

ಪಿ. ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.,  
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ  
ಅರಣ್ಯ, ಜೀವಿ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿಸರ ಇಲಾಖೆ



- RPAJ -  
P. RAVIKUMAR, I.A.S.,  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt.  
Forest, Ecology and Environment Department

D.O. No. FEE 101 FLL 2016

Date:04.05.2017

Dear Sri. *Sandeep Sharma*,

**Sub:** Diversion of 72.177 Ha of forest land in Sy. No. 1/1 of Bhutaramanahatti village, Belgaum Taluk and District for Establishment of Rani Chennamma University in favour of the Registrar, Rani Chennamma University, Belgaum.

**Ref:** 1) This office letter of even number dated: 04.10.2016.  
2) Your letter No. F.No.8-58/2016-FC dated:12.01.2017.

\* \* \*

Please refer to our discussion on the above subject at New Delhi, with reference to your letter dated 12.01.2017.

Two issues have been raised

1. State Government to explain the circumstances under which the reserved forest was considered as Gomal land and lease was executed in violation of Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
2. State Government shall fix the responsibility of officials for carrying out violation of provisions of Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

Vide State Government notification No. AFD13 FAF 60 dated 28.04.1960 certain lands in 6 villages were notified as Reserved Forest (Annexure - A). Consequent to the notification, except for Sy.No 1 of Bhutaramanahatti and Sy. No 7 of Bandeholi village, all other notified Sy. No's were incorporated into the Revenue records as Reserved Forest. But these Survey numbers continued to be recorded as Gomal(Pasture land) from 1960 onwards, maybe by oversight. Since this had happened more than 57 years ago, the reasons are not available. Neither the Forest Dept nor the Revenue Department had taken any action to get the records corrected. Nor the Forest Department took action to take over the land and developing any plantation.



Government of Karnataka vide its order number RD 62 LGL 89; dated 30.01.1990 accorded sanction for reduction of 178 acres 14 guntas of Gomal(Pasture Land) land in Sy. No 1/1 of Bhutaramanahatti village of Belgavi taluk under the provisions of The Karnataka Land Revenue act, and leased it in favour of Karnatak University, Dharwad for establishment of Post Graduate centre at Belgavi.

The DCF, Belgavi had requested to DC, Belgavi for a stay of mutation of land in favour of the Karnatak University. But the Government of Karnataka, Forest department vide letter dated 9.9.1991 directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest not to interfere with the activities of the Karnataka University as the Government had decided to permit the university to go ahead with the construction in Sy. No 1/1 of Bhutaramanahatti village. Further it was also directed that if clearance under FC Act 1980 for necessary ,it shall be dealt separately.

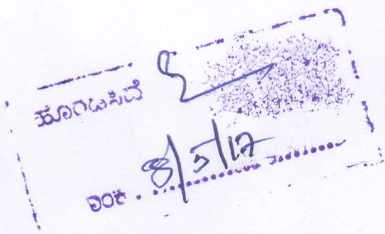
Government has established Rani Chennamma University at Belgavi in 2010 and as decided to transfer all the asset of the PG centre of Karnataka University, Dharwad, at Belgavi to the new university for setting up of its administrative office and other infrastructure. The University has started functioning, imparting Higher Education to the students of backward districts of North Karnataka, The colleges of Belagavi, Bagalkot and Vijayapura Districts are comprised within this University and thousands of students are getting the benefit and the University is very much essential. The Registrar, Rani Chennamma University has now submitted a proposal for diversion (post facto approval) of 72.177 Ha of forest land.

As seen from the circumstance explained above, as the revenue records continued to show the said Sy No as Gomal(Pasture Land) , the State Government had followed the process of law under the Land Revenue act and leased the land to the Karnataka University for setting up the post graduate centre, to the cater to needs of border districts of the State. From the records it is clear that this action of the Government happened only because the records were not updated and not a



deliberate action to violate the provisions of the FC Act. The officials acted in good faith in accordance with the directions of the Government. The only lapse on the part of the officials is not getting the Revenue records changed to incorporate the said Survey No as Forest land. This matter is more than 50 years old and the officials working then have all retired long ago. Therefore State Government is of the view no action can be initiated against the officers responsible for the violation, as it was not a deliberate and intentional violation but action in Good Faith . This can be considered sympathetically as the land was leased for a public purpose for setting up of a centre of Higher Education, and the issue may be dropped and the Forest Clearance under FC Act 1980, as recommended by State Government ,for 72.177 Ha in favour of Rani Chennamma University, Belgavi may be granted at the earliest.

With best wishes



o/c

Yours faithfully,

(P. RAVIKUMAR)

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