78/DD from the Special Secretary to Government, Development (D) Deptt., Trivandrum, Dated 21.6.1980 to the Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum.

Sub:- Free Supply of timber for construction of house for tribals - Reg.

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I am to forward herewith a copy of the minutes of the meeting held at 4.00 p.m. on 7.5.80 in the Chamber of the Minister of Labour and Forests for urgent follow up action.

K.Sreedharan,
Under Secretary.

Endt. On. FU(2)28621/80 dt. 22.8.1980

Copy with copy of the Minutes forwarded to all Conservator of Forests, Divisional Forest Officers for information and further action.

-do- Stock file/all sections.

For the Chief Conservator of Forests

Minutes of the meeting held at 4 p.m. on 7.5.80 in the Chamber of the Minister of Labour & Forests to Discuss the question of arranging free supply of timber from the Forest Department for construction of houses for Sch. Tribes.

Present:

1. Shri. Aryaden Mohamed, Minister of Labour & Forests.
2. " M.K. Krishnan, Minister of Harijan Welfare.
3. " K.V. Vidhyadharan, Secretary, Agriculture (Forests)
4. " H.C. Surendran, Addl. Secretary, Development Dept.,
5. " A. Rasanakutty, Chief Conservator of Forests (Development)
6. " M. Govindankutty, Deputy Conservator of Forests, (Co-ordinator)
7. " V.R.K. Nair, Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum.
8. " K.A. Gangadharan, Director of Tribal Welfare.
9. " V. Achuthan, Special Officer, I.A.D.P. Tribal Welfare Department.

The Director of Tribal Welfare examined the difficulties experienced in completing the construction of houses for Sch. Tribes for want of supply of the required quantity of timber. He said that there are about 40,000 tribal families and only a negligible number has been provided with pucca houses. These house holds have to be provided with houses within a short period and supply of timber has become a problem.

The Chief Conservator of Forests (Development) pointed out that as per existing orders (vide G.O.Rt) No. 911/70/Agri. (Forest dt. 15.4.1980) 0.5.m3 of jackwood and 1.0.m³ of maruthy wood per house can be supplied by the Forest Department at seigniorage rate. Director of Tribal Welfare pointed out that even though there are orders there are complaints that practically the tribals are not getting the timber as and when they need it. Minister (Forests) expressed the view that timber for genuine needs of tribals

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can be given but chance for misuse may be curtailed. It was therefore suggested that the actual quantity of timber required for the construction should be got certified by Engineer concerned. Minister (Rajon Welfare) agreed to this suggestion. It was also pointed out that 3m³ of timber suggested for the house of existing type design is on the high side. The Minister for Labour and Forests therefore suggested that the actual quantity of timber required for a house as per the existing type design can be decided on the basis of technical opinion furnished by Engineers.

After detailed discussion the following decisions were taken:

- i. The quantity of timber required for a house of the existing type design or a new type design for construction of houses for Sch. Tribes will be decided in consultation with the Local Engineering Department. The Tribal Development Officer concerned will move the matter.
- ii. The required quantity of timber as decided above will be supplied by the Forest Department at seigniorage rate.
- iii. The Sch. Tribes will be allowed to cut down the trees planted by them in their settlements for genuine purposes of construction of their houses.

SP/27.8.

Sd/-
for Addl. Secretary.