

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

NO. RD 293 LRM 75

Karnataka Government Secretariat,  
Vidhana Soudha,  
Bangalore, Dated: July 30, 1975.

C I R C U L A R

Sub: Cutting and removal of trees in private lands which are to vest in Government under the ceiling provisions of Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961.

Attention of all the Deputy Commissioners is invited to provision in Section 74 of the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961 which prohibits alienation of surplus holdings on and from 1.3.1974. It makes no mention i.e. does not prescribe any dispensation one way or another, regarding the tree growth in such holdings.

A question has been raised whether permission for removal of tree growth in cases of surplus holdings is to be granted or not.

Taking advantage of the definition of the word 'Land' in Sec. 2(A)(13) of the Karnataka Land Reforms Act which is silent regarding tree growth on land, some owners of surplus holdings are reported to be felling the tree growth on their land and removing it. The question has arisen whether Government cannot stop such action.

The following procedure is suggested in such cases.

Owners of surplus lands should be generally discouraged from cutting and removing of trees in private lands which are likely to vest in Government under the ceiling provisions of the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961. Tahsildars/Special Tahsildars should take expeditious action to assess and determine the lands to be surrendered and help the landlords to refrain from cutting and removing trees from such lands.

In cases where the land-owner asks permission for felling of trees from the lands which are to be surrendered to Government under the ceiling provisions, the Deputy Commissioners may defer such permissions till such time that the lands are declared as surrendered to Government. However the Deputy Commissioners may allow the grant of permission for felling of trees only where the fellings are in continuation of any previous contract or are customary fellings. But felling should not be permitted merely to allow the previous owners to encash the value of the trees before the lands are vested in Government for being given to the future occupants.

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Asst. Spl. Officer for L.R. & Ex-officio  
Under Secy. to Govt. Rev. Dept.

To

- All the Divisional Commissioners of Divisions.
- The Chief Conservator of Forests, Bangalore.
- All the Deputy Commissioners of Districts and Special Deputy Commissioners of Districts.
- The Assistant Commissioners of Sub-Divisions/Special Assistant Commissioners.
- The Tahsildars of Taluks / Special Tahsildars.
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