

Government of Kerala

No.44065/F3/74/AD.

Agriculture (Forest) Dept.
Trivandrum Dt. -8-1975.

From

The Secretary to Government.

To

The Chief Conservator of Forests,
Trivandrum.

Sir,

Sub:- Forests – Auction sale of timber in Thenmala division during 5/74 – Deviation from rules
condonation of.

Ref:- Correspondence resting with your letter No.FU(2)28120/74 dated 3-6-1975.

I am directed to inform you that the action of the Divisional Forest Officer, Thenmala in having conducted the auction sale of timber during 5/74 in deviation of the rules regarding proper publication of notification in dailies and Gazette has been ratified by Government in G.O.Rt.2047/75/AD dated 8-8-1975. In this connection Government wish to point out that from a rough calculation of the auction abstract it is seen that the amount involved in the transaction is more than Rs.8 lakhs. Such instances are on the increase. Even in the absence of adequate publicity the Divisional Forest Officers conduct auctions and then write to Government for condonation saying that the rates fetched are reasonable. In this case, it is stated that the auction was conducted on the appointed date in order to avoid loss by deterioration. It is understood that there will be quarterly auctions in the depots. Then why those logs are preserved until they begin to deteriorate, is not clear. In the case of Shencottah and other depots, which are adjacent to the Tamil Nadu State, the bidders from that state will be a decisive factor, and if the notification was not published in Tamil daily the competition would normally be poor. At least in such cases and in cases involving large amount a re-auction should be conducted after giving due publicity.

2. Government felt that in this case a re-auction ought to have been conducted after giving wide publicity through Tamil dailies also. The Department's aim should be not to get just reasonable prices but the maximum possible prices. Ratification of action of this notice should not be presumed hereafter.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- M.N. Chandrasekharan Pillai,

Under Secretary,

for Secretary to Government.

Endt.on FU(1) 28120/74/K.Dis. d/ 22-8-75.

Copy with copy of the G.O. under reference forwarded to Conservator of Forests, Trichur and Divl. Forest Officer, Thenmala and other Conservators and Sales division Officers for information and strict attention.

Sd/- for Chief Conservator of Forests.