

ANNEXURE – 3

(See Proceedings of the Committee : Para 5 (ii))

Modernization Kerala Forest Department

Meeting on 28-8-2010

List of Participants

1. *Shri.T.M. Manoharan, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Kerala*
2. *Shri.C.K.Sreedharan, Rtd. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tamil Nadu*
3. *Prof. E. Kunhikrishnan, Department of Zoology, Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram*
4. *Shri.N.Gopinathan, Chief Conservator of Forests (Vigilance)*
5. *Shri.Pradeep K.K. General Secretary, KFMSU*
6. *Shri.George Francis, State Committee Member, KFMSU*
7. *Shri. Sanju D.S.Nair, Kerala NGO Association*
8. *Shri. Anad Shaheed, Kerala NGO Association Vice President*
9. *Shri.P.H.M. Ismail, President Kerala NGO Union*
10. *Smt. R.Geetha Gopal, Vice President, Kerala NGO Union*
11. *Shri.K.L.Sudhakaran, Chairman, Joint Council*
12. *Shri.A.Nizamudeen, Joint Council*
13. *Shri.K.Sivakumar, General Secretary, KGOA*
14. *Shri.T.S.Raghulal, State Treasurer, KGOA*
15. *Shri.S. Santhoshkumar, State Councillor, KGOA*

KERALA NON GAZETTED OFFICERS UNION

- The working of the forest protection force should be modernized.
- The safety of protection and executive staff should be ensured; better communication facilities and better equipments should be made available.
- IFS/SFS officers should be there in the field more than in the Head Quarter.

- The administration should be organized in such a way that the circles should be headed by CCFs, Division by CFs and Sub-division by DCF/ACF and the ranges by Range Officers.
- Adequate delegation of powers both administrative as well as financial should be given to the Ministerial staff also.
- Number of forest stations should be increased.
- De-centralisation of powers from the HQ to the regions should be considered.
- VSS/EDC set up should be strengthened. Public participation in forest protection should be an important programme.
- Social auditing at Block and Panchayat level about forestry activities.
- Vigilance Wing should be re-organised- Flying squads should be there in each district.
- Legal assistance for conducting the cases should be strengthened.
- Internal auditing is essential. Audit wing should be headed by an outside official.
- Training both induction as well as in-service for both protective and ministerial staff is very important.

KERALA NON GAZETTED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

- There is a lot of rigidity in the department
- Ministerial staff are not getting their due on promotion, powers etc.
- This should be proportionate to what is available to the executive.
- Suggestions on the proposed modernisation may be indicated for giving details later.

JOINT COUNCIL

- It is felt that it has not been able to make the officials imbibe the task to be performed by them.
- There is a need for a total training programme.
- Frontline staff are not safe. Physical facilities need to be improved.
- Forest department should be using maximum of available latest technology for resource management and protection.
- Social forestry should be organized at block level.

- The shoreline of backwaters should be planted with flowering trees.
- Tourism development should also be taken up
- Initial training of 3 months should be given to the Ministerial staff also.
- Primary concern should be for protection of resource.
- Insurance coverage should be provided to ministerial staff also.
- Modern survey facilities should be used to consolidate forest boundary

KERALA FOREST MINISTERIAL STAFF UNION

- Increase in work load has led to the deterioration of quality of work both in executive cadre and ministerial cadre.
- Net result is that the staff is blamed for dereliction of duty and punished which is demoralizing.
- Most of the protection problems are external to the organization.
- More jungle worthy vehicles like jeeps may be provided especially to the stations.
- The possibility of hiring vehicles on contract basis can also be considered.
- Fuel efficient motor bikes may be provided to foresters for perambulation of their areas.
- Enough allotment of funds for fuel charges and maintenance of vehicles.
- Vehicles over 15 years or 20 years to be replaced with fuel efficient and jungle-worthy ones.
- Suitable forest areas may be leased out to BSNL for erecting mobile towers so as to cover all the forest areas with 3 G mobile facility. This will enable fast transfer of information and photos to superior officers.
- All forest personnel in the field may be provided with 3 G mobile facility.
- Wireless repeater stations may be established in interior areas and walkie talkies may be provided to all field staff.
- Sufficient fund allocation has to be ensured for maintenance and replacement of the equipments.
- Modern weapons and night vision equipments should supplied to field staff.
- Regular and repeated training in the use of fire arms.
- Extend facility of revolvers to deputy rangers who are heading the stations.
- Patrolling units may be provided with GPS units and the officers may be trained in its use.
- Digital cameras may be provided to all ranges.

- Rain water harvesting as a means for storage of water for animals and for fire fighting.
- Fire fighting equipments like fire extinguishers, safety jackets, oxygen, water spraying pumps etc. should be given to the staff.
- Provision for modern first aid kits and medicines. Staff should be trained for giving first aid.
- Regular training on modern investigation techniques to staff.
- Adhere to code provision as far as charging of cases is concerned.
- Training on legal and procedural aspects of cases to field staff and executive staff.
- FMIS module on forest offences to be made an application friendly one.
- Range officers should develop an effective intelligence web around their range and share the information with the intelligence cell which should act as an information sharing bridge.
- Intelligence sharing meetings at circle levels for sharing of information at range levels.
- Sufficient allotment of fund under secret services to Range Officers.
- Convenor system should be replaced with contract system with empanelled contractors.
- GIS Cell should be strengthened with experienced field and ministerial staff and the available data in the cell should be used properly
- Periodic work study- once in 5 years- to revise FSR.
- Suitable viewing software to the field staff also for viewing the data.
- Expose ministerial staff also about the essentials in the field working for supporting in the file processing job.
- Universalisation of station system. A ministerial staff may be provided in the station for assisting the Station head.
- Every range to have at least a Head Accountant.
- Delegation of financial powers to Range Officers upto Rs.1.00 lakh for sanctioning works.
- Make ranges accounts rendering office.
- Administrative Assistant to head the ministerial staff in the divisions.
- At least 2 Junior Supdt and 1 Senior Supdt. in all major territorial divisions.
- O&M study in every 5 years.

- Adequate camping facilities in interior forest areas for patrolling staff.
- Provision for mobile phone, walkie-talkie, GPS ,binoculars and modern fire arms to staff of on patrol.
- E-mail method of exchange of information and video conferencing should be made the order of the day to save money and time of senior officials.
- Setting up of Armed Forest Protection Force Battalion at circle level under ACF(SIP)
- Fresh recruits to ministerial wing should be posted in ranges initially.
- Re-orientation of Research wing including new practices, equipments and people having research caliber.
- All mangroves should be taken to government custody by paying compensation.

KERALA GAZETTED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION.

- The department appears to be top heavy.
- Organizational analysis should be conducted.
- Department should closely interact with local bodies.
- Professional support to local bodies should be institutionalized.
- Forestry should be made a livelihood option.
- Rationalization of ministerial staff at division and range levels and adequate delegation of administrative and financial powers to ministerial staff.
- It should be seen whether duty time can be limited to 8 hours.
- Community forest development process should be initiated.
- A pro active step on the part of the department for watershed management.
- Competency of forest staff for check measuring should be stud