

(20) 8701 ~~10007~~ ML 8701

Minutes of the meeting held on 25.04.1997 in the Chamber of
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (General) at
9.30 a.m. regarding disposal of Timber at
Sales Depots, etc.

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P r e s e n t :

- 1) Sri.T.K.Raghavan Nair, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(General).
 - 2) Sri.K.Sasidharan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests(D & P).
 - 3) Sri.M.Govindan Kutty, Chief Conservator of Forests(Protection).
 - 4) Sri.T.M.Manoharan, Chief Conservator of Forests(Vigilance).
 - 5) Sri.V.S.Varghese, Conservator of Forests, Kollam.
 - 6) Sri.P.Prasada Babu, Conservator of Forests, Kottayam.
 - 7) Sri.S.Sasidharan, Divisional Forest Officer, Sales Division,
Punalur.
 - 8) Sri.G.Mohandas, Divisional Forest Officer, Sales Division,
Thiruvananthapuram.
 - 9) Sri.N.Shamsudeen, Divisional Forest Officer, Sales Division,
Perumbavoor.
 - 10) Sri.M.Sreedharan Nair, Divisional Forest Officer, Sales Division,
Kozhikkode.
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The meeting was held for reviewing the performance of
Timber Sales Division, their efficiency in disposal of timber
and related problems and to find out remedies for the same.
During discussion it was found that the present stock in the
depots can be disposed of within another 4 to 6 months. In
Vayyaparam Depot, timber stock from earlier years are still
lying which are not even stacked properly for disposal. The
Divisional Forest Officer, Sales Division, Punalur and
Conservator of Forests, Kollam informed that the main reason for
accumulation of timber in Vayyaparam depot was delivery of Timber
without looking into the availability of space in the depot.
Timber transported from Vadasserikkara, Naduvathumoozhy, Konni
and Mannarappara Ranges from 1993 onwards totalling about
2000 Cum. has not even been properly stacked and taken to stock.
Whenever space is available this timber is being stacked
properly and taken to stock and disposed of. The Conservator
of Forests, Kollam was optimistic that the entire quantity
lying like this could be taken to stock within another six
months. However, no timber is being earmarked and brought to
this depot now. For the timber thus accumulated no depot
receipts have also been given. It was decided that Conservator
of Forests, Kollam will investigate whether the transport

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charges for these timber have been paid and if so how? If there is any irregularity, suitable action has to be taken against the concerned officers. The Conservator of Forests were called up on to organise delivery of timber into Sale Depots taking into account had for minimising expenditure on transport, speedy disposal and availability of space. It should not be left to the discretion of supplying range/division and Government interest should receive prime consideration.

(Action Conservator of Forests, Kollam/
Divisional Forest Officer, Sales, Punalur)

The problem in Tuet Depot is different. All the timber brought there has been taken to stock. But the quality of timber is below average. Therefore, the disposal is slow. The oldest stock is that of 1995. Disposal will be expedited.

The stock position of various Sales Divisions was presented by the concerned Divisional Forest Officers as detailed below:

1. Kozhikkode Sales Division	::	3000 M ³ .
2. Punalur "	::	6955 M ³ .
3. Trivandrum "	::	6450 M ³ .
4. Perumbavoor "	::	7965 M ³ .

The following time frame is agreed for processing sale papers and issuing confirmation.

- 1) Depot Officer to submit sale papers to Divisional Forest Officers concerned not more than 2 weeks of the date of sale.
- 2) Divisional Forest Officer to Conservator of Forests not more than three weeks from the date of receipt from Depot Officers.
- 3) Conservator of Forests to issue confirmation order not more than 3 weeks from the date of receipt of papers from the Divisional Forest Officer.

Thus the sale must be confirmed and orders communicated within a total period of not more than 8 weeks from the date of sale. This time schedule has to be observed by the Territorial Divisions also whenever they conduct sales in

various approved Forest Depots. If there is any delay beyond the above time frame it has to be explained by Conservator of Forests in a special note forming part of records to be sent to Forest Headquarters.

(.....(Action by all Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers)

The Divisional Forest Officers(Sales) informed that the general trend of sales start declining towards the end of the financial year and it will gradually pick up by the beginning of the next financial year, i.e., from about January-February to April-May there will be some sort of dullness in the sale market. This is the trend every year and after this slackness the tempo of sales goes up again. On an average about 400 cum. are being offered for each sale of which around 250 cum. only can be sold per day of auction during slack season quantity sold will be much less.

The Chief Conservator of Forests(Vigilance) suggested that the departmental Elephants available in various Ranges can be distributed in the important Depots in the Department so that dragging by hired elephants can be avoided. If required, these elephants can be given on lease to the bidders for loading timber also. The suggestion was accepted in principle and modalities will be worked out appropriate directions issued by Chief Conservator of Forests(Protection) in consultation with Chief Conservator of Forests(WL).

(Action by CCF(P)/CCF(WL).

It was decided that the territorial Divisional Forest Officers and Conservators of Forests will jointly select one or two forest depots in each Range keeping in view the local labour situation so that all the thinned materials in the Range can be worked down to these depots for disposal if working down to sale Depots is absolutely impossible. Working down materials to such Forest Depots shall be done only after getting orders from competent authority. This will eliminate the present practice of having a number of depots in all the plantations worked.

(Action all territorial DFOs/CFs).

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The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (General) directed that the Conservator of Forests must insist on getting list of timber offered for sale, list of lots sold, list of "no bid" lots, etc. as stipulated in the standing instructions so as to avoid mal-practices.

Some Divisional Forest Officers are seen continuing to issue countersigned challans to the successful bidders even though Government have clarified that the sale value of timber can be remitted by Demand Draft to the designated Banks in each Division. They will follow strictly the procedure prescribed.

(Action: All Divisional Forest Officers)

Some Divisional Forest Officers pointed out that sister Departments/Public Sector undertakings who are allowed to select timber sometimes fail to remit value and lift the timber. In such cases the present practice is to dispose of such timber at the risk and loss of sister Department/Public Sector Undertakings who have selected the same. After discussion it was decided that such organisations may be allowed to select timber based on Government Orders after which a "First Intimation" may be given by the Divisional Forest Officer/Depot Officer to them under Registered Post with A/D indicating the quantity, rate and total value of the material so selected and other conditions of supply, they may be asked to intimate ~~xxxxxxx~~ their willingness or otherwise within 7 days to accept the timber, failing which the timber can be disposed of in public auction without adopting "risk and loss" procedure. If the offer is accepted a demand may be raised and they may be asked to remit the full value including taxes and on securing remittance allow removal as per conditions of supply. Defaulting after raising demand will entail cancellation of sale and disposal of produce at their risk and loss. This fact should be mentioned in the First Intimation.

(Action: All Sales Divisional Forest Officers)

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The practice of departmental extraction of wind fallen trees and trees from NRF lands was also discussed. In ^{a few} cases it has been noticed that the ratio of quantum of Civil Works to the quantity of timber extracted is disproportionate. In order to avoid this it was decided to adopt basic rate system for extraction of timber from such areas rather than having estimates based on individual items. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Protection) will ~~come~~ ^{issue} to issue a suitable Circular in this regard soon.

(Action: Chief Conservator of Forests (P)
and all Territorial Conservator of Forests)

The meeting ended at 12 noon.




PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF
FORESTS (GENERAL).



Endd on FS. 4294/57/5 dated 30.5.57

Copy to all Divisional Forest Officers
for information and necessary action
Copy to sections TR, CH, VC and MC for necessary action
copy to FS Slide file

K. N. Sharma
for Conservator of Forests


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