

Government of Kerala
Abstract

Forest- Kottayam Division- lands around Sabarimala temple lease to Travancore Devaswom Board- orders modified

Agriculture & Rural Development Department
(Agriculture Forest EStt.)

G.O. Ms 19/65/Agri

Trivandrum, Dated, 11-1-1965.

Read:-

1. G.O. Ms 451/60/Agri dated 3-6-1960
2. G.O.Ms 110/62/Agri dated 23-1-62.
- 3 G.O.Ms 320/64/Agri dated 8-5-1964.
4. From the Secretary, Travancore Devaswom Board letter Roc NO .
2657/dated 16-6-1964
5. From the Travancore Devaswom Board again Memorandum dated 1-10-1964
Presented to H.E. The Governor.
6. From the Chief Conservator of Forests letters No D4- 5595/59 dated 9-10
1964 and 16.12.1964.

ORDER

1. In the G.O. first cited sanction was accorded for setting apart on area of 2400 ft X 1150 Ft of forest land surrounding the Sabarimala temple in the Kottayam Division for the provision of ammonites to the pilgrims visiting the temple. Since the Travancore Devaswom Board would take a number of years for the full development of the area, it was also ordered among other things that out of the area, it was also ordered among after things that out of the area set apart for the purpose , the extent of land required for the implementation of the scheme in a particular year should be specified by the Board and that the area so required would alone be leased to them at a time . Since the Devaswom Board represented that in order to have a planned development of the area it is essential to hand over the entire area to the Board, Government in their order Ms 320/64/Agri dated 8-5-1964 accorded sanction to hand over the entire area to the Devaswom Board subject to realization of the value of tree growth at seignior age rate and also subject to the other conditions stipulated in that Government order. But the Board has now informed Government that they are not interested in the tree growth. They have also requested that the land may be handed over to them immediately for implement in its development plans.

2. Government have examined the whole question in all its aspects and are pleased to order in modification of all their previous orders in the matter, that the area will be handed over to the Travancore Devaswom Board immediately with the tree growth over the area subject to the following conditions.

i. Center area of 2400 ft. by 1150 ft of forests land surrounding the Sabarimala Temple in the Kottayam Division will be leased out to the Travancore Devaswom Board for the purpose of providing necessary amenities to the pilgrims visiting the temple.

ii) The period of lease will be 99 years subject to xx collection.

iii) Rental will be collected at the rate of Re.1/- per acre per annum on the leased area.

iv) The Board will have no claim of control over the growth standing on the leased area: the entire tree growth in the area will be Government property.

v) The Devaswom Board or their representatives or agent shall not fell or remove any tree growth from this area except those on such of the sites as are required by the Board for implementing their developmental programmes.

vi) If any site or area from within the leased area is required for construction of buildings, tenements, sheds or for sanitary arrangements etc. the tree growth on such site or area will be removed by the Devaswom Board at their cost with the previous permission of the Forest Department. Before felling the Board shall pay to the Forests Department value the tree growth calculated at the then prevailing seignior rates. The Board will have right to utilize this timber for construction purpose realizing to the Board's Development programmes. If the Devaswom Board's realized any rate higher than the Seigniorage rate by sale of timber from this tree growth, the Board shall pay to the Forest Department value tree growth thus sold at such higher rates.

vii) If the land is put to any use other than for providing amenities to pilgrims, the lease will be terminated and the land will revert to Government.

viii) If the land is put to any profitable use, i.e...if shops, etc are put up for the purpose of deriving income or if any fee is charged from pilgrims for occupying the sheds, etc.. constructed on the leased land, an annual rent of 25 percent will be realized in respect of the area covered by such shops, buildings, sheds, etc., etc., in addition to the lease rent of Re.1/- per acre per annum. 2657/dated 16-6-1964

ix) The Board should meet the expenses connected with the survey and final demarcation of the area with permanent cairns. The expenses connected with the annual clearing of the boundary and maintenance of cairns should also be borne by the Devaswom Board.

x). Under this lease, the Board cannot acquire any right over the forest produce or the wild life that may be found in the area even after the transfer. The status of the area will continue as reserve forests. The Board shall not, therefore, through any of their agents, employees or labour employed by them, create any conditions detrimental to wild life and shall always see that the Forest Act and Game rules and other rules now in force or

which may be farmed hereafter are observed strictly . Any loss or damage caused in violation of these rules should be made good by the Board as assessed and claimed by the Chief Conservator of Forests, .

xi) no persons shall be permitted to reside or to attempt cultivation in the leased area.

xii) The lease right sanctioned to the Board shall confer on them only the right to make use of the areas from which forest growth is cleared after payment, as and when required, within the area sanctioned.

The Chief Conservator of Forests will make early arrangements for handing over the land to the Travancore Devaswom Board on the above terms and conditions after getting the necessary agreement executed.

(By order of the Governor)

Sd/-
Joint Secretary to Govt.

To
The Chief Conservator of Forests.

Endt on D1 (R.Dis) 5595/59 dated 16-1-65.

Copy to wild Life Preservation officer, Thekkady for immediate compliance and report (WLPO'S No. R1- 1768/61)

Copy to G2 section for further action in executing the lease deed.

Copy to Divl. Forest officer, Kottayam and Conservator of Forests, Chalakudy.

C. Chandrasekharan
For Chief Conservator of Forests

Chief Conservators Office

Trivandrum.

Forwarded/ By order

Head Draftsman