

From

The President,
Wynad Prakruti Samrakshana Samithi,
Sultan's Battery.

To

The District Collector,
Wynad, Kalpetta.

Sir,

Sub:- Illegal felling of trees in Meenakshi Plantations.

We wish to draw your attention to the illegal felling of trees in Meenakshi Plantations, Lakkidi, and submit the following for your kind consideration while dealing with the file on the issue.

As per the information gathered by us, the Senior-Liaison Officer, Coffee Board, Kalpetta has issued Coffee registration for 57 acres on 26.3.84 and permit for cutting shade trees from this land on 23.4.84. The trees were felled on the authority of this permit. On the piece of land from which trees have been felled, there is no Coffee at all. The Liaison Officer issued shade cutting permit after inspecting the land. It is not known how he could issue permit for felling trees on a land where there is no tree at all. Is it that the land specified in the registration certificate and the cutting permit is different that the land from which the trees have been felled. As far as we could see, there is only a few acres of abandoned coffee plantation in the Meenakshi Estate, Lakkidi. Trees on this land have already been cut and now there is not shade at all to these plants. Hence, the act of the Liaison Officer is, prima facie, wrong and unjustifiable. We believe that a detailed enquiry by you will establish the illegality of his action. The following point should be considered in any such conducting the enquiry.

1. Ownership of the Property.
2. Description of the Property.
3. Details of Documents.
4. Nature of Plantation.
5. Details of Registration Certificate of Cardamom and Coffee.
6. Plan of property in which Coffee and Cardamons are cultivated.
7. Whether permission has been granted for cutting trees.
8. Details of permission ~~has been~~ granted.
9. If permission has been granted, actual extent in which coffee is planted, nature of tree growth in coffee plantation.

(contd2/-)

I hope that you will appreciate our anxiety on the issue as the location is just above the landslip-prone ghat road. Last year Wynad was cut off from the rest of the State for weeks due to land slip in this area. Further denudation of forests in this part of the ranges is sure to aggravate the problem. Hence, We request you to make a through enquiry on the whole issue and take actions against the erring officials.

Our Society will always ready to render any help to you in saving the ecologically vulnerable hill slops from the depredation by vested interests.

Yours faithfully,

(Adv. C.C. Mathew)
President.