

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forests -Kottayam division - extraction of timber from the salvage felling areas of Idukki District - work left undone by th original contractors - Departmental execution- Orders issued.

Agriculture (Forest) Department

G.o. RT. No. 3689/75/AD.

Dated, Trivandrum, 31.12.1975

Read:- 1. G.O. Rt.437/75/Agri. Dated. 17.2. 1975
2. G.O. Rt. 1869/75/Agri. dated. 21.7.1975
3. Note dated 22.12.1975 prepared and submitted by the Divisional Forest Officer, Kottayam.

ORDER

1. The divisional Forest Officer, Kottayam has in his not read above stated that depot delivery specice of timber, the quantity of which is approximately 76738 sum. worth 10 to erores of rupees from 18 salvage felling coupes in occupied areas of Idukki District is to be extracted and disposed of to the best advantage of Government with the shortest time possible is there are the imminent possibilities of destruction by the occupants of the area, deterioration by lapse of time and damages and lestruction by wild fire.

2. Out of these 18 coupes 14 coupes were awarded for extraction and delivery of timber during period from 1969 to 1973.Of this 14 coupes the work in Chattikuzhi coupe II was suspended by the department, because certain irregularities by the contractor. The other thirteen coupes were under extraction from 1969 to 1975. There are a few more coupes in respect of which marking etc. are yet to be completed.

3. During the period when the memorandum submitted by All Kerala Forest Contractor's Association for financial concession and for enhancement of kelavila rate by 50% was under consideration of Government, the contractors had by and large suspended their work is these coupe, awaiting favorite orders from Government. It was decided by Government that the balance work in these coupes will be reentered without risk and lose to those contractors who agree in writing not to claim any compensation of any description from Government. Order in this respect was issued in the G.O read as 1st paper above. It was also clarified by Government in the G.O read as 2nd paper above that the contractors will not be held responsible or peralised for the work left undone by them and that the will be paid where loge have already been registered. According all the thirteen contractors executed necessary under taking with the Divisional Forest Officer, Kottayam.

4. The various aspects mentioned in the Divisional Forest Officer's note were discussed in detail by the minister Finance at the meeting held on 23.12.1975 with the special secretary(Agriculture) the Additional Secretary (Agriculture),the Secretary (Finance), the Additional Secretary, Finance the Chief conservator of forests, the Chief conservator of Forests Development, the Conservator of Forests, Trichur, the Additional Inspector General, Vigilance (Forest and Taxes) the conservator of Forest, Evaluation the Deputy secretary (Agriculture) and the Divisional Forest Officer, Kottayam. It was noted that in respect of the six coupes tendered by the Department on 3.12.1975 tenders were received only for 3 coupes and the rates quoted were between 138% and 145% of the revised basic rate that a retender if a attempted would not produce better results and that is a result of negotiation one of the tenders agreed to the work at 110% of the departmental rate. It was also noted that extraction of timber from these salvage felling areas of Idukki had been hanging fire from the last fire or six years due to some reason or other particularly because of the peculiar attitude of the contractors. So much so logs are lying in the various coupes without being transported. This naturally results in their deterioration and consequential less. Trees remain to be felled. The occupants also create hindrance presumably with the intention of appropriating the trees and timber for their purposes. On an assessment of the situation as on date based on the various aspects posed in the note of the Division Forest Officer it was further noted that it would

be difficult to carry out the work at a rate less than 110% of the department basic rate. Taking in to consideration all these aspects as well as the tactics adopted by the contractors and after detailed discussion.. One of the issues involved, the following decision were taken it was felt that departmental working is the proper

- i) The extraction work in all the 6 coupes of salvage felling area which were tendered for 9.12. 1975 will be taken up departmentally and completed quickly.
 - ii) The rate for the departmental working will be a rate not exceeding 110% of the departmental basic rate without deduction contractor's profit.
1. 111) As regards the other 11c coupes notified for receipt of tender on 1971.1976 the question will be considered after tenders opened.
 2. 1V) The Additional staff required for this work will be provided by deployment from the existing staff of the department
 - V) For the purpose of carrying out this work alone the.... officers will be up to Rs. 20,000/- at a time instead of Rs. 5,000/- as at present as it special case.
 3. V1) As regards special requirement of vehicles for use in connection with this work, it was noted that general proposals for purchase of vehicles in replacement of these vehicles surrendered is pending consideration of Government. The required vehicle for the work could be provided from this let.
5. In these circumstance Government have pleased to the above mentioned decisions.
6. The Chief conservator of forests will arrange to start action immediately on the basic of these orders.
7. The Chief Government of Forests and the Chief Conservator of Forests (Development) will in spent the workers.
- In a fortnight alternatively so as to ensure the desired progress and speedy executing of the work.
8. The additional Inspector General, Vigilance (Forests and Taxes) will visit the area frequently and arrange for any police help required to carry out the work without hindrance from any quarters.

(By Order of the Governor)
K.K.Gopalan,
Deputy Secretary.

To
The Chief Conservator of Forests.