



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department – Trees grown on lands at the disposal of Government – Regulation on felling and destruction-Sanctioned-Orders issued.

Forest & Wildlife (E) Department

G.O(Rt)No. 68/2010/F&WLD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 10/02/2010

Read:- 1) G.O.(P)85/86/FE&WLD dtd. 02.09.1986

**2) Lr. No. Pro.(11)-5016/2009 dtd. 30.01.2010 from Principal Chief
Conservator of Forests, Thiruvananthapuram.**

ORDER

There are large number of trees growing on lands at the disposal of the Government, such as lands owned or occupied by public institutions under Government including government offices, educational institutions, medical institutions, research institutions, local self government institutions, public sector undertakings, quasi Government institutions, statutory bodies and the like. The trees growing on such lands are being felled for and in the name of various developmental activities such as construction/widening of roads, construction of buildings etc. Large number of petitions are being received by the Government and the Forest Department alleging indiscriminate felling of trees growing on lands at the disposal of Government.

At present, Government orders issued vide G.O. read above to the effect that trees growing on public lands shall not be felled without permission from the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) having jurisdiction over the area are being followed as a measure against indiscriminate cutting of trees grown on public lands.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in his letter read as 2nd above proposed that the larger interest of the society to conserve tree growth on public lands would be protected more, if decisions to fell or retain trees on

public lands are taken more transparently by committees constituted for Panchayat/Corporation/Municipal areas, after field inspection.

The Constitution of such committees can be as follows:

- The president of the District Panchayat or the Mayor of the Municipal Corporation or the Chairperson of the Municipality, within whose jurisdiction, the public land is situated, shall be the Chairpersons of the respective committees at Panchayat, Corporation and Municipality areas.
- The Assistant Conservator of Forests Social Forestry of the concerned District shall be the Convener of the committees.
- The president of the Grama Panchayat or the member of the Division of the Corporation or the member of the Ward of the Municipality where the public land is situated, the town planner of the concerned corporation or Municipality, and one or more representatives of reputed non-governmental organizations nominated by the government for each District shall be the members of the committee.

He has also proposed that the following procedure may be prescribed for the purpose of taking a decision on felling of trees grown on the lands at the disposal of government.

- The authority in charge of the land at the disposal of Government where any tree is required to be felled shall submit a written application to the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) having jurisdiction over the concerned district giving full particulars of the land and the trees proposed to be felled therefrom.
- The location sketch and survey sketch of the area shall be submitted along with the application.
- The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) on receipt of the application shall, within seven days from the date of receipt of the application, fix up in consultation with the Chairperson, a date for inspection by the committee and intimate all the members about the date, time and site of inspection.

- Three members will constitute the quorum.
- The Committee after inspection of the area and the trees proposed for felling shall prepare a report and take decision on the application submitted by the authority in charge of the land at the disposal of Government. The committee shall record the reasons based on which the decision is taken.
- The decision of the committee shall as far as possible be taken unanimously and it shall be communicated to all members irrespective of whether or not they were present during the inspection.
- The Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) shall communicate the decision of the committee to the party concerned within a week from the date of inspection.
- The committee shall insist that the indenting authority shall plant and nurture at least equal number of saplings of local tree species in the same or nearby locality.
- The timber and firewood obtained from the felling of such trees shall be disposed of by the authority in charge of the land at the disposal of the Government after having got a valuation prepared by the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).
- In cases where sandal wood or Rose wood trees are involved, the sandal wood or rose wood timber and firewood shall be extracted/ converted and disposed by KFD as per rules in force. The sale proceeds shall be given to the authority in charge of the lands at the disposal of Government after deducting working charges and service charges of Kerala Forest Department.

Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to constitute the committee as proposed by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to protect the trees growing on lands at the disposal of Government as an interim measure to cover the period till the amendment of Kerala (Promotion of Tree

Growth in Non Forest Areas) Act is passed and the rules notified thereunder.

(By Order of the Governor)

P. VIJAYAKUMAR
Deputy Secretary to Govt.

To

- Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Thiruvananthapuram.
- The Accountant General (Audit/A&E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
- Director of Public Relations (for publicity)
- Forest & Wildlife (B) Department
- Sock file /Office copy

Forwarded/By Order;

Section Officer