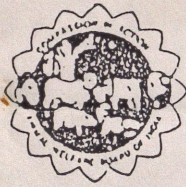


तार : जीवचन्तु
Grams: Jivabandu

Established under an Act of Parliament

Phono: 044- 4612684
4612842
Fax: 044-4612807



भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड

(सामाजिक न्याय एवं अधिकारिता मन्त्रालय)

ANIMAL WELFARE BOARD OF INDIA

(Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. Of India)
No. 11, Venkatraman Street, "Srinivasa Avenue", R.A Puram, Chennai-600 028
E-mail: awbi@md3.vsnl.net.in

Chairman
Mr. Justice Guman Mal Lodha (Retd)
Secretary
Mrs. Saraswathy Ramaraj I.A.S

Ref: KL-279/ 201 /1999- 2000

Hon. Animal Welfare Officer,
34/632- "Beth Shalom",
Civil Station H.P.O
Calicut- 673 020

Wildlife Consultant,
WWF INDIA,
N.Delhi-110 003.

Di. 11.02.2000.

To,
The Secretary,
Wayanad Prakridi Samrakshna
Samithy,
S.Bathery, Wayanad District.

11.02.2000 TO 13.02.2000.-NATURE CAMP-MUTHANGA
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY.

Sir,

I have been closely following the recent activities of your organization with great interest, especially so, the recent one condemning the ill-conceived plans of our State Govt. authorities in building more and more Dams in Wayanad District, which will, in the near future, have a very negative impact on our Nature, Wildlife and most definitely, our Ecosystems as a whole, with a destructive impact on the pristine and natural beauty of Wayanad.

With regards to the above, I would like to bring to your notice a few points which you might find useful in your efforts, if at any time you and your organization might have to resort to legal measures in persuing your goals.

ILLEGAL AND SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF OUR FOREST WEALTH.

On any given day, it would be worthwhile to take all the active members of your organization to the Lakkidy Check Post of the Forest Dept., from where, and on a twenty four hour vigil, you could find more than ten to fifteen truck loads of forest wood being transported to the saw mills of Kozhikode and other places, which is a clear and blatant violation of the following Rules and Acts.

1. The Kerala Forest Act-1961.
2. The Kerala Restriction on Cutting and Destruction of Valuable Trees Act, 1974-Section 7 in particular.
3. The Kerala Preservation of Trees Act, 1986.
4. The Central Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980-Section 2 in particular.
5. The National Forest Policy, 1988- Prescribes strict maintainance of 33% forest cover in the plains and 66% in the hills.
6. The Interim Order of the Supreme Court of India on Protection of the Forests, via Civil Writ Petition No:202 of 1995, filed by T.N. Godavarman Thirumalpad Vs. the Union of India and Others, banning all illegal activities in the Forests of India, dated December 12 - 1996. The Supreme Court had clarified in this Judgement that the definition of "Forest - Land" occuring in the Central Forest Conservation Act-1980, must apply to all forests, irrespective of the nature of ownership and includes all types of statutorily recognised forests, whether designated as reserved, protected or otherwise.

In utter violation and contempt to the provisions and values as mentioned above, the Govt. of Kerala has, via a notification in the

Contd. 2

Kerala Govt. Gazette dated 17 th. February 1998, as per Govt. Order - No:G. O. (P) 14/98/F & WL.D, permitted 'transportation' of 61 species of Forest Trees, which could amount to contempt of the Supreme Court as per the provisions of Act-70 of the Contempt of Courts Act-1971.

Further, I would like to inform you, that most parts of the forests of Wayanad Dist. comes under the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve consisting of the forests of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamilnadu, which is a total of 5220 Sq.Km., of which, 1455 Sq.Km. comes under Kerala. The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, is a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which is a project of the UNESCO and headquartered in France. If the world H.Q. of the N.B.R. is contacted, with all material proof of the Govt.'s ill-conceived plans in going ahead with the Dams project, all loans from the World Bank as well as any other agency like the UNESCO could be blocked by you, which is the only ultimate and final solution to force the Govt. to back-track, other than the optional legal solutions available to us. A xerox copy of the map of the total area that falls under the N.B.R., and compiled by the Regional Station of the Zoological Survey of India, is herewith enclosed, for your information.

And finally, the legal option available to us, in blocking these Dam projects, other than violations of the Rules and Acts mentioned in paragraph three, in the first page of this letter, is to petition the High Court of Kerala in obtaining an interim injunction or a stay order, citing the facts of the long over-due and half dead dam projects like the Karapuzha Project and the Padinjara Project, which have served only to fatten the purse or the bank accounts of the rich and highly affluent former estate owners and the illegal timber mafia, in the areas acquired for the above mentioned two dam projects.

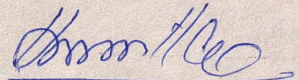
Should you need any information on the Supreme Court orders mentioned, or any such other information from the Central Govt., you may write to the under-mentioned, who, will be only too willing to be of assistance to you, in all your selfless endeavours.

Adv. Raj Panjwani,
Legal Council- WWF INDIA,
79, Supreme Enclave,
Mayur Vihar, Phase-1,
New Delhi-110 091.

May I also take this opportunity to offer my full and un-failing co-operation to you, and the Wayanad Prakrithi Samrakshna Samithy in the conservation of nature and restoration of the pristine forests, wildlife and the fast dwindling ecosystem as a whole.

Thanking you.

Your's sincerely,



(T. Kuruvilla Eapen)
Ph. 0495-373929.

Xerox copy.-1. The Hon'ble Union minister for
Welfare, N. Delhi. (Ms. Maneka Gandhi).

2. The Secretary, Animal Welfare Board
of India, Chennai-28, T. Nadu.

3. A.W.B.I. Kerala File.

पूज. जीव जन्तु कल्याण अफसर
Hon. Animal Welfare Officer
भारतीय जीव जन्तु कल्याण बोर्ड
Animal Welfare Board of India

चेन्नई - ६०० ०२८
Chennai - 600 028

KOZHIKODE-28.

Kozhikode-673 020.

11.02.2000.

NILGIRI BIOSPHERE RESERVE.-STATES OF
KERALA, KARNATAKA & TAMILNADU.
TOTAL AREA. 5520 Sq. Km.

KERALA: 1455.4 Sq. Km.
KARNATAKA: 1520.4 Sq. Km.
TAMILNADU: 2544.2 Sq. Km.

