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भारत सरकार
पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय (दक्षिण वलय)
Regional Office (Southern Zone)
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No.FOA/11.6/72/KER/8752
Dated the 16th March, 2011

To

The Principal Secretary to the Government of Kerala,
Forests & Wildlife © Department,
Secretariat,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Subject: Approval of Working Plan for Munnar Forest Division - reg.

Reference: State Government's letter No.WP-852/05 dated 13.08.2010

Sir,

Kindly refer to the subject and reference cited. I am directed to inform you that the Working Plan for Munnar Forest Division for the period 2010-2011 to 2019-2020 received from Chief Conservator of Forests (WP&R), Kerala vide reference above has been examined with reference to the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and National Forest Policy, 1988. After careful consideration, I am directed to convey the Central Government's approval to the Working Plan of Munnar Forest Division for the period 2010-2011 to 2019-2020 under Section '2' of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) The felling of trees in areas having slope more than 30 degree and along the bank of river/streams shall not be undertaken.
- (ii) The construction of new roads in forest area shall not be taken up for the purpose of extraction of timber etc.
- (iii) The fire protection measures shall be taken up annually and adequate funds for this purpose shall be made available by State Government.
- (iv) It may be ensured that no activity is permitted/taken up in forest area in violation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (v) The standing instructions issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court from time to time in W.P.No.202/95 as well as in similar Writ Petitions shall meticulously be followed.
- (vi) In case the regeneration works in the areas worked in a year are not taken up in the subsequent year, then felling of trees in forest area shall not be undertaken unless facts are appraised to Central Government and concurrence is obtained for taking up felling operations as per the Working Plan prescriptions.
- (vii) The detailed report indicating area harvested and the area regenerated in a year shall be sent to this office by 30th of April every year.

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- (viii) No construction activity shall be taken up in forest area in violation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- (ix) This approval does not *ipso-facto* imply approval of any proposed non-forestry activities requiring separate clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Such activities, if any, shall not be undertaken until separate forest clearance is obtained under the Act.
- (x) Over and above 1000 (one thousand) meters altitude, no felling of trees shall be taken up. However, felling of plantation may be taken up for the purpose of raising mixed plantation of indigenous species.
- (xi) As per the Kannan Devan Hills Concession- Deed of Notification at Appendix 1 (b) at Para-17 dated the 11th July, 1877, His Highness the Maharaja imposed the following conditions among others - *"The Society, its successors and assign shall be bound to preserve the forest trees growing on the bank of principal streams running through the said tract of land to the extent of 50 yards in breadth on each side of the stream. Similarly, the Society, its successors and assign shall also be bound to preserve the forest trees about the crest of all hills to the extent of quarter of a mile on each side of such hills"*.

In view of this, in the Kannan Devan Hills lands, felling shall be restricted from the crest of hills upto a distance of 400 meters on either side, and streams upto a distance of 45 meters on either side of the perennial streams. List of perennial streams may be listed in the Plan.

It may please be ensured that provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and guidelines issued thereunder are strictly followed while implementing Working Plan prescriptions. The Central Government reserves the right to review, modify or withdraw this approval, if any of the conditions of approval are not implemented or amendment to plan is necessitated. The Working Plan will be due for revision in the year 2020-2021 and timely steps may please be initiated for revision of Working Plan.

Yours faithfully,

(N.S. Murali)

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central)

Copy to:-

1. The Director General of Forests & Special Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Paryavaran Bhavan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003.
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Forests Department, Government of Kerala, 'Vanalakshmi', 1st Floor, Forest Headquarters, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram, PIN- 695 014.

(N.S. Murali)

Deputy Conservator of Forests (Central)