

Government of India
Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj,
New Delhi: 1100 03,
Dated: November, 2023

To
The Principal Secretary Forests),
Department of Forests and Wildlife,
Government of Kerala,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Sub: Diversion of forest land for extension of lease of 94.98 ha. for setting up of experimental farm at Peruvannamuzhy Range in Kozhikode District by Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR). -regarding.

Madam/Sir

I am directed to refer to Government of Kerala's letter No. FC1-38786/2001 dated 31.01.2023 forwarding the additional information in response to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 24.11.2022 and to say that the proposal was discussed in the Advisory Committee held on 14.11.2023. After discussion and deliberation with DIGF (C) Regional Office, Bangalore and going through the facts of the proposal, the committee decided that the Nodal Officer (FCA) and CWLW Govt. of Kerala shall present the required justification/information with regard to the following:-

- i. Under which rules the State Govt. has granted annual lease till 2012, and why this may not be considered a violation of FC Act, 1980.
- ii. What are provisions which allows the exemption of CA and NPV in the instant case as recommended and requested by the State Govt.
- iii. Why the construction of new structures was allowed without renewal of lease and approval under FC Act 1980 as being noted in the analysis of historical imagery available on Google Earth for the years 25.11.2002 to 09.09.2018.
- iv. The inordinate delay in seeking approval by the State Govt. requires proper justification w.r.t. the instant proposal.
- v. Further, as the area falls in the Malabar WLS and the State gov. has requested that required wildlife clearance from NBWL may be exempted and

also the specific comments/recommendation of the CWLW, Kerala State is not on record. In this regard the CWLW, Kerala State shall present the details of the instant proposal and the grounds on which such an exemption may be granted under the provisions of the WL (Protection) Act.

In view of the above, the State Govt. is requested to submit/present the above information/documents by the Nodal Officer (FCA) and CWLW Govt. of Kerala for further consideration of the proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(Dr. Dheeraj Mittal)

Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. PCCF & HoFF, Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. DDGF (Central) MoEF&CC's Regional Office, at Bangalore.
3. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA), Forest Dept., Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
4. User Agency.
5. Monitoring Cell, Forest Conservation Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.