

Minutes of the conference of the senior forest officers held in the conference room of Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum on the afternoon of 8-5-1985.

The names of the officers who attended to the conference is given below:-

1. Chief Conservator of Forests
2. Chief Conservator of Forests (Development)
3. Chief Conservator of Forests (wild Life)
4. Chief Conservator of Forests (vigilance)
5. shri. C.K. Karunakaran, Conservator of Forests (working plan and Research circle)
6. ,, S. chandbasha, Conservator of Forests , Quilon
7. ,, P. H. Surendran., Conservator of Forests , (planning)
8. ,, B.C. Kharbanda, Conservator of Forests, Calicut
9. ,, P.K. Surendranathan Asary, Conservator of Forests, Kottayam
10. ,, T.M. Manoharan, Director, Project Tiger
11. ,, N. Shahul Hameed Finance Officer
12. ,, K. Dharmapalan, Forest Utilization Officer.

The topic discussed are:-

1. Under planning of Bamboos in Teak plantation

Many Divisional Forest officers had taken bamboo nurseries during last year. It was stated that bamboo seedlings, which are 1-1 ½ years old are ideal for planting out in failed. So it was decided to plant the seedlings raised during last season, only during next year. The seedling have to be pricked out in mother beds at 1' X1' espacement, It was also clarified that it is better to carry out under planning of bamboos in teak plantations after the 2nd silvicultural thinning to reduce the damage due to "drip effect It was also clarified that bamboos should be under planted only in areas where bamboo does not dome up naturally as in Parambikulam.

2. Plan provision allotment (VIIth Five year plan)

The finance officer explained in detail this years budget provisions and the restriction to limit the expenditure within 1/3rd the total allotment until the budget is passed.

3. Submission of Administration Report:-

The Research officer (statistics) informed that the administration reports from some officers have not been received. It was decided that the conservator of forests should see that the Administration Reports are sent before 15th may 1985.

Point suggested by chief conservator of forests (Vigilance)

4. Execution of works :-

In the introduction the chief conservator of forests (Vigilance) points that some works like erection of cairns are under taken at place where they are not necessary if on the sides of natural boundaries like public road, rivers etc. and as a result the expenditure on these goes waste. He also stated that he noticed certain items of works of very defective and poor nature, and that he would taken serious action against the defaulters.

Copies of sanctioned Estimates:-

The chief conservator of forests (vigilance) stated that he was not receiving the copies of all sanctioned estimates from some officers inspite of repeated reminders. It was decided that all estimate sanctioning officers should send a copy each of the estimate to the chief conservator of forests (vigilance) as already decided.

5. pepper plantations.

It was stated that the expenditure on maintenance of the existing pepper plantations is more than the return from them. It was pointed that some costly items of work like manuring, absolutely not necessary are carried out every year and that is the reason for the increase in cost. It was decided that only essential items of work have to be carried out and that the expenditure has to be brought down considerably. Regarding raising of pepper plantations in new areas, it was decided that, new plantations need not be raised until further order, but the existing plantation may be maintained carrying out only works of very essential nature. The conservator of forests were asked to see that the expenditure is brought to the minimum so that the plantations can be made profitable.

6. Plantation journals :-

It was pointed out that inspection reports and observations are not written in the plantation journals and that the plantation journals itself is not written up in several cases. It was decided that the plantation journals must be posted with up to date details and all observation and inspection notes incorporated in the plantation journals. The Deputy conservator of forests and Asst. conservator of forests in charge of plantations should pay special attention to this.

Item 4:- supply of jungle wood poles, fire wood and reeds during sabarimala season

At present seignior age passes are issued for collection of jungle wood posts, reeds etc. during the sabarimala season. Due to the abnormal increase in recent years in the number of pilgrims the requirement of the above produce has gone beyond the permissibility of collection a continuance of the practice will destroy the forests around Sabarimala and Pamba. On receipt of a report from conservator of forests, Quilon the matter was taken up with Government suggesting stoppage of issue of seigniorage cases and supply of teak poles and fire wood directly by the department at different centers during the season. The government has directed to discuss the matter with the concerned parties and send hence this discussion. The unanimous opinion in the conference was that is

The following decisions were taken conference.

1. The issue of seignior age passes for collection of jungle wood posts fire wood etc. in the sabarimala and allied areas during the festival season should be stopped.
2. Alternate steps for supply of teak poles and fire wood for the requirements during the festival season will be arranged by the forest Department subject to availability. The materials will be supplied at point decided after discussion with Dewasom Board. The Dewasom Board will estimate in advance and inform the department the requirements during a season.

3. The price will be the seignior age plus the working charges or noticed price for the 18 price fixation Act species. The working charges will be the charges for collection plus the loading transport and unloading charges per local rates for delivery at the stocking points as decided after discussion with the board. It was resolve that proposals on the above decisions may be submitted to Government. The Government may be requested to convene a conference for issue of necessary order.

Action :- conservator of forests Qulon / Forest Utilization Officer.

Item 5 :- special squad for Sabarimala festival season

During the sabarimala season to prevent unlawful activities in the sabarimala area the necessity of a special squad to essential. It was decided that the Divl. Forest officer, any will organize and coordinate a squad for the purpose during the season. The required staff will be taken from different sources in nearly divisions in consulation with conservator of forests, Quilon and the field Director.

Action :- Conservator of Forests, Quilon/field Directed, Project Tiger

Item 7:- Transport of Timber, poles and fire wood to sales Depots

The conservator of forests, Trichur in a letter to the chief conservator of forests suggested that all timber and other forest produce including teak poles, fire wood on thondy materials should be delivered at the sale depots so that the produce can be sold at advantageous rates The main impediment in resisting this course is the fixing up reasonable rates for loading, transport and unloading charges against the inadequate rates in the departmental schedule and the exorbitant rates demands by local labour. The suggestion of the conservator of forests, Trichur was that a conference of the District labour officer, Divl. Forest officer and the representatives of the labour unions in each District should be convened and the rates fixed up for particular period. Government may be addressed for delegating powers to the conservator of forests to approve such rates preferable for one year.

It was also suggested that for working done timber and poles from thinningstende3r for tan sport could be fixed up sufficiently in advance so that there could be sent to Government for approval if the rates are above the basic rates fixed by the department. The Divl. Forest officer will initiate action on the above lines to given the proposal a trial in consultation with the concerned conservator of forests.

Action all conservator of forests /
Forest utilization Officers .

Sd/- for chief conservator of forests (Development)

Copy of letter No: P5-53/85 dated 13-6-1985 from the chief conservator of forests, Trivandrum. To the chief conservator of forests / All conservator of forests, Divl. Forest officer, forest utilization officer & finance officer.

Sub:- senior forest officers conference on 7-5-85 & 8-5-85 minutes of the conference – frowarding of

A copy of the minutes of the conference of senior forest officer held at Trivandrum on 7.5.85 & 8.5.85 is forwarded for necessary action

Sd/-
for Chief Conservator of Forests.

Endt. on FS-7677/85 dated 29-7-85

Copy of the enclosures communicated to sections A1- A2, A3, G1.TR, CH, ML, VC, E1, E2, E3, D, D1 for necessary follow up action. Copy to stock file (Minutes) copy to stock file (FS)

For Conservator of Forests ,
Trichur