

CIRCULAR No. 2/84.

At present, the applications for extension of period of taungya leases put in by the lessees are received in this office after considerable delay. In most of the cases, the required details are not seen furnished and have to be called for. This results in unnecessary correspondence and undue delay in finalising the issues. This situation has to be avoided. The following instructions are issued for observance.

(i) The application for extension of lease period should be submitted well before the expiry of the currency of the lease. The report provides granting of extension etc. upto certain period as specified authorities. Only if the extension granted by an authority is found insufficient on valid grounds, the request for further extension need be entertained. Normally, the lease period is fixed taking into account the time required for raising and harvesting the prescribed crop. This being the position, extension may not be generally necessary. Moreover, there is provision in the agreement that crop which cannot be harvested within the lease period, should not be allowed to be raised. It may be remembered in this connection that the bid is to raise and harvest the prescribed crop within the specified period. Time is the most important factor in any contract. By giving extension, the life of contract is extended and it is an unintended benefit to the contractor. If the period of contract is fixed including the period of extension, in the beginning itself, it is likely that better bids can be tried. Moreover, it may not be good from the silvicultural angle also to have food crops in the Plantation for a period than the prescribed limit.

(ii) While submitting the request for extension of lease period, why extension became necessary, what the time required to harvest the crop is, why a crop which could not be raised and harvested within the lease period was allowed to be raised, whether extension will in any way be prejudicial to the upkeep of the Plantation etc. should be discussed in the report in detail.

(iii) The mahazars are not seen drawn up as provided in the agreement. It should be drawn up by the Section staff including the Forest Officer and should be verified and certified by the Range Officer. Such mahazars should be drawn up at the time of each extension and submitted along with the request for extension. The present system of providing copies of mahazars drawn up six months back may not serve any purpose. So also mahazars should be drawn up at the close of the first year of the lease to find out the percentage of casualty and appropriate action taken as per agreement provisions. This aspect should be discussed in the report for extension of lease. The mahazar among other details should contain the following vital information as required in the agreement.

- (1) Percentage of casualty.
- (2) Average height of the plants.
- (3) Age of the taungya crop with name and time required to harvest
- (4) Whether the lessee has done all the obligatory works / it. in time according to the Agreement.
- (5) Whether the boundaries of the leased area are in tact and whether any irregularities have been noticed in the leased area and also in the adjoining areas.
- (6) Whether the taungya crop has been raised strictly according to the provisions in the agreement.
- (7) The present conditions of the Plantation.

If the percentage of casualty is heavy, such areas should be inspected by the Divl. Forest Officers and specific reasons for the same provided in the report. The number of times, casualties were replaced by the lessee and the time of such replacement should also be given. If the lessee had not done the obligatory works in time, the information such as what action was taken to get the work done, whether the work was carried out by the Department in time at the risk and loss of the lessee, whether the cost for such works was recovered etc., should be furnished in the report.

(iv) Though the Conservator of Forests has the discretion to decide on the additional security, the Divisional Forest Officers should comment upon this aspect also. The additional security is to meet the expenses for the works that will have to be done as per agreement provisions and according to the silvicultural practices, during the extension period, in case a lessee fails to do it and if it has to be done by the Deptt. In this connection, the instructions issued in letter No. VC-12790/84 dt. 29-11-84 may also be seen. The report should discuss this aspect also.

(v) The delay in submitting the applications for extension should be avoided. The applications should reach this office well before the expiry of the lease period.

The receipt of the Circular should be acknowledged.

(Sd.) K.S. Nair, IFS.,
CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

To

All Divisional Forest Officers (Trichur/Chalakyudy/Vazhachal & Malayattur, & Kalady)

c.c. Sections: TR/ML/VC/ & CH (in office) .
c.c. Sr. Suptt./Adm. Asst:
c.c. Circular file.

PAND (30.11.84).

25 copies.

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for CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
Trichur.