

Govt Letter No.40187/P5/66/AD dated 10-08-1966 from the Secretary to Govt Agriculture & Rural Development Department to the Chief Conservator of Forests

Sub:- Public Accounts Committee 1965-66 – 47th Report
Recommendation Nos.13-14 further action.

In June 1961, Government allotted 77 acres of Forest land to landless labourers and educated unemployed under the scheme for the development of Rubber Plantation, in Mukkunimala. The allottees planted rubber in the respective plots with the help of loans advanced to them by Government. It subsequently turned out that 22 plots allotted under the scheme fell within the dangerous zone of the Mukkunimala firing Range maintained by the Military authorities. The Station staff officer, Trivandrum pointed out that it was risky to allow the allottees to cultivate and live in the dangerous zone. The lands allotted were therefore resumed and the allotteds were given alternative lands in other areas. The resumption of lands involved the payment of compensation of Rs.42,785/- towards the value of improvements already effected by the allottees. The Public Accounts Committee while considering the case has observed that there was lack of co-ordination between the various Departments in this case. It has pointed out that even though the Department concerned had knowledge of the danger involved even in 1960, they went ahead with the work of clearance of forests and allotment of land for cultivation. The committee has observed, that the action which is inexplicable has resulted in Governments getting involved in paying compensation of Rs.42785/- which is totally avoidable. The committee has also pointed out that even in 1961, the allottees were not told not to incur further expenditure on the land when it was officially known that the area came under the danger zone. The committee has also observed that such lapses should be avoided in future. I am to request you to note that the above observations of the committee. You should also bear in mind that there should be coordination amongst various Departments of the state Governments or Central

Government in such cases. Recurrence of instances as pointed out by the Public Accounts Committee will be viewed seriously by Government and Government will not hesitate to take disciplinary action against the officers responsible for such losses in future.

Sd/- Secretary to Government

Endt. On A2-26662/66 L.Dis. dated 22-08-1966

Copy to the Conservator of Forests for information

Sd/- Chief Conservator of Forests

Endt. on K.Dis.14468/66 dt. 7-9-1966

Copy forwarded to all Divisional Forest Officers, Working Plan Officer, Chalakudy, Wild Life Preservation Officer, Thekkady for information and guidance.

Copy to all Sections.

Conservator's Office,
Chalakudy.

For Conservator of Forests.