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Ext. P 6

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Joint Verification of occupied forest areas and issue of copy of Record of Joint Verification to the occupants sanctioning of orders issued.

REVENUE (P) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(MS) No. 655/89/RD. Dated, Trivandrum, 31.8.1989.

ORDER

A joint verification of lands recorded as forests and which are under effective and continuous occupation of people from before 1st January 1977 was conducted jointly by the officers of the Revenue and Forest departments. The verification has been completed in respect of an area of 28,588 ha. spread over the districts of Idukki, Trichur, Ernakulam, Pathanamthitta and Quilon and proposals for prior sanction of Govt. of India under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 have been made.

The progress of joint verification is required to be completed in the remaining districts as well as in certain parts of the above mentioned districts.

2. In the circumstances Govt. hereby order that a verification of occupied forest lands including vesting forest lands be made jointly by the Forest and Revenue Departments. Verification should be conducted of each occupied holding on a field to field basis and the details of occupation will be recorded in the proforma in A annex I. A mahazar will also be prepared of each holding and attached to the proforma information. The preparation of affidavits the records will be made by the revenue staff in the presence of officials of the Forest Department. The mahazar should be authenticated by a person not less than the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar. The joint verification records will be signed by the Tahsildar and the Range Officer. The services of special Tahsildars will be made use of in these districts where special Tahsildars (Land Assignment) are posted.

3. A committee at the Taluk Level consisting of D.F.O. Tahsildar and Range Officers and Charied by the Revenue Divisional Officer, should first identify the areas of occupation in reserve and vested forest areas. Teams of officers, of the two departments will then be constituted consisting of a Revenue

Inspector and a Forester. The actual field verification field to field basis will be conducted by these teams. The teams will be supervised by a Deputy Tahsildar who authenticates the mahazar prepared in each case. At the identification, the team will fully satisfy itself that holding is one which is in occupation from before 1.1.1967. For this purpose such details should be recorded as the tree crops raised by the occupant, age of the structures, whether house number has been assigned by Panchayat and date and such other factors as will help establish the date of occupation and month and year in which the land came under occupation.

4. With respect to vested forests the joint verifications will be restricted to those areas which are not covered by litigation.

5. In order to monitor and review the progress of verification, a District Level Committee headed by District Collector is constituted. The committee will include Divisional Forest Officer concerned, Revenue Divisional Officer and Deputy Collector concerned who will be the convener. The committee should hold its first meeting immediately and assess the extent of areas required to be verified and lay down a time bound programme for completion of the task for each Taluk. The committee will also review the report of the joint verification prepared by Tahsildars and Range Officers from time to time and issue appropriate directions. To the meetings of the district conservator of forests will also be invited to the Committee.

6. Govt. also order that the areas of which joint verification has been completed a copy of the records of joint verification will be made available to the occupants of the related forest lands. District Collectors should, therefore, take immediate steps of issuing a copy of the records of joint verification to the occupants of related forest land. A true copy of the records of joint verification in respect of each holding will be issued showing the extent of area under occupation, each holding, nature of improvements etc. The extract so prepared should be signed by the Tahsildar and authenticated by the Revenue Divisional Officer. The extract should be issued in the form in Appendix II.

7. District Collectors will make arrangements for the speedy and successful conduct of joint verification and for issue of extract of record of possession. They will arrange the work in such a way that the entire task is completed within a maximum period of six months from the date of this order. District Collectors will furnish monthly progress reports to Board of Revenue and Government in the Revenue Department. Monitoring and review of the progress of the work at the state level will be the responsibility of the Committee constituted in G.O.(M) No. 71/89/P dated 14.6.1989.

By order of the Governor,

Sohnu Jacob
Secretary to Government.

To

All District Collectors.
The Secretary, Board of Revenue, Trivandrum.
The Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum etc. etc.

Forwarded/by Order

Sd/-
Section Officer.

Unit. No. L3-5601/89 dated 12.10.89.

Copy forwarded to all Divisional Forest Officers (other than Social Forestry) and Conservator of Forests for information and necessary action.