

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Abstract

Forest – Disciplinary action against subordinates-Missing of logs-orders of Divisional forest Officer, Munnar – Quashed.

Agriculture (Forest) Department.

G.O. Rt. 1973/70/Agri.

Dated, Trivandrum, 13-5-1970.

Read: Letter No B3-16091/66/dated25-11-1969 from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum.

ORDER

The Chief Conservator of Forests has reported that disciplinary action was taken against Depot Officer (Kothamangalam) Ranger and Forester of Deviculam Range for missing of 4 logs. Divisional Forest Officer, Munnar inflicted the Punishments as detailed below:

- i. Shri K.O Varkey, Forester – Recovery of 50% of the value of the missing logs (Rs. 1218.00) and withholding of one increment without cumulative affect – vide Divisional Forest Officer’s Proceedings No Mc.41/63 dated 17-12-1964.
- ii. Shri M. Ibrahimkutty, Range Officer – Recovery of 50% of the value of missing logs (Rs. 1218/-) vide Divisional Forest Officer’s Proceedings No. MC-41/63 dated 15-6-1965.
- iii. Shri C.V. Kumaran, Depot Officer – withholding of increments for 3 years with cumulative effect vide Divisional Forest Officer’s Proceedings No. MC-41/63 dated 10-5-1965.

On reporting the matter to the Chief Conservator of Forests it was found that the orders of the Divisional Forest Officer for recovery from the pay of the Ranger and Forester was without Jurisdiction. But without canceling the above orders the Chief Conservator of Forests proceeded on with fresh enquiry. The Orders of the Divisional Forest Officer were issued during 1965. The Chief Conservator of Forests is not competent to cancel the orders. He has, therefore, requested that Government may review the orders contained in the Divisional Forests Officers proceedings as 17-12-1964 and 15-6-1965 and set aside these orders to remit the case to Chief Conservator of Forests for further action.

Government have examined the case and have found that the action of the Divisional Forest Officer in having ordered recovery from pay of the Ranger and Forester was not proper as he was not the competent authority to pass such orders. In the circumstances, the following three orders of the Divisional Forest Officer, Munnar are hereby quashed even though his orders against the Ranger and Forester being without Jurisdiction can be treated as abinitio void.

1. Proceedings No MC-41/63 dated 17-12-1966.
2. Proceedings No MC-41/63 dated 15-6-1965.
3. Proceedings No. 41/63 dated 10-5-1965.

The Chief Conservator of Forests will take fresh proceedings against the Forester As it is found that the forester was solely responsible for the missing of the logs. The Chief Conservator of Forest's Office file are returned herewith.

By Order of the Governor,

K.K. GOPALAN
Assistant Secretary.

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests.
Endt. on B3-16091/66 dated 8-7-1970.

Copy forwarded to the Conservator of Forests, Trichur and Divisional Forest Officer, Munnar for information action against the Forester will be pursued this office. This has reference to his letter No ML-1573/66 dated 10-12-1969.

Sd/-
For Chief Conservator of Forests.

Endt. on ML-1573/66 dated 18-7-1970.
Copy to E1 Section and stock file.

For Conservator of Forest.