

3501

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Forest & Wildlife (B) Department
Thiruvananthapuram,
Dated: 22-2-2003.

No. 2954/B1/99/F&WLD

C I R C U L A R

Sub:- Violation of the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 - Orders of the Hon.'ble Supreme Court in WP(C) 202/95 - Instructions issued.



Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 stipulates that no State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing that any forest land or portion thereof may be cleared of trees which has grown naturally in that land or portion, for the purpose of using it for re-forestation. The Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions in WP(C) 202/95 reiterate the above position.

It has come to the notice of Government that contraction work of certain plantations have been done in violation of the provisions of the above Act, the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and in the absence of working plan / Management Scheme approved by the Government of India. Given the gravity of the situation and the Supreme Court's non-compromising Stand regarding Forest matters, the State Government cannot ratify such inadvertent clear felling of trees.

All Officers concerned in the Forest Department are hereby strictly instructed that no felling is undertaken in violation of the provisions in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and orders of the Supreme Court in WP(C) 202/95. Violation of the above would attract deterrent action in future.

E.K. BHARAT BHUSHAN,
SECRETARY (FORESTS).

To

All Conservator of Forests (Through Principal Chief Conservator of Forests), Thiruvananthapuram.

Forwarded/By Order

Encl as fcr/36315/ew dated 10.3.03.

[Signature]
Section Officer

Communicated to Conservator of Forests

Central Circle, Ponnani

[Handwritten signature]
E. K. BHARAT BHUSHAN