

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department - Allegations about Research Projects funded by the Department of Forest & Wildlife - Enquiry report by the Principal Secretary (Forests) - Recommendations accepted - Orders issued.

FOREST & WILDLIFE (D) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt) No. 423/2011/F&WLD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 24-09-2011.

ORDER

Government ordered an enquiry into the allegations raised against research projects funded by the Department of Forest & Wildlife and taken up by Dr. V.V. Asha, Scientist in the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology. The enquiry was to cover the period from 2000 onwards and to include the following.

1. The year wise budget allocation to the Forest Department for Research.
2. Guidelines/Procedure in sanctioning research projects and the authority prescribing the same.
3. Whether the prescribed procedure was followed in each project.
4. The details of persons/institutions to whom projects were sanctioned, the name of the project and the amount sanctioned in each case.
5. Whether proper accounts were maintained for the money released and whether accounts of utilisation were obtained and scrutinized.
6. The outcome of each of the projects and whether final report was obtained in each case.
7. The use of these projects to the Forest Department in its activities.

APCCF(D)
APCCF(R)

28/9/2011

Pl. examine &
place in C&C Council

28/9/2011

M. Manoharan
PGCF

8. Was any special treatment given to Dr. V.V. Adhe in sanctioning research projects ?

Accordingly the Principal Secretary (Forests) conducted an enquiry and furnished his report.

Government are pleased to accept the recommendations contained in the report and hereby issue the following directions to ensure that maximum benefit is derived out of the Forest Development Fund, while undertaking research projects using the fund.

1. It is stipulated in the rules that the research programmes taken up under the rules will be planned, discussed and decided by the Research Committee. It is seen that as of now there is dearth of proper planning process in the whole exercise. The Research Committee has to necessarily decide on a shelf of projects to be taken up each year, which according to the best of judgment of the Committee, would be most beneficial for the Forest Development Programmes of the State. The Principal Investigators seeking approval of research projects should be willing to take up one of these identified projects. In other words, the Department, and not the Investigator, should decide what is to be researched on.

2. The Committee should also review the outcome of each project and record their assessment as to whether the project has met the objectives outlined in the proposal and to what extent the outcome can be put to use in the development programmes to be taken up by the Department of Forest & Wildlife in the coming years.

3. It would also be appropriate for the Research Committee at the time of screening of the research proposals, to record in a few words, its reasons for either accepting or rejecting the proposal.

4. The convenor of the Research Committee shall ensure that all records relating to the research programmes funded by the Department of Forests & Wildlife are filed and maintained properly for reference and scrutiny in future. An annual Statement to this effect should also be forwarded to Government.

By Order of the Governor,
P.P. SAJITHA,
DEPUTY SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

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The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Development),
Thiruvananthapuram.
The Director, Information & Public Relations Department.
The Accountant General (Audit/A&E), Thiruvananthapuram.
The Stock File/Office Copy.

Forwarded/By Order,


Section Officer.