

INSPECTION NOTE OF
SHRI M. SIVARAJAN, I.F.S., CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS (DRV) OF
VETTOOR TIMBER DEPOT AND KODANAD SYLAN HOUSE on 24.2.82.

From Kottayam camp, accompanied by the conservator of Forests, High range circle, proceeded by car to Muvattupuzha. From Vazhakulam on Munnar perumbavoor route, which is 2 k.m. away from Muvattupuzha town and from here, a partly tarred road branches off to vettoor which goes beyond passing through Pattimettom, Mangalathunada and thence to Ernakulam, acting as a bye-road between Muvattupuzha and Ernakulam. The distance from Muvattupuzha to the depot is only 5 k. m. The Vettoor minor reserve which is 75 acres on extent has been fully got planted up, bulk of it is probably 1954 Teak plantation. The Depot was formed in 1966 and the whole minor Reserve is under the charge of the Depot staff. But surprisingly enough, the depot staff has no information about the growing stock of the area and the boundary details. Nor do they have taken any initiative or interest to collect these basic details about their estate. This negative attitude should not be tolerated any more. The Bales Divl. Forest officer Perumbavoor will see that the original survey record of this minor Reserve forest is got either from the territorial Division or from survey Department and the whole boundary is got re-fixed. This Reserve forest has irregular shape with assigned areas all around and a road cutting through it. There is every likelihood of marginal encroachment and smuggling away the teak trees planted. Marginal encroachments, if any, should be resumed and the whole boundary got well, demarcated with standard cairns with rubble in cement mortar. Funds should be found either in regular plan allotment or under N.R.S.P. for this during 1982-83 and the work got executed fully during this year. The Depot Range officer should take personal interest in the matter. A copy of the surveyed sketch should be kept in the Depot office and record of forest offices booked also kept separately.

The year of formation of the plantations raised its extent and past history should be collected and recorded in the form of a plantation register. It is seen that within the Teak plantation, there are a number of dead trees and a few devoid of crown. The cause of mortality is partly due to the damage cases during timber loading and unloading. Though the terrain is gentle, there is a small hillock in the centre which is completely devoid of tree growth with signs of laterisation. It was locally stated that it is a failed bit of terminalia tomentosa plantation. If this is true to facts, it is a case of wrong choice of species for the site. This blank should be got planted up in stages with Mahogany, cashew and E. hybrid with individual tree guards provided. Under N.R.E.P, it is not difficult to find funds. Mahogany is likely to thrive very well here.

A sanitation thinning confining the removals only to completely dead and top broken trees may be attempted in 1982-83 as a silvicultural operation and the whole produce obtainable sold from the depot as per rules. The depot Range officer should take personal interest in such matters and should not forget his primary role as a forester and the depot officer's role in him is only a secondary.

This is the only depot in High Range circle with good stock. The present stock is about 5,400 logs of about 3,500 m³. There is no Rosewood stock in this depot. The present arrivals are from karimpany and Njayappally coupes of Thundathil Range and Teak final felling stock from Velour Teak plantation of Thodupuzha Range. Monthly auctions are all well attended and Tamil Nadu merchants from the bulk purchasers. The temporary shed formed in 1966 continues to be the office building after some special repairs. The present staff consists of one Depot Range officer, 2 L.D. Clerks, 3 watchers and 1 peon. No quarters exist

for any of the staff. The forest Range wing has tendered the work for one range officer's quarters, one Duplex type L.D.C. quarters and one watchers quarters (duplex) .But there was no response. The depot Range officer will find out whether these civil works could be got executed by his after quoting a workable rate. While selecting the site for the quarters, special care should be taken to locate them near a good water source for digging a well and only animal or no tree felling should be the aim.

The timber returns are seen dispatched up to August 1981. The Government of India loading point is from Ernakulam Railway station but there has been no supply for the last three year. From this year's final felling stock, a good percentage could be supplied to Government of India under Trade quality if there is any current purchase order.

Reached Kodanad. Attended the discussion convened by the conservator of forests Trichur in Reed consuaring firas on the working of Reeds.

Inspected the Sylvan House- Forest Rest House. The Rest House has been furnished well. A fridge and a water heater are also found necessary. The Nest House should be given staff of one cook-wum-watcher and contingent employees of sweepers for the area to be swept. The river tracing work being here before the Nest House is nearing completion. Besides creepers of Ipomea, more vintex nigundo seedling should be planted as the first line of vegetative stabilizer. The nursery bods under formation under N.R.E.P. were also inspected. The old well has been depended and improved and a puap has been got specially repaired. The fixing and gate construction has been done as instructed. The fixing and gate construction has been done as instructed by me during my last visit nine months black. The Divl. Forest officer has taken considerable personal interest worth commending.

The approach road to Sylvan House is yet to be got metal led and tarred by the Forest Engg. Wing. The C.D. works has been got done fairly well. Though the road roller has arrived after much persuasion, the contractor is yet to start spreading the soling course and metal. The Executive Engineer will see that the work is taken up immediately and got executed to the best of standards.

Halted in Bylavan House.

Sd/-N. Sivarajan,
Chief conservator of forests (D)

REF.No. P5-9736/82

Chief conservator's office,
Thivandrum, dt: 3.3.1982

Copy to the conservaror of forests high Range circle/central circle for follow up action.

Copy to the D.F.Os.Sales Division Perumbavoor/ D.F.Os. Malayattor/ Kothamangalam. For follow up action.

Copy to the Executive Engineer, F.E. wing Trivandrum for urgent follow up action.

(M.SIVARAJAN)

Chief conservator of forests (Dev.)