

Copy of letter No.P1-62414-76 dt13-16.9.76 from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum to all Conservator of Forests.

I am to invite your personal attention to Chief Conservator's D. O. letter No.P1-53907/76 dt.13/16.9.76 forwarding copy of D.O. letter no. C-11021/6/76/FRY (FD) dated 30.8.1976 from Sri. N. D. Jayal, Joint Secretary (F&WL), Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, regarding conversion of forest lands for other purposes.

In continuation of the above letter, this subject came up for discussion in the meeting of the Chief Conservator of Forests of the Western zone held at Ahmadabad on 7th September 1976. In that meeting, Inspector General of Forests has explained in detail as to why imposition of this restriction was considered desirable. Despite clear directive that stripe of natural forests in between sizeable blocks of Mono-culture plantations should be left, the directive has not been followed by many of the State Forest Departments. The Inspector General of Forests therefore has suggested that for raising Mono-culture plantations, each block should not exceed 50 to 100 hectares. These should be further broken into 10 hectares plots with strips of natural forests or with 5 or more rows of other species planted in between. Planting of other species in strips as these are either immune to attack or act as a barrier for the spread of the disease.

The extract of the record of discussion of the meeting of the Chief Conservator of Forests of the Western zone on this issue is enclosed herewith for strict compliance.

The above question was discussed in detail in the meeting of the Conservator of Forests held at Trichur on 30.10.1976.

After discussion, it was decided that the area taken up for conversion in any Range should be in blocks not exceeding 250 hectares in extent and that a natural belt of forests 100 metres wide should be retained between blocks. It was also decided that when forests are taken up for clear felling, a 250 metre wide belt of natural forests should be retained on either side of highways and metal led roads. In cases of natural belt of forests kept in tact on either side of rivers and major streams, the depot supply timber available in that belt may be worked down and only residual growth should be retained on such belts on either side of rivers and streams.

In the case of pure plantations especially in the case of Eucalyptus planting block mixture of species should be invariably adopted in strips. Detailed directions regarding mixing up of species will be issued separately by the Conservator of Forests, working plan and Research Circle.

The receipt of this communication should be acknowledged by return.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
For Chief Conservator of Forests

(Development)

Copy to all Divl. Forest officers

/true copy/

For Conservator of Forests,
Trichur.

Extract of the Minutes of the Proceedings of the meeting of the Chief Conservator of Forests of the Western zone held at Ahmadabad on 7th September 1976

The other issue which came up for discussion was the recent directive of Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation binding the States to take prior approval of the IGF for clear felling any area above 10 hectares for any purpose including raising of monoculture. Mr. Rashid Addl. C.C.F. Gujarat pointed out that the restriction might hamper their plantation programmes. IGF explained in detail as to why imposition of this restriction was considered desirable. He cited the example of Kerala, Karnataka, UP etc. where monoculture crops of Euc. Have suffered from one disease or the other. He informed the CCFS that in spite of the clear directive to leave strips of natural forests in between sizeable blocks of monoculture this has not been done. He cited the attack of Ganoderma sp. On Euc. Roots in UP as an example of neglecting the principle. The raising of Ailanthus or even Melia and Brousonetia in strips would arrest disease as they are either immune to attack or act as a barrier. He therefore suggested that for raising monoculture plantations the blocks should not exceed 50-100 hectares. These should be further broken in to 10 ha. Plots with belts of fire retarding or other species in between. Mr. Rashid Addl. CCF pointed out that as far as Gujarat is concerned they are raising Euc. And they mix khair as every fourth plant in a row of Khair. The IGF pointed out that this is better than raising monoculture crops but it also needs re-orientation in the light of the above suggestions. IGF tracing out the history of monoculture crops in Germany pointed out that Germany is now getting better economic return from recreational role of most of their forests than from their timber value. He therefore urged upon the State Chief Conservator of Forests to keep these points in view planning for man-made forests.

Sd/-

For Chief Conservator of Forests

Endt. on FS-20155/76 dt. 18.11.1976

Copy with copy of enclosure to all contract sections, C1, C2, C3, PC sections for information.

Copy to Senior Superintendent, Administrative Assistant and stock file.

For Conservator of Forests,

Trichur.