

**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: 8th August, 2023

**To**  
**The Principal Secretary (Forests),**  
Department of Forests and Environment,  
Government of Kerala,  
Thiruvananthapuram.

**Sub: Proposal for Regularization of 1970.041 ha. of forest land under Section 2 of forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in Pathanamthitta District of Kerala. Reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the Government of Kerala's letter's no. FWLD-C1/208/2019-FWLD dated 02.04.2020 on the above-mentioned subject seeking prior approval of Central Government under Section-2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. In this regard, it is informed that the matter was discussed in the Advisory Committee (AC) in its meeting held on 17.07.2023. The detailed minutes of the said AC meeting are uploaded at parivesh.nic.in. The Committee had detailed discussion and deliberation with Nodal officer (FCA), Govt. of Karnataka and DDG(C), RO Bangalore. After going through the facts of the proposal and submissions made by the Nodal Officer (FCA), the Committee deferred the proposal and requested the State Govt. to submit the following: -

- i. Any concrete proof like remote sensing maps, Government documents etc. that proves that the area proposed for regularization is under encroachment prior to 1977.
- ii. The State Govt. shall check the details of the encroachments in Working Plan documents whether any encroachments have been mentioned and also the details of Forest Offence Report if any on the encroachments done. The relevant copies may be forwarded to this Ministry.
- iii. The State Govt. shall provide the details of efforts/action taken to remove the encroachments.
- iv. State Govt. shall provide proper justification why this proposal was not submitted with the earlier proposal for diversion of forest land which was granted approval in 1993-1995. Moreover, State Govt. shall analyze the case file of the earlier proposal which was approved by the Central Govt vide letter dated 30.01.1995 and submit a well-reasoned justification for excluding this area in the said proposal.
- v. The State Govt. shall submit the details of Joint Verification Report (JVR) along with the requisite details like proceedings, criteria followed etc.

In view of the above the Government of Kerala is requested to furnish the above information/clarification to this Ministry 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. APCCF cum Nodal Officer, (FCA) Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

I/50342/2023

3. DDGF (C), Regional Office, Bangalore, MoEF&CC.
4. The User Agency.
5. The Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF&CC, New Delhi.