GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

All India Service (Discipline & Appeal) Rules 1969 - Disciplinary action against Smt. T.Uma IFS (KL:2009), on central deputation as Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Chennai - Finalised - Orders issued.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION (SPECIAL C) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt.)No. 4260/2018/GAD Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 28.06.2018

Read:-1) Letter No.E2(SC7/14KLM) 2220/14 dated 06.03.2015 from the Director, Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram.
2) Letter No.3226/E4/2015/Vig. dated 30.06.2015 from Vigilance (E) Department, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

Based on a source report regarding allegation of irregularities, a surprise check was conducted on 18.06.2014 by the Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kollam unit at the Forest Range Office, Kulathupuzha. The surprise check revealed some irregularities in the Forest Range office. The Director, Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, as per his letter read as 1st paper above, had recommended departmental action against Shri. S.Mohan Pillai IFS (Rtd.) and Smt. T.Uma IFS, formerly Divisional Forest officers in Thiruvananthapuram on the basis of the findings in the surprise check report. Based on the explanations of the above Officers and recommendation of Head of Forest Force, as per letter dated 28.12.2016 read as 3rd paper above, Government, decided to drop further action against Shri. S.Mohan Pillai IFS (Rtd.) and to initiate disciplinary proceedings against Smt. T.Uma IFS. Accordingly, Articles of Charges and Statement of Imputations were issued to her as per letter read as 4th paper above. The charges are as follows:-

i) During 2013-14, action for outright sale in 2002 Acacia Mangium Plantation, Nankachy in Mylamoordu Section of Kulathupuzha Range was not done in a proper manner and the process was not transparent.

ii) She had not taken action for sale of timber through Government timber depots which might have been more profitable to the Government than outright sale and thereby causing loss of the additional possible revenue of Rs.9,26,699/- obtainable to the Government.

iii) As per the valuation statement, a loss of Rs. 16,361/- was noticed in the valuation of Mulluvenga I, Pathiri I and Pathiri II.

iv) Though there was clear direction from the Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Protection) vide letter No. Pro (5) 1274/2014 dated
11.02.2014 to stop felling operations, she had continued felling operation and thereby disobeyed the orders of the superior officer.

2. In the Written Statement of Defence, read as 5th paper above, Smt.T.Uma IFS denied all the charges and attributed that the charges levelled against her are arbitrary, untrue and far from truth. She added that the decision of outright sale, as per existing rules was taken by her predecessor Shri.S.Mohan Pillai IFS (Retd.), formerly, Divisional Forest Officer, Thiruvananthapuram. Felling was completed before the issue of order dated 11.02.2014 of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Protection). Also reported that the said order is not received in the Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests (Southern Circle) and the Division Officer, Thiruvananthapuram. She also submitted that there is no loss to Government on account of the above felling operation and the allegation about Nankachy Plantation was inquired by various agencies like Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram Unit, Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kollam Unit, Forest Vigilance Unit, Thiruvananthapuram, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Vigilance) & Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Southern Region), but except Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, Kollam unit, all other enquiry officers have come to the conclusion that allegations were baseless and outright sale was done in a proper manner. She has, therefore, requested to drop further proceedings against her.

3. The Head of Forest Force, by referring to the report of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Vigilance), has pointed out, as per his letter dated 10.04.2018 read as 3rd paper above, that all the four charges levelled against the officer are not proved in evidence. He has also viewed that the valuation of the plantation and outright sale of timber were proposed by the predecessor of Smt.T.Uma IFS and approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests (Southern Circle), Kollam. She has no role in favour of outright sale. There was clerical error in the valuation statement proposed by her predecessor. After correcting the clerical error, value of timber was calculated as Rs. 69,82,063/- but the auction fetched an amount of Rs. 72,99,699/-. Hence Head of Forest Force has reported that Government got more price than the approved valuation. With regard to the disobedience of the order of the superior officer, the Head of Forest Force has reported that stopping of felling operation in the plantation would have led to contractual dispute. Contract period was further extended by Chief Conservator of Forests (Southern Circle), Kollam for one month from 28.02.2014 to 29.03.2014 and 30.03.2014 to 28.04.2014 i.e after the direction of Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Protection) to stop felling. As such Chief Conservator of Forests (Southern Circle), Kollam must have convinced Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Protection) about the necessity of completing the work. Accordingly the Head of Forest Force has viewed that outright sale was approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests (Southern Circle), Kollam after considering all aspects including the poor stock and working cost for transporting the timber to the sale depot. The entire process of sale of timber was carried out transparently with full involvement of Circle office. In the sale Government got about 5% more price than the approved valuation. The Head of Forest Force has therefore recommended to drop further proceedings against Smt.T.Uma IFS.
4. Government, after having examined all the aspects in detail, have decided to drop the disciplinary proceedings initiated against Smt. T.Uma IFS (KL:2009), now on central deputation as Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Chennai and to issue orders accordingly.

5. The matter is disposed off as above.

(By Order of the Governor),
PAUL ANTONY
Chief Secretary to Government.

To

Smt. T.Uma IFS (KL:2009), Regional Deputy Director, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Chennai (through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force).
The Principal Accountant General (A&E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Principal Accountant General (Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & Head of Forest Force, Forest Headquarters, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Director, Vigilance & Anti-Corruption Bureau, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, 6th Floor, Prithvi Block, Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi – 110 003.
The General Administration (SC) Department.
The Forest & Wildlife (A) Department.
The Vigilance (B) Department.

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The Special Secretary to Chief Secretary.
The PA to Principal Secretary (Forests & Wild life) Department.
The PA to Principal Secretary, General Administration Department.
The PA to Additional Secretary, General Administration Special(A & C)Dept.

Forwarded By Order

Section Officer