



KFDHQ/82/2019-BDC/BDC1

Dated: 28.08.2019.

Circular No. 5/2019.

Sub:- F&WLD – Preventing illegal transfer of captive elephants – issuing additional instructions – reg.

Ref:- 1. Order of the Hon' ble High Court of Kerala in WP(C) No. 30959/2003 dated 18.8.2007.
2. GO(MS) No. 38/2008/F&WLD dtd 20.6.2008.

In the judgement read above, the Hon'ble High Court has held that sale, transfer and other dealings involving changing of hands of captive elephants should be done only with the approval and in accordance with the norms prescribed by the Chief Wildlife Warden. Detailed guidelines regarding sale, transfer and other dealings involving changing of hands of captive elephants was issued vide Govt Order read 2nd above. However, it is noticed that the trend of illegal transfer and leasing out of captive elephants are on a rise recently. More than 50 elephants have died during the last one and half years mostly before attaining their normal life span. Analysis of records of these dead captive elephants shows that most of them were either illegally transferred or leased out. Some of these animals were over exploited and tortured by leased holders for maximum profit. Therefore in order to curb the illegal transfers and leasing of captive elephants, following instructions are issued for immediate compliance.

1. Whenever elephants are transported outside the registered district, the owners shall inform the concerned Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) about the period, destination and purpose of such transport. Owner should take back the elephant to its usual tethering place whenever the period of transportation is completed.
2. No elephant shall be transported for more than 15 days at a stretch outside its registered district.
3. Whenever elephants are to be transported for a period more 15 days, owner shall obtain prior permission of the Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) concerned and facilities for temporary housing, maintenance and upkeep of elephants shall be ensured as provided in the Kerala Captive Elephants (Management & Maintenance) Rules, 2012.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife)
& Chief Wildlife Warden.

Copy to:

- 1) All Assistant Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry). You are directed to circulate the circular among elephant owners within your jurisdiction.
- 2) All Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry).
- 3) All Divisional Forest Officers (Flying Squad).
- 4) Conservator of Forests (I&E) Kottayam, Kozhikode.
- 5) Copy to the official website of Kerala Forest Department.