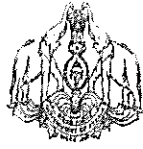


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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Forest & Wildlife Department- Vigilance Surprise Check Report-Allegation against the officials of Forest Office, Vandanmedu, Disciplinary action against Shri.Vinoy Sebastian, Beat Forest Officer-Finalized-Orders issued.

FOREST & WILDLIFE (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt)No.272/2017/F&WLD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 21.07.2017

- Read:-
1. Letter dated 17.09.2014 No.E5(SC5/14/ERK)36292/13 of the Director, Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau
 2. Memo of Charges and Statement of Allegations No.13516/A2/2014/F&WLD dated 12.12.2014.
 3. Written Statment of Defence dated 29.06.2015 submitted by Shri.Vinoy Sebastian, Beat Forest Officer
 4. Letter No.B3-405/2015 dated 20.02.2016 of the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Administration)

ORDER

The Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau, Eastern Range, Kottayam had conducted a Surprise Check at Forest Section Office, Vandanmedu on the basis of an anonymous petition received by the Director, Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram alleging irregularities committed by Shri.Baby Raj, Forest Officer, Vandanmedu.

2. The petition was that Shri Baby Raj and Shri Jose Joseph in connivance with the saw mill owner and other timber merchants are in the habit of accepting huge amount as bribe for issuing bogus pass for transporting timber from Cardamom Hill Reserve. When the Surprise Check Team reached the office at 11.30 a.m on 14.05.2014, the Section Office remained closed and on further clarification it was revealed that the Section Officer Shri Baby Raj was transferred out from the station. Shri Vinoy Sebastian was in charge of the section.

3. On enquiry, the Divisional Forest Officer, Kottayam informed the Surprise Check Team that as the Section Offices are the office cum resting places of field staff, they are allowed to close the offices in emergency cases. However, the Surprise Check team reports that there was no emergency on that day except a Temple Festival and hence the act of Shri Vinoy Sebastian, Beat Forest Officer warrants disciplinary action.

4. The Director, Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau has agreed to the recommendation of the Surprise Check Team to initiate Disciplinary Action against Shri Vinoy Sebastian as per letter the read as 1st paper above.

5. As per the recommendations of Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, Departmental Action for minor penalty was initiated at Government level against Shri.Vinoy Sebastian and Memo of Charges and Statement of Allegations to that effect was issued to him vide letter read as 2nd paper above.

6. He has acknowledged the same and submitted his Written Statement of Defence as per letter read as 3rd paper above, wherein he has denied all charges levelled against him and has submitted that he has gone to Kumily Range Office, closing the Camping Station at Vandanmedu, as directed by his Controlling Officer, Range Forest Office, Kumily to hand over an urgent Tapal at Kumily Range Office.

7. Offering remarks on the Written Statement of Defence the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest as per letter read as 4th paper above has endorsed the opinion of Divisional Forest Officer, Kotayam to exonerate Shri Vinoy Sebastian as there was no serious lapse on the part of the Section Forest Officer, as he had acted as per the direction of Range Forest Officer, Kumily.

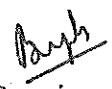
8. Government have examined the matter in detail with connected documents and report of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Administration) on the basis of Kerala Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rule, 1960 and orders to finalize the disciplinary action by exonerating Shri.Vinoy Sebastian, Beat Forest Officer from all the charges.

By Order of the Governor
P.H.Kurian
Additional Chief Secretary

The Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (Administration)
Shri.Vinoy Sebastian, Beat Forest Officer (through Additional Principal
Chief Conservator of Forest(Administration))

The Director, Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram
The Principal Accountant General (A&E/Audit), Thiruvananthapuram
Vigilance (E) Department (vide letter No.12125/E4/Vig dated 16.10.2014)
Information & Public Relations (Web&New Media) Department
Stock File/Office Copy.

Forwarded/By Order


Section Officer
