

Copy of letter No.C1-39155/78 dt. 29-8-1978 from the Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum to the Secretary to Government, Agri. (Forest) Dept.

Sub:- Salvaging of tree growth – from Hill men settlement Government of India ban on clearance of tree growth regarding.

Ref:- 1. Govt. letter No.18353/F2/77/AD dt. 16-7-1977 from Agriculture (Forest) Dept.

Government have ordered in G.O. Rt. No.989/74/AD dated 22-4-1974 that the tree growth in the Hill men settlements should be extracted and the area may be handed over to Revenue Department for assigning it in the name of the occupants. Accordingly instructions were issued to all Conservator of Forests to take action to extract the tree growth (when the works were in progress the Government of India imposed restriction is on clearance of tree growth. So Government was requested in this office. Letter No.C1-7107/76 dt. 18-3-1977 to exempt the clearance of tree growth in this case from the purview of the Government of India restricted. But Government in the letter cited above have informed that the Government of India restriction will apply such cases also and clearance of tree growth need be made only with prior Government sanction.

The hill men settlements are not live ordinary Reserved Forests. The Hill men are staying and cultivation raising in the area for the last so many years and it will not be possible to evict them at this distant date nor is it the policy of Government. It was only after examining the question in detail that Government came to the decision to assign these areas to the occupants after extracting the tree growth and retaining the status of the area on Reserved Forests. If the trees are not salvaged they are likely to be damaged in the process of raising cultivations by the occupants. Because of the special nature of these areas, they cannot be treated as coming under the purview of the Government of India restricting is for clearance of tree growth Recently the Government of India have removed this restriction based on some guide lines (vide.

The earlier the Salvaging of timber from these areas is done the better it will be for the Department. Hence I am asking the Conservator of Forests, to arrange to extract the tree growth, for these areas urgently and hand over the areas to the Revenue Department for assignment. I request that may action may kindly be approved.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-

For Chief Conservator of Forests.

Copy to all CF, Divl. Forest Officers. They are requested to take immediate action for extraction of tree growth for hill men settlement.

Endt. on KT.16724/78 dt. 28-x-1978.

Copy to section KT, ML, CH, TR and MR for information.
Copy to Senior Supdt., and Admi. Asst.

For Conservator of Forests.