

15 -ാം കേരള നിയമസഭ

14 -ാം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്ര ചിഹ്നം ഇല്ലാത്ത ചോദ്യം നം. 999

18-09-2025 - ൽ മറുപടി

പട്ടയ ഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്നും മരങ്ങൾ വെട്ടി മാറ്റിയ സംഭവം

ചോദ്യം		ഉത്തരം	
ഡോ. മാത്യു കുഴൽനാടൻ		ശ്രീ. എ. കെ. ശശീന്ദ്രൻ (വനം-വന്യജീവി വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി)	
(എ)	വയനാട്ടിലെ മുട്ടിൽ മരം മുറി കേസിന് ആസ്പദമായ വിവാദ ഉത്തരവ് പിൻവലിച്ചതിനുശേഷം ഇടുക്കി ജില്ലയിലെ പട്ടയ ഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്നും വനം വകുപ്പ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥരുടെ സഹായത്തോടെ മരങ്ങൾ വെട്ടി മാറ്റിയ സംഭവം ഗൗരവത്തോടെ കാണുന്നുണ്ടോ; എങ്കിൽ പ്രസ്തുത വിഷയത്തിൽ വനം വകുപ്പ് അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ; കണ്ടെത്തലുകൾ എന്തൊക്കെയാണെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ; റിപ്പോർട്ടിന്റെ പകർപ്പ് ലഭ്യമാക്കാമോ;	(എ)	<p>ഗൗരവത്തോടെ കാണുന്നുണ്ട്.</p> <p>അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇടുക്കി ജില്ലയിലെ പട്ടയഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്നും മരങ്ങൾ വെട്ടിമാറ്റിയത് സംബന്ധിച്ച് Special Investigation Team രൂപീകരിച്ച് വനംവകുപ്പ് വിജിലൻസ് വിഭാഗം അന്വേഷണം നടത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. വിജിലൻസ് വിഭാഗത്തിന്റെ കണ്ടെത്തലുകൾ ചുവടെ ചേർക്കുന്നു.</p> <p>1.സംസ്ഥാനത്തെ വിവിധ എൽ.എ പട്ടയ ഭൂമിയിൽ നിന്ന് തേക്ക്, റോസ് വുഡ് തടികൾ മുറിക്കുന്നതിനും നീക്കം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനും ആകെ 483 പെർമിറ്റുകൾ ഉപയോഗിച്ചതായി കണ്ടെത്തി.</p> <p>2.ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ പെർമിറ്റുകൾ നൽകിയത് എറണാകുളം ജില്ലയിൽ നിന്നാണ് (205 എണ്ണം), തുടർന്ന് ഇടുക്കി ജില്ലയിൽ (119 എണ്ണം).</p> <p>3.ഏറ്റവും കൂടുതൽ പെർമിറ്റുകൾ നൽകിയ വനമേഖലകൾ നേര്യമംഗലം ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റെയിഞ്ച് (147 എണ്ണം), തുടർന്ന് അടിമാലി ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റെയിഞ്ച് (56), മുളളരിങ്ങാട് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റെയിഞ്ച് (46), തട്ടേക്കാട് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റെയിഞ്ച് (40), മച്ചാട് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റെയിഞ്ച് (35) എന്നിവയാണ്.</p> <p>4.നേര്യമംഗലം ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റെയിഞ്ചിന്റെ (മൂന്നാർ ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിവിഷൻ) അധികാര പരിധിയിലുള്ള പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നാണ് പരമാവധി തടി കണ്ടെത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നത്.</p> <p>5.അടിമാലി ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റെയിഞ്ചിൽ, ദേവികുളം തഹസിൽദാർ, വെള്ളത്തുവൽ, കൊന്നത്തടി, മന്നാങ്കണ്ടം, ആനവിരട്ടി എന്നിവിടങ്ങളിലെ വില്ലേജ് ഓഫീസർമാർ എന്നിവർ ഭൂമിയിൽ ബാധ്യതയില്ലെന്നും വലിയ മരങ്ങൾ സംവരണം</p>

		<p>ചെയ്തിട്ടില്ലായെന്നും സൂചിപ്പിക്കുന്ന സർട്ടിഫിക്കറ്റുകൾ നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.</p> <p>6.റവന്യൂ സർക്കുലറും സർക്കാർ ഉത്തരവും റദ്ദാക്കിയതിന് ശേഷം അടിമാലി റെയിഞ്ചിൽ, ഈട്ടി, തേക്ക് മരങ്ങൾ/തടികൾ എന്നിവയ്ക്ക് 18 പെർമിറ്റുകൾ, നേര്യമംഗലം റെയിഞ്ചിൽ ഇടുക്കി ഭാഗത്ത് 16 പെർമിറ്റുകളും എറണാകുളം ഭാഗത്ത് 28 പെർമിറ്റുകളും, നൽകിയതായി ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.</p> <p>വിജിലൻസ് വിഭാഗത്തിന്റെ അന്വേഷണറിപ്പോർട്ടിന്റെ പകർപ്പ് അനുബന്ധം-1 ആയി ചേർക്കുന്നു.</p>
(ബി)	<p>പ്രസ്തുത വിഷയത്തിൽ, ഉത്തരവാദികളായ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥർക്കെതിരെ നാളിതുവരെ സ്വീകരിച്ച നടപടികൾ എന്തൊക്കെയാണെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ; ഓരോ ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റേഞ്ചിൽ നിന്നും ഏതൊക്കെ തടികൾ എത്രയെണ്ണം വീതമാണ് മുറിച്ചു മാറ്റിയതെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ; അനധികൃതമായി മുറിച്ചുമാറ്റിയ തടികൾ വീണ്ടെടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ; പ്രസ്തുത സംഭവത്തിൽ എത്ര രൂപയുടെ നഷ്ടം ഉണ്ടായതായാണ് കണക്കാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളത്; വിശദാംശം വ്യക്തമാക്കാമോ?</p>	(ബി) <p>പ്രസ്തുത വിഷയത്തിൽ ഹൈറേഞ്ച് സർക്കിളിലെ ഒരു റെയിഞ്ച് ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഓഫീസർക്കെതിരെ അച്ചടക്കനടപടി സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. ഓരോ ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റെയിഞ്ചുകളിൽ നിന്നും മുറിച്ചു മാറ്റിയ മരങ്ങളുടെ വിവരം, മുറിച്ചുമാറ്റിയ തടികൾ വീണ്ടെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ, ഇല്ലായോ, ആയതുമൂലം ഉണ്ടായ നഷ്ടം എന്നിവ അനുബന്ധം- 2 ആയി ചേർക്കുന്നു.</p>

സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

അനുബന്ധം -1

VE10- 990/2021

Office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Vigilance & Forest Intelligence),
Forest Headquarters,
Thiruvananthapuram-695014
Phone: 0471-2321583
Email: apccf-vig.for@kerala.gov.in
Dated: 25.06.2021

From,

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Vigilance & Forest Intelligence)
Thiruvananthapuram.

To,

The Principal Secretary,
Forest & Wildlife Department
Government Secretariat,
Thiruvananthapuram.

Sir,

Sub: KF&WLD-Constitution of Special investigation Team for investigation on felling of Government trees (Scheduled species and reserved trees) from LA Patta land-Submission of enquiry report-Reg.

Ref: 1. GO(P) No.60/2017/Rev. dated 17.08.2017 and SRO.No.621/17
2. Circular No.Rev.U3/187/2019 dated 11.03.2020
3. GO.(MS) No.261/2020/Rev. dated 24.10.2020
4. GO.(MS) No.30/2021/Rev. dated 02.02.2021
5. This office Proceedings/letters No. KFDHQ/990/2021-VIG/VE10 dated 09/10.06.2021.
6. This office letters No. KFDHQ/990/2021-VIG/VE10 dated 10/11.06.2021.
7. Letter No. VSY-1602/2021 dated 24.06.2021 from CF(I&E), Kottayam.
8. Letter No.T-275/2021 dated 24.06.2021 from CF(I&E), Kozhikode.

Attention is invited to the above. In order to investigate reportings in media and newspaper on felling of Government trees (scheduled species & reserved trees) from assigned patta lands from Wayanad District and some other parts of the State, an investigation was conducted by constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT) consisting of five teams each headed by a Flying Squad Divisional Forest Officer under

the supervision of two Conservators of Forests (Inspection & Evaluation) with the assistance by a Flying Squad Divisional Forest Officer in a time frame of two weeks. The details of team leader, sub team, supporting staff, supervising and assisting officers, district areas to which they were entrusted to cover are detailed below:

Sl. No.	Team Leader	District allotted.	Team Members	Supervision
1	Sri. Shantri Tom DFO, FSD, Idukki	Kasargodu, Kannur & Waynad	1. RFO, FS Kozhikkde (For Kannur & Kasargodu Dist.) 2. RFO, FS, Kannur (For Waynad Dist.)	A. Renjan, IFS CF (I&E) Kottayam assisted by Sri. P. Dhanesh Kumar, DFO, FSD, Kozhikode
2	Sri. Raju.K.Francis DFO, FSD, Ernakulam	Kozhikode, Malappuram & Palakkad	1. RFO, FS, Nilambur (For Palakkad Dist.) 2. RFO, FS, Palakkad (For Kozhikkode & Malappuram Dist.)	
3	Sri. Baiju Krishnan.P DFO, FSD, Punalur	Trichur & Ernakulam	1. RFO, FS, Idukki (For Ernakulam Dist.) 2. RFO, FS, Mundakkayam (For Trichur Dist.)	
4	Sri. Shanavas.A DFO, FSD, Thiruvananthapuram	Idukki & Kottayam	1. RFO, FS, Ranni (For Idukki Dist.) 2. RFO, FS, Control Room (For Kottayam Dist.)	J. Devaprasad, IFS CF (I&E) Kozhikkode assisted by Sri. Saju Varghese, DFO, FSD, Kothamangalam
5	Sri. Aneesh.C.P DFO, FSD, Palakkad	Pathanamthitta, Alapuzha, Kollam & Thiruvananthapuram	1. RFO, FS, Chullimanoor (For Pathanamthitta & Alappuzha Dist.) 2. RFO, FS, Punalur (For Thiruvananthapuram & Kollam Dist.)	

The team carried out the assigned task between 10th June 2021 to 22th June, 2021. In order to complete the focused task within given time frame, a google meet was conducted on 11th June, 2021 and certain clarifications were made during the meeting.

The issue pertains to felling of the scheduled tree species of teak, rosewood, sandalwood and ebony from assigned LA patta lands over which Government has full right. As per LA patta conditions the assignee is bound to take care of all the scheduled trees standing at the time of assignment or that may come into existence subsequent to it. The Kerala Land Assignment Rules, 1964 was amended and the notification published vide G.O.(P) 60/2017/RD dated 17th August, 2017. The amendment included modifying the patta condition as *"The Right over the trees in the assigned land shall be as per rule 10(3) of Kerala Land Assigned Rules 1964 provided section 22 of the Kerala Preservation of Trees Act 1986 read with section 4 thereof shall apply."* Subsequently, it was clarified vide reference cited 2 above that the right of all trees except Sandalwood tree planted by the Farmer and those retained in the Patta land belongs to the Patta Holder and the conditions in the old Patta need not be considered after 17.08.2017. As per reference cited 3 above, in the lands assigned as per the KLA 1964 rule, the right of all trees except sandal wood tree planted by the farmer or came up naturally and those trees in which tree value paid at the time of assignment belongs to Farmers and permission is not required for felling of such trees and also indicating action against the officers interrupting felling of such trees. Subsequently the reference 2 and 3 were cancelled vide reference cited 4 above.

The SIT verified the records connected with the issue of declarations/permits with respect of Forest Range offices within their jurisdictional district. It was found that the declarations issued are as per the Kerala Promotion of Tree Growth in Non-Forest Areas Act, 2005 and rules there under. It appears that the Range Forest Officers have pursued tax receipt of the particular land and possession certificates given by the Revenue authorities intending that the tree may be cut. It was also seen that the concerned Range Forest Officers are getting this verified from Deputy Range Forest Officer under them for felling and transporting the tree involved as the case may be.

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The inspection of the SIT was within the ambit of the assigned pattas issued under The Kerala Land Assignment Rules 1964 etc and the scrutiny of the files was done accordingly. The inference made in the investigation is confined to the perusal of files at this point of time. During the period from 11.03.2020 till investigation by SIT, 2248 Teak trees (Volu.1612.121 M3) and 171 Rose wood trees (Volu.327.584 M3) were detected as felled across the state from the assigned LA patta lands. Out of above, it is reported that 348.499 M3 of Teak and 280.149 M3 of Rosewood timber have been seized by Forest staff. SIT teams have also seized some timber of Teak and rosewood during the investigation period. The total estimated value of felled trees involved is estimated to Rs.1441.751 lakh and the value of so far seized timber has been estimated of Rs.844.889 Lakhs.

The District, Forest Division, species wise number of trees felled, quantity involved, estimated value, quantity seized with value etc is enclosed as **Annexure I** and detail on Forest Range wise permits issued is enclosed as **Annexure II**.

Major Findings:

1. The felling of Teak & Rosewood trees has occurred from the assigned LA patta lands in state.
2. No cases related to felling of other scheduled species viz, Ebony, Sandalwood has come to notice of the SIT during the investigation.
3. It was observed that total 483 permits were used for cutting/removal of Teak and Rosewood timbers from the various assigned LA patta land in state.
4. Maximum permits issued were noticed from Ernakulam district (205 no) followed by Idukki district (119 no).
5. Forest Ranges from where maximum number of permits was issued are Neriymangalam Forest Range (147no.) followed by Adimali Forest Range (56), Mullaringadu Forest Range (46), Thettekad Forest Range (40) & Machad Forest Range (35).
6. It is estimated that a total 2419 trees (Timber-1939.705 m3) i.e.2248 Teak trees (Timber -1612.121 m3) and 171 Rosewood trees (Timber-327.584 m3) has been

felled from the various assigned LA patta land in state from 11.03.2020 till the SIT investigation undertaken.

7. The total estimated value of Teak & RW trees amounts to Rs.1441.751 lakhs i.e. Rs.755.82 lakh for Teak and Rs.685.93 lakh for RW felled from the assigned LA patta land in state.
8. It is noticed that total 628.648 m3 of timber i.e. 348.499 m3 of Teak and 280.149 m3 of RW has already been seized so far. The seizure value of timber estimated to Rs.844.889 lakhs i.e. Rs.198.905 lakh for Teak timber and Rs. 645.984 lakh for Rosewood timber.
9. Major Forest Ranges from where large number of felling of teak and rosewood trees occurred are Neriymangalam Forest Range (Teak-643 no), Machad Forest Range (429 no (Teak-420 & RW-09), Adimali Forest Range (281no.(Teak-264 & RW-17), Pattikkad Forest Range (181 no (Teak-173 & RW-02), Thettekad Forest Range (152(Teak-149 & RW-03) & Mullaringadu Forest range (120 no).
10. Maximum quantity of timber involved has been noticed from the areas under the territorial jurisdiction of Neriymangalam Forest Range, (Munnar Forest Division) i.e. 567.416 m3 from 643 Teak trees), followed by Machad Forest Range(Trisuur Forest Division) i.e. 312.834 m3 (292.170 m3 of Teak and 20.664 m3 of Rosewood, Adimali Forest Range(Munnar Forest Division) i.e.248.234 m3 (224.280 m3 Teak and 23.954 m3 of Rosewood), Mullaringadu Forest Range, (Kothamangalam Forest Division) i.e.82.054 m3 from 120 Teak trees, Thettekad Forest Range(Idukki Wildlife Division) i.e. 78 781 m3(77.558m3 of Teak & 1.223 m3 of Rosewood).
11. Maximum number of felling of Teak trees has been noticed from the areas under the territorial jurisdiction of Neriymangalam Forest Range, (Munnar Forest Division) i.e. Teak-643 no., followed by Machad Forest Range, (Trisuur Forest Division) i.e Teak- 420 no), Adimali Forest Range(Munnar Forest Division) i.e.Teak-264 no, Pattikkad Forest Range (Trichur Forest Division)i.e.Teak-173 no, Thettekad Forest Range (Idukki Wildlife Division) i.e. Teak-149 no& Mullaringadu Forest Range(Munnar Forest Division) i.e. Teak-120no.

12. Maximum felling of Rosewood trees (106 No) has been noticed from the various areas under the territorial jurisdiction of Meppady Forest Range, (South Wayanad Forest Division) followed by Adimali Forest Range (Munnar Forest Division) (17 trees), Palode Forest Range, (Trivandrum Forest Division) (12 trees), Kasargodu Forest range (Kasargodu Forest Division) (10 trees) & Machad Forest Range (Trichur Forest Division) (9 trees).
13. Maximum felling of Scheduled species tree felling has been noticed from the various assigned LA patta land under Emakulam district i.e. (772 no (Teak-769 & RW-03) followed by Trichur district i.e. (612 no (Teak-601 & RW-11) and Idduki district i.e. (534no. (Teak-517 & RW -17).
14. Maximum felling of 109 Rosewood trees (238.704 m3) has taken place from the various areas in Wayanad district.
15. It has come to notice that, Tahsildhar Konni (Pathanamthitta Dt.) vide letter No.D6-8334/2020 dt 03.01.21 had instructed all village officers under him quoting revenue GO dt.24.10.2020, that action will be initiated against the officers who stand against the felling of trees from government assigned lands as per rule 1964. Indicating that it is the duty of the revenue officials to issue possession certificates in permitted cases and If there is any written complaint about the forest officials preventing tree felling, the same has to be reported to the District collector. (Copy enclosed as Annexure III).
16. In Adimaly forest range, Tahsildhar Devikulam, Village Officer (VO) Vellathooval, VO Konnathadi, VO Mannankandam and VO Anaviratti have issued certificates indicating non-liability of land and non-reservation of trees of large size trees.
- ✓ 17. It was noticed that in 8 cases, the RO Adimaly has issued permits for felling/removal of scheduled trees without the certificates from revenue authorities.
18. It is noticed that in Adimaly Range, one permit has been issued for felling of 5 teak trees and removal of timber obtained from LA patta land where VO, Konnathadi has issued a certificate adding the 5 teak trees involved in the permit are not reserved

19. It is noticed that in Adimaly range, 18 permits for huge rosewood and teak trees/timber have been issued after cancellation of the revenue circular and GO.
20. In Nerimangalam Range (Idukki part) VO, Mannankandam has issued certificates and based on this, RO has issued permits. Additionally RO Nerimangalam (Idukki part) has issued 16 permits and 28 permits in Emakulam part after the cancellation of the revenue circular and GO.
21. In Erumeli range, RO has issued one permit after the cancellation of the revenue circular and GO and in another case 5 teak trees which are seen reserved in the patta have been removed through the permit issued by RO Erumeli.
22. It is noticed that in Forest ranges namely Achenkoil, Thenmala, Pathanapuram, Kulathupuzha, Paruthipally, Pallode and Anchal, few permits are noticed issued from LA areas even after cancellation of the revenue circular and GO
23. In Macchad Range 35 permits have been issued even after knowing that the trees are from LA Patta land and in 5 cases permits are reported issued even after cancellation of the GO.
24. In Vadakkanchery range, one permit was issued from LA patta land and a case has been subsequently booked.
25. In Wyanad area, large scale felling of rosewood has happened based on Village officers certificate and forest officials were totally ignorant about such felling.
26. In Kalpetta Forest Range area two pattedhars felled 26 Teak trees and 3 rosewood trees from LA Patta land in Kalpetta village without any permission from authorities concerned.
27. In Sultan Battery Forest Range area a pattedhar felled 60 Teak trees from LA Patta land in Noolpuzha village without any permission from authorities concerned.
28. In Edavanna Forest Range area RFO granted cutting/removal permission for 13 teak trees from LA Patta land in Edavanna village. Subsequently he cancelled the order and seized the material involved.
29. No information about any attempt or actual seizure of timber obtained from Scheduled trees felled/removed from LA patta lands by the revenue authorities has come to notice of SIT during the investigation.

Other Findings:

1. It was observed that in most cases, Revenue authorities have issued certificates indicating no liability on land to Government and without any mention about LA land status.
2. In Kazargod and Kanhangad Range declaration has been issued by the RFO for the transport of Teak timber from LA Patta lands due to non revealing of the LA patta status by the Village officers.
3. A pass has been issued by the Forest Range Officer, Kulathupuzha Range; Trivandrum Forest Division without the certificate received from Revenue authorities and one was issued after the cancellation of circular & Revenue Department.G.O.
4. It has been noticed that the permits issued for Teak trees in Kanthaloor, Marayoor, Wadakanchery Forest ranges are mostly small sized trees.
5. Out of 28 Forest Ranges where felling of Teak was noticed, 12 Forest ranges (Palode, Thenmala, Arienkavu, Pallatilly, Devikulam, Edavanna, Vadakancherry, Marayuur, Kanthallur, Ranni, Vadasserikara and Kalpetta) are having <9 m3 of timber involved. 10 ranges (Achenkoil, Kothamangalam, Anchal, Kaliyaar, Erimely, Kulathupuzha, Kanhangad, Kasaragod, Sulthanbathery and Pathanapuram) having a volume between 10-50m3, 3 ranges (Mullaringad, Pattikad and Thattekad) are having volume between 50-100m3 and 3 Ranges (Nerimangalam, Machad and Adimaly) are having more than 100m3.
6. In Pattikad Range, 13 permits have been issued without verifying the land status in majority of the cases which were LA patta cases and subsequently several cases has been booked and about 25m3 timber has been seized.
7. In Pallapally Range out of 318 declarations verified by the SIT, only 2 declarations are noticed to have been issued from La patta land after cancellation of the GO.
8. In Thattekad Range out of 135 declarations issued, 40 numbers are from LA patta land and in 6 cases, timber pertaining to LA patta has been denied for transportation. This needs to be looked into separately in view of public outcry.
9. In Kodhamangalam range, 16 declarations were issued for felling and removal of 47 teak trees (Volume 26.942m3) from LA patta land.

10. In Mullaringad and Kaliyar ranges (Idukki part), The VO Vannapuram and VO Kadavoor have not mentioned the LA status of the land in the certificates they issued. Mullaringad Range (Ernakulam Part) , has issued permits after withdrawal of revenue circular and GO and no offence has been booked. In Kaliyar Range (Ernakulam part), in 5 declarations for removal of 15 teak trees from LA patta land had been issued.
11. The SIT has undertaken huge task of investigation within a short duration by ascertaining the land status from revenue offices in most cases therefore chances of few more cases cannot be ruled out and same shall be intensively verified/investigated by the respective Flying squad authorities.
12. In Ranni range, two permits and Vadaserikkara range, one permit has been issued for felling of Teak trees from LA patta lands.
13. In Achancoil Range, 8 declarations issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO.
14. In Arayankavu Range, 3 declarations issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO.
15. In Thenmala Range, 1 declarations issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO.
16. In Pathanapuram Range, 3 declarations and in Anchal Range, 7 permits issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO.
17. In Paruthipally Range, 2 declarations and in Palode Range, 2 permits issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO.

Responsible Officers, if any:

1. In Wyanad area, large scale felling of reserved rosewood tree from LA Patta land in Muttill South village has happened based on Village officer certificate, therefore Village officer Muttill South is solely responsible for such felling.
2. In Kalpetta Forest Range area two pattedhars felled 26 Teak trees and 3 rosewood trees from LA Patta land in Kalpetta village without any permission from authorities concerned therefore pattedhars are solely responsible for such felling.

3. In Sultan Battery Forest Range area a pattedhar felled 60 Teak trees from LA Patta land in Noolpuzha village without any permission from authorities concerned therefore pattedhar is solely responsible for such felling.
4. In Edavanna Forest Range area RFO granted cutting/removal permission for 13 teak trees from LA Patta land in Edavanna village. Subsequently he cancelled the order and seized the material involved. Since the RO has taken corrective measures and only one pass has been issued, therefore a lenient view may be taken.
5. In Adimaly forest range, Tahsildhar Devikulam, VO Vellathooval, VO Konnathadi, VO Mannankandam and VO Anaviratti have issued certificates indicating non-liability of land and non-reservation of trees of large size. Based on this, RO Adimaly has issued permits. So the responsibility rests with the Range officer Adimaly and the concerned Revenue officials.
6. In 8 cases, the RO Adimaly has issued permits without the certificates from revenue officials, for which RO Adimaly is solely responsible.
7. In Adimaly Range, one permit has been issued for felling of 5 teak trees and removal of timber obtained from LA patta land where VO Konnathadi has issued a certificate adding the 5 teak trees involved in the permit are not reserved. So the responsibility rests with the Range officer Adimaly and the concerned Revenue official (VO Konnathadi).
8. In Adimaly range, 18 permits for huge rosewood and teak trees/timber have been issued after cancellation of the revenue circular and GO. So the Range Officer concerned is solely responsible.
9. In Nerimangalam Range (Idukki part) VO, Mannankandam has issued certificates and based on this, RO has issued permits. Therefore concerned RO and VO hold joint responsibility. Additionally, RO Nerimangalam (Idukki part) has issued 16 permits and 28 permits in Ernakulam part after the cancellation of the revenue circular and GO for which the RO is solely responsible.
10. In Macchad Range 35 permits have been issued even after knowing that the trees are from LA Patta land and in 5 cases permits are reported issued even after

cancellation of the GO. Therefore RO Macchad holding charge at the time of issuing permit is solely responsible.

11. In Vadakkanchery range, one permit was issued from LA patta land and a case has been subsequently booked. Since the RO has taken measures by booking a case and only one pass has been issued, therefore a lenient view may be taken.
12. In Pattikad Range, 13 permits have been issued without verifying the land status in majority of the cases which were LA patta cases and subsequently several cases has been booked and about 25m³ timber has been seized. Since the concerned RO has taken some measures by booking cases, therefore a lenient view may be taken.
13. In Pallapally Range out of 318 declarations verified by the SIT, only 2 declarations are noticed to have been issued from La patta land after cancellation of the GO. therefore a lenient view may be taken.
14. In Kodhamangalam range, Out of the 185 declarations, 16 declarations were issued for felling and removal of 47 teak trees (Volume 26.942m³) from LA patta land. Since this has happened due to the non clarity in certificates issued by village officer, therefore concerned village officer and RO Kothamangalam are jointly responsible.
15. A pass has been issued by the Forest Range Officer (RO), Kulathupuzha Range, Trivandrum Forest Division without the certificate received from Revenue authorities and one more permit for felling and transport of 7 teak trees was issued after the cancellation of the revenue circular and GO. Therefore the RO Kulathupuzha is solely responsible.
16. In Mullaringad and Kaliyar ranges (Idukki part), The VO Vannapuram and VO Kadavoor have not mentioned the LA status of the land in the certificates they issued. Mullaringad Range (Ernakulam Part) , has issued permits after withdrawal of revenue circular and GO and no offence has been booked. Therefore RO and concerned VOs are jointly responsible. In Kaaliyaar Range (Ernakulam part), in 5 declarations for removal of 15 teak trees from LA patta land had been issued. Since the average size of the removed teak trees are small therefore a lenient view may be taken.

17. In Erumely range, RO has issued one permit after the cancellation of the revenue circular and GO and in another case 5 teak trees which are seen reserved in the patta have been removed through the permit issued by RO Erumely based on the certificate issued by VO Erumely North quoting the circular dated 11.03.2020. Therefore VO Erumely North and RO Erumely are jointly responsible.
18. In Ranni range, two permits and Vadaserikkara range, one permit has been issued for felling of Teak trees from LA patta lands. Since the LA status came to notice of SIT during investigation, therefore this needs to be further enquired in detail.
19. In Achancoil Range, 8 declarations issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO, therefore Range Officer concerned is solely responsible.
20. In Arayankavu Range, 3 declarations issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO, therefore Range Officer concerned is solely responsible.
21. In Thenmala Range, 1 declarations issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO. therefore Range Officer concerned is solely responsible.
22. In Pathanapuram Range, 3 declarations and in Anchal Range, 7 permits issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO, therefore Range Officer concerned is solely responsible.
23. In Paruthipally Range, 2 declarations and in Palode Range, 2 permits issued from LA patta lands after cancellation of the Revenue circular and GO, therefore Range Officer concerned is solely responsible

Recommendations:

1. The investigation on issues related to felling of government scheduled trees from LA Patta lands may be continued by concerned Territorial DFO with the support from local Flying squad.
2. Details of LA Patta lands and a copy of the tree register needs to be immediately handed over to the respective Ranges to prevent such happenings in future..
3. As per Sec. 6 of the Kerala Forest (Prohibition of felling of Trees standing on land temporarily or permanently assigned) Rules, 1995, the revenue authority

concerned has to forward full details of the trees standing on lands at the disposal of the government. It seems that no such details on trees standing on land at the disposal of the government are available with the concerned Range Offices. This needs to be looked into to ensure prevention of felling of such trees.

4. In all cases the pattedars are liable for taking care of the scheduled trees as per patta conditions, therefore, the pattedhars are also liable for such tree felling.

The Range wise detail received from the SIT compiled, has been placed as Annexure IV.

This is for kind information and necessary action.

Enclosures- As above

Date: 25.06.2021

Yours Faithfully,

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Vigilance & Forest Intelligence)

Abstract of findings of Special Investigation Team

Kazargod District

Kazargod District has only one Forest Division (Kazargod Division) with 2 Ranges, namely Kazargod and Kanhangad. SIT conducted detailed verification of the documents related to the issue of Passes/Declarations from 11.03.2020 onwards in LA Patta lands.

Kazargod Range

Out of 54 declarations issued from the Kazargod Range, one declaration/permit was found to be from LA Patta Land for 3 Teak trees having 4.903 M³ volume and issued based on the certificate of Village Officer, Enmakaje. 6 offences were booked in Kazargod Range for illicit cutting of 8 Teak trees and 10 Rosewood trees in which no declarations/permits were issued in LA Patta land. 8.73 M³ of Teak and 17.179 M³ of Rosewood were seized in 6 offences.

Kanhangad Range

In Kanhangad Range, 6 declarations were issued from the LA Patta lands (18 Teak having volume 11.103 M³ and one Rosewood having volume 0.387 M³) based on the certificate of Village Officer, Panathadi and Parappa. 3 offences were booked in Kanhangad Range for cutting and removal of trees in 3 declarations issued by the Range Officer, Kanhangad. In 3 declarations, no offences were booked. The quantity of Teak timber to be seized is 5.07 M³ and Rosewood to be seized is 0.387 M³.

Lapses on the part of authorized Officers of Forest and Revenue Department

1. In Kazargod Range, one declaration was issued by the RFO for 3 teak trees based on the certificate of Village officer Enmakaje. Pattadhar and Enmakaje village officer are responsible for this action.
2. In Kanhangad Range, the Village officer, Parappa and Panathaday issued Certificate without revealing the land status. There is a lapse on the part of Panathady Village Officer and Parappa Village Officer. Out of the 6 declarations, the timber lost in 3 declarations were seized and 3 offences were booked. In 3 declarations, no seizure of materials was done by the Range Officer. Hence there is a minor lapse on the part of the Range Officer without properly verifying the land status.

Kannur District

Kannur District comprises of Kannur Forest Division with 3 Forest Ranges namely Kannavam, Kottiyoor and Thaliparamb. SIT reported that no passes or declarations were issued from LA Patta lands in Kannur division.

Wayanad District

Wayand district comprises of two territorial divisions and one wildlife divisions namely North Wayand, South Wayanad and Wayanad Wildlife Division. North Wayanad Division comprises of

3 Forest Ranges namely Mananthavady, Begur and Peria. No declarations were issued from LA Patta Lands in North Wayanad Division. South Wayanad Division comprises of 3 Forest Ranges namely Kalpetta, Meppady and Chedleth. In Chedleth Forest Range no declarations or permits were issued in LA patta Lands.

Meppadi Forest Range:

In Meppadi Forest Range 14 applications were submitted for issue transporting permit for Rosewood along with village records. These applications were rejected by Range Forest Officer Meppadi and then by DFO South Wayanad Division. Meantime, Sri Roji Augustine and others illegally cut and removed and transported 15.426m³ (54 logs of Rosewood) using the Form IV permit of Surya Timbers, Vazhavatta. The timber transported were seized by Meppady Range Forest Officer and staff and booked an offence in Meppady Forest Range as OR 01/2021. The Divisional Forest Officer South Wayanad cancelled the Property Mark Registration and Form IV permits issued to Surya Timbers.

A joint perambulation was conducted by the Forest officials in South Wayanad Division along with Revenue authorities and verified the Muttill South village with Land Assignment Register and Tree Register and conclusively proved that 106 Rosewood trees were felled from LA Patta land. 45 Offences were booked in Meppadi Forest Range in this regard. Total quantity of 234.242m³ (Value Rs.590.16 Lakhs) have been seized so far by the Range Forest Officer, Meppadi.

During verification of check post at Lakkidi, by the SIT it is found that entry in the register on 03-02-2021 is found to be erased with whitener.

Kalpetta Forest Range

In Kalpetta Forest Range 130 declarations were verified and no declarations were issued in LA Patta lands. Total 26 Teak trees having a volume of 5.11m³ were illicitly felled without any permission from authorities in LA Patta land in Kalpetta village. All the 5.11 m³ teak timber seized and an offence was booked as OR 04/2021. In Kalpetta village 3 Nos of Rosewood having an volume of 4.465m³ were illegally felled from LA Patta Land without any permission from Revenue authorities and Forest authorities. Hence Forest Range Officer Kalpetta booked an offence against the illegal felling of the Rose wood as OR 3/2021 and seized 4.465 m³ of Rosewood.

Wayanad Wildlife Division:

Wayanad Wildlife Division comprises of 4 Forest Ranges namely Sulthan Battery, Muthanga, Kurichiat, and Tholpetty. No declarations were issued by the Range officers from Wayanad Wildlife Division in LA Patta Lands. In Sultan Battery Range, 60 Teak trees having volume 18.642m³ were illicitly felled from LA Patta Land in Noolpuzha village without any permits/declarations from Revenue or Forest authorities. OR 2/2021 was registered in Sulthan Battery Range for the illicit felling of timber in LA Patta lands. 18.642 m³ teak timbers was seized.

Rosewood felling in Muttill South: SIT reported that after felling the rosewood trees from revenue LA Patta land in Muttill South Village, land owners submitted their request/applications (14 Nos) to the Meppady Range Forest Officer for getting transit pass as per the Kerala Promotion of Tree Growth in non-forest Areas Act, 2005. The applications for transit pass were submitted along with the recommendations letters from the Village Officer, Muttill South. Hence it is evident

that the Revenue authorities were aware of the felling of Government Reserved trees. It is to be further noted that the Range Forest Officer, Meppady has send several clarification letters to the Village Officer, Muttill South and Thasildar, Vyathiri to verify the authenticity of the records and genuiness of the rosewood trees felled. However, no satisfactory response was received on the matter. Legal opinion was also sought from District Government pleader, Kalpetta. Later on 25/01/2021, certificate was issued by the Village Officer, recommending transport of felled rosewood trees. This issue was then brought to the attention of District Collector, Wayanad through the Divisional Forest Officer, South Wayanad. Hence, in these cases, pattadars and Village Officer, Muttill South are primarily responsible.

In Kalpetta Range and Sulthan Bathery Range, illicit felling described above has been taken place without the consent of forest department. Hence in these 2 cases pattadars are liable and Village Officer, Kalpetta and Village Officer, Noolpuzha are primarily responsible for the felling.

Kozhikkode District

There are three Ranges in Kozhikkode Forest Division. They are Thamarassery Range, Kuttiyadi Range and Peruvannamuzhy Range. In Kozhikkode Forest Division, no Declarations or Permits were issued in LA Patta lands.

Malappuram District:

Malappuram District consists of two Forest Divisions. They are Nilambur North Forest Division and Nilambur South Forest Division. Nilambur South Forest Division comprises two Forest Ranges namely Karulai and Kalikavu Forest Ranges. No Declarations or Permits were issued from Karulai Forest Range and Kalikavu Forest Range in LA Patta lands in Nilambur South Forest Division.

Nilambur North Forest Division comprises of three Forest Ranges namely Nilambur Range, Vazhikadav Range and Edavanna Range. No Declaration or permits were issued in LA Patta lands in Nilambur Forest Range and Vazhikkadavu Forest Range. In Edavanna Range of Nilambur North Division 13 teak trees were permitted to cut and transport in a Vested Forest Assigned LA patta land in the behest of the order. However the Range Forest Officer has seized the entire logs of 5.016m³ from the 13 trees and an OR 02/2021 has been booked in Kodumpuzha Forest Station.

Palakkad District:

There are three Forest Ranges in Manarkkad Forest Division, namely Manarkkad Forest Range, Attapady and Agaly Forest Ranges. No Declarations or Permits were issued in LA Patta land. There are three Forest Ranges in Palakad Forest Division, namely Olavakkadu, Ottapalam and Valayar Forest Ranges. No Declarations or Permits were issued in LA Patta lands. There are three Forest Ranges in Nemmara Forest Division, namely Alathur, Nelliampathy and Kollengode Forest Ranges. No Declarations or Permits were issued in LA Patta lands.

In Ranges like Agaly and Attapady where there is complexity in assessing land status based on available records enclosed with 357 passes in Agaly Range and 34 passes in Attapady Range. In this enquiry only felling in 1964 LA Revenue Patta lands were assessed. However, a continued enquiry by the concerned Flying Squad DFO with the Special Investigation Team of concerned Circle may be carried out to ensure that no Government timber is lost.

Thrissur District:

Three territorial Forest Divisions viz. Thrissur, Chalkudy and Vazhachal and one Peechi Wildlife Division is in Thrissur district. In district, 51 declarations were issued for the transportation of 601 teak amounting to 375.362 m³ and 11 rose wood trees amounting to 23.714 m³ from LA patta land. Thrissur Forest Division comprises of three Forest Ranges, viz. Machad, Pattikkad and Vadakanchery.

Machad Forest Range: SIT reported that 35 declarations were issued from Revenue LA patta land for 420 teak trees (volume of 292.17 m³, Value Rs.153.240 Lakhs) and 9 Rose wood trees (volume of 20.664 m³, value Rs. 23.960 lakhs) were felled. 34 offences were booked for the felling of trees from Revenue patta land. In Machad Range, it is seen that the applicants submitted their declarations with revenue documents to Elanad Forest station and the Deputy Range Officer has forwarded the declarations after field verification. The declarations were permitted based on Possession Certificate, LA patta copy, Tax receipt and location sketch issued by the concerned village officers. In most of cases, the concerned Village Officers mentioned the status of the land as LA patta land assigned under Rule 9 (2) of Land Assignment Rules 1964. In some cases the applicants submitted the copy of Pattayam along with their application in which also the status of the land and patta conditions are mentioned. **Maximum quantity were removed from this Range and hence the situation is grave.**

Laps on the part of RFO Machad and Dy.RFO Elanad Station

1. SIT reported that Deputy Range Forest Officer, Elanad recommended permission for the transportation of logs stating the status of the land as LA and by misinterpreting the GO, that permission may be granted.
2. On verification it has been found out that the girth of the logs were above 100 cm in many cases and comparatively a large quantity of timber has been permitted to transport during the period.
3. SIT on site verification found two teak stumps were burnt from the land in which declarations was issued.
4. Flying Squad booked an offence for the transportation of logs permitted vide order no MC2-434/21 dt.18.03.2021 and seized teak logs of 0.732 m³. This declaration was issued after the withdrawal of Government Order and as the land is surrounded by Reserved Forests verification and SIT recommended a detailed inquiry.
5. Permissions for five declarations were given from Machad Range after 02.02.2021.

Wadkkanchery Range

SIT found that one declaration was issued from LA patta land. One offence was registered in the Range for the felling of the trees from LA patta land. 3 teak trees having a volume of 1.161 m³ was felled and removed. No seizures were carried out in this Range. The declaration was issued

based on the possession certificate, and Tax receipt. The applicant submitted the copy of LA patta along with the application. In Wadkkanchery Range, no registers were kept for entering the details of the declarations issued from Range.

Pattikkad Range

SIT reported that 13 declarations were issued for LA Patta land. 173 teak trees (volume 78.573 m³, value Rs. 30.33 Lakhs) and 2 rose wood (volume 3.05 m³, value Rs.2.92 Lakhs) were felled from LA patta land and land status was not clearly mentioned in most of the cases **Chalaky**

Palapally Range

In Palapally Range, 318 declarations were verified by the SIT and two declarations were issued for LA patta land in which 5 number of teak trees amounting to an volume of 3.458 m³ was felled and the value is assessed as 1.87 lakhs. No seizures are made in this Range. **These two declarations were issued after 02.02.2021.**

Ernakulam District

Territorial Forest Divisions viz. Malayattoor, NSC Kalady, Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary in Idukki Wildlife Division, Athirapally Forest Range in Vazhachal Division, Inchathotty and Nagarampara Stations of Neriayamangalam Range in Munnar Division and Part of Mullaringadu Range, Kothamangalam Range, Kaliyar Range of Kothamangalam Division falls in Ernakulam District

Kothamangalam Range

In Kothamangalam Range 185 declarations were verified in which 16 declarations were found to be from LA patta land. 47 teak trees having an volume of 26.942 m³ were felled from this range and no seizure has not been made so far.

Thattekkad Bird sanctuary

SIT verified 135 declarations issued from this Range in which 40 numbers is from LA patta land. There is an existing practice of issuing declarations from LA land prior to 11.03.2020. Separate registers were kept for recording the details of receipt and issuance of declarations. Range Officer is issuing the declaration based on the certificate from Village Officer, Possession Certificate, land tax receipt and field verification report of Deputy Ranger. Cutting permissions are granted for the land in Kuttampuzha village in Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary. Cutting permissions were issued for 26 applications and later it was found that six was from LA land, so permission for transportation of timber was not granted.

Lapse on the part of RFO Thattekkad

In Range, 22 declarations were issued after 2.2.2021.

Idukki District

There are 14 Forest Ranges in Idukki District under the jurisdiction of 5 Forest Divisions viz. Munnar, Marayoor, Kottayam, Mankulam & Kothamangalam. The details of which are shown below.

Forest Ranges in Idukki District

Sl No.	Name of Forest Range	Forest Division	Remarks
1	Adimali	Munnar	Part of the area in Ernakulam Dist.
2	Neriamangalam		
3	Devikulam		
4	Munnar		
5	Marayoor	Marayoor	
6	Kanthalloor		
7	Ayyappankovil	Kottayam	
8	Kumali		
9	Nagarampara		
10	Mullaringadu	Kothamangalam	Part of the area in Ernakulam Dist.
11	Kaliyar		Part of the area in Ernakulam Dist.
12	Thodupuzha		Part of the area in Ernakulam Dist.
13	Mankulam	Mankulam	
14	Anakulam		

Range wise details of tree felling from assigned lands in Idukki district

Adimali Range:- Adimali Range, Munnar Division has a revenue jurisdiction over Devikulam and Idukki taluks in Idukki district. During the investigation it was found that 56 Nos. of transport permits issued from 11.03.2021 onwards.

17 Rosewood trees (23.954 M³) were cut and removed as per the 11 transport permits issued from the LA Patta Lands for the period from 11.03.2020 onwards. The Girth at Breast Height of the removed trees ranges from 90 cm to 256 cm and value of Rosewood felled assessed is 29.012 Lakhs (maximum expected value which is calculated by taking B Class as bench mark). 17.371 M³ Rosewood that includes logs and converted materials were seized by the Flying Squad Unit, Kothamangalam. Of the total permits issued, majority of it were issued between the period of 24.10.2020 to 02.02.2021 and two permits were issued after 03.02.2021.

For Teak trees, 60 applications were received by the Range Forest Officer during the said period, out of which cutting permission has been issued to all the 60 cases and transportation permit has been issued in 45 cases. As per the SIT report, 264 numbers of Teak trees having a total volume of 224.28 M³ of timber (value 1.241 crore) has been felled and removed. Out of the total quantity removed, 85.452 M³ of Teak Timber have been seized by the Adimali Range staff. Of the total permits issued, majority of it were issued between the period of 24.10.2020 to 02.02.2021 and

16 permits were issued after 03.02.2021. In most of the cases the permits were issued by the Range Forest Officer based on the letter of non-liability of the land issued by Village Officer. In the certificate, the Village Officer has mentioned about the status of land as LA and mentioned about the non-reservation of Teak trees in the patta.

Lapses on the part of RFO Adimali

1. Two permits are issued for the transport of Rosewood and 16 permits are issued for the transport of Teak after the cancellation of circular and G.O (MS).261/2020/Rev. dated 24/10/2020.
2. 8 permits were issued by RFO Adimali without getting any certificate from the revenue authorities.
3. RFO has issued cutting permissions even though DFO Munnar had written to the Range officer Adimali and Nerimangalam through letter no.AN-6241/2019 dt.12.10.2020 not to permit the felling of trees quoting a WPC case.
4. Major number of rosewood trees felled and removed from Adimali Range is very old having girth more than 185 cm and all have been felled only after the issue of G.O (MS).261/2020/Rev. dated 24/10/2020.
5. All the certificates issued by village officers for Adimali Range were found issued before cancellation of the order. So the entire responsibility is on Range officer as he has issued permits after the cancellation of the G.O.

Lapses on the part of RFO Adimali and village officer Konnathadi

In one case of Adimali Range, permit has been issued for felling and removal of teak trees from a LA patta land issued as per 1993 Rules, where the village officer has issued a certificate stating the non-liability of the land and also adding that the 5 teak trees involved in the permit are not reserved. In this, both the officials (Village officer Konnathadi and Range officer Adimali) are jointly held responsible for this action.

Neriamangalam Range, Munnar Division is spread over two revenue districts viz. Ernakulam and Idukki. It is having a revenue jurisdiction over parts of Devikulam, Idukki&Kothamangalam Thaluks. RFO Neriamangalam issued 147 passes for the cutting/transport of Teak and Rosewood from 11.03.2020 onwards. Total quantity teak for which permits issued comes to 643 trees (567.416 M³) having value of 274.040 Lakhs. SIT reported that 15 Teak logs are having girth above 150 cm midgirth.

Lapses on the part of RFO Neriamangalam

1. Of the total permits issued, 16 numbers were issued after 02.02.2021 ie, after the cancellation of the impugned Order
2. In all the cases the permits were issued by the Range Forest Officer based on the letter of non-liability of the land issued by Village Officer. In the certificate, the

Village Officer has mentioned about the status of land and the non-reservation of Teak trees in the patta.

3. RFO Neriamangalam has issued cutting permissions even though DFO Munnar had written to the Range officer Adimali and Nerimangalam through letter no.AN-6241/2019 dt.12.10.2020 not to permit the felling of trees quoting a WPC case.
4. All the certificates issued by village officers for Nerimangalam Range were found issued before cancellation of the order. So the entire responsibility is on Range officer as he has issued permits after the cancellation of the G.O.

Devikulam Range, Munnar Division. SIT verified the Range records and found that only two transport permits have been issued from 11.03.2020 onwards for 5 teak trees (5.738 M³, value 3.452 lakhs) from LA Lands. Both the permits were issued during the period from 24.10.2020 to 02.02.2021. Permit has been issued by the Range Forest Officer based on the letter of non-liability of the land issued by Village Officer, Vellathooval.

Marayoor Range, Marayoor Division. SIT verified the Range records and found that only one permit has been issued from 11.03.2020 onwards. 15 teak trees with a total volume of 4.492 M³ is involved in the issued permit. The transport permit is issued on 02.11.2020.

Kanthalloor Range, Marayoor Division. SIT verified the Range records and found that only one permit has been issued from 11.03.2020 onwards. 6 teak trees with a total volume of 2.582 M³ has been involved in the issued permit and the transport permit was issued after 02.02.2021. The permit was issued by the Range Forest Officer based on the letter of non-liability of the land issued by Village Officer.

Kumali Range comes under the jurisdiction of Kottayam Division. SIT verified the records of Kumali Range and found that no permits have been issued for felling of trees from the assigned land. 4 applications were received during the period from 11.03.2020 and all the applications were rejected.

Ayyappancovil Range comes under the jurisdiction of Kottayam Division. SIT verified the records of Ayyappancovil Range and found that 4 applications have been received during the period from 11.03.2020 and all the applications were rejected.

Nagarampara Range comes under the jurisdiction of Kottayam Division. SIT verified the records of Nagarampara Range and found that no applications were received during the period from 11.03.2020 for felling of trees from the assigned land.

Thodupuzha Range comes under the jurisdiction of Kothamangalam Division. SIT verified the records of Thodupuzha Range and found that no permits have been issued for felling of trees from the Government assigned lands

Kaliyar Range comes under the jurisdiction of Kothamangalam Division. SIT verified the Range records and found that a total of 15 Nos. of transport permits have been issued from 11.03.2021

onwards for felling and removal of teak trees from assigned lands in which 37 numbers of Teak having a total volume of 27.020 M³ of timber worth Rs. 13.166 Lakhs have been felled and removed

Laps on the part of village officer Vannapuram

Ten cutting permits have been issued by the Forest Range Officer, Kaliyar Range based on the Certificate issued by the Village Officer, where in the status of land has not been mentioned in the Village certificate. Therefore whole responsibility rests on the Village Officer.

Mullaringadu Range comes under the jurisdiction of Kothamangalam Division. SIT verified the Range records and found that a total of 46 Nos. of transport permits have been issued from 11.03.2021 onwards for the felling of Teak trees from Government assigned lands. 120 numbers of teak having a total volume of 82.054 M³ of timber worth Rs.36.77 Lakhs have been felled and removed.

24 permits have been issued by the Forest Range Officer, Mullaringadu Range during the period based on the Certificates issued by the Village Officer where in, the status of land has been not mentioned as LA. Only 3 logs are having a girth dimension of above 150 cm and most of the logs are having a dimension under 100 cm girth. Out of the 24 permits, 7 permits issued after 02.02.2021.

In Mullaringadu Range, VO Vannappuram and VO Kadavoor have issued certificates and based on these, the Range officer has issued permits. 2 permits were issued after 03.02.21. Hence, the primary responsibility rests with the VO Vannapuram and V.O Kadavoor.

Kottayam District

Erumeli, the only Forest Range comes under Kottayam Districtis having the revenue jurisdiction over the entire district. SIT reported that 7 permits were issued for teak trees in the LA Patta Lands after 11.03.2020. Total quantity of Teak comes to 28.99 M³ having value of 14.74 Lakhs (minimum expected value which is calculated by taking C Class as bench mark).

Erumeli North and South Villages under Kanjirappally Taluk have LA Patta holdings. SIT found that 7 permits were issued to the LA Patta holders which has been certified by the Village Officer. In addition to this, 20 more teak trees were felled and removed from 11 cases without the permit from Forest Authorities. All together 46 numbers of teak trees were cut and removed from the LA Patta Lands in Kottayam based on the verification by SIT. 5 logs have girth above 150 cm. Of the 7 permits issued, 4 permits are issued between 11.03.2020 to 23.10.2020, two issued between 23.10.2020 to 02.02.2021 and one permit issued after 02.02.2021.

In all the cases the permits were issued by the Range Forest Officer based on the letter of non-liability of the land issued by Village Officer. In the certificate, Village Officer has not mentioned the LA status of the land except for one application. In one case 5 teak trees which are reserved in the Patta have been removed through the permit issued by the Range Forest Officer.

Lapses on the part of Village officer Erumeli North

In one permit, 5 teak trees are found entered in the schedule list of the LA Patta. Here the village officer has stated that he is issuing the certificate based on the order dated 11.03.2020 of the Principal Secretary, Revenue and has indirectly pointed out that as per the order, these reserved trees can be felled. In this case, the VO Erumeli North is primarily responsible. One permit has been issued after the cancellation of the Government order that is based on the certificate of VO Erumeli North dated 03.03.2021. So primary responsibility rests with VO Erumeli North.

Pathanamthitta District

On verification, it was found that 2 permits were issued for teak one in Ranni Range and one in Vadasserykara range in which 10 numbers of teak trees having a volume of 5.745m³ were removed. The value of the timber was assessed as 1.882 lakhs. In both the cases, the village officers have given certificate of non-liability but failed to denote that the land was assigned under 1964 land assignment rules. The fact came to light only after enquiry by the SIT.

Kollam district

On verification, it was found that in Kollam district, 68 permits were issued in which 2 rosewood trees and 169 teak trees were involved. The total volume of rosewood removed was 2.58m³ with an assessed value of 1.937 lakhs. The total volume of teak wood removed was 109.296m³ with an assessed value of 28.334 lakhs. Out of this, seizure of 0.997m³ of teak wood was done which was having an assessed value of 0.388 lakhs. It is found on verification of office files and records made available from village office, 19 cases were detected in Achancoil from LA patta issued areas, 3 cases in Aryankavu, 3 cases in Thenmala, 27 cases in Pathanapuram and 16 cases in Anchal.

Achancoil Range: 19 passes were issued in the LA patta areas for transport of 48 Teak trees. Total quantity of Teak for which permits issued comes to 25.69M³ having value of 6.62 Lakhs (minimum expected value which is calculated by taking C Class as bench mark). But on verification it is found that the passes were issued based on a Tahasildar's no liability certificate. On reporting these cases to Tahasildar, the Tahasildar has issued a letter that there are no trees reserved to the Government. On inquiry it is found that the area was a forest and not dis-reserved. 48 teak trees were felled from this area. Out of this, 8 passes were issued after cancellation of the GO. Of the total permits issued, 8 passes issued after 02.02.2021 which is after the cancellation of the impugned Order.

Aryankavu Range: 3 passes were issued in the LA patta areas for transport of 12 Teak trees. Total quantity of Teak for which permits issued comes to 8.846 M³ having value of 2.78 Lakhs. It is understood that the area was not a forest. All passes were issued after cancellation of GO based on revenue certificates.

In Thenmala Range, 3 passes were issued in LA areas. Out of which one was issued after cancellation of GO based on Tahasildar certificate.

In Pathanapuram Range 27 passes were issued in LA areas. In the entire cases, certificate was issued by the Village Officers. Three passes were issued after cancellation of the GO based on Village records.

In Anchal Range 16 cases and passes were issued with Village Certificates. Two cases were reported as LA by village officers but trees felled were not reserved. 7 permits were issued after cancellation of the GO in Anchal Range.

Thiruvananthapuram District

On verification, it was found that in Thiruvananthapuram district, 23 permits were issued in which 18 rosewood trees and 28 teak trees were involved. The total volume of rosewood removed was 19.84 m³ with an assessed value of 13.34 lakhs. The total volume of teak wood removed was 21.316m³ with an assessed value of 7.83 lakhs. Out of this, seizure of 0.3m³ of teak wood (.01 lakh) and 3.462 m³ Rosewood(6.25 lakhs) was done.

Kulathupuzha Range :It is found that 7 passes were issued in the LA patta areas for transport of 22 Teak trees(17 m³, 6.34 lakhs) and two Rosewood trees (3.52 m³, 2.69 lakhs). In Kulathupuzha six passes were issued based on Village Certificate that no liability is there on the trees and one pass was seen issued without village certificate. One pass was issued for 7 teak trees on 12.03.21, after the cancellation of GO, with ^{out} certificate of the village officer.

Laps on the part of RFO Kulathupuzha

One permit in Kulathupuzha range was issued on 12.03.2021 for 7 teak trees without the certificate from village officer and also after the cancelation of impugned order. So the RFO kulathupuzha is responsible for this.

Paruthipally Range :In Paruthipally Range, four passes were issued in LA lands for 4 rosewood trees(5.508m³, 3.78 lakhs). In all the tree cases certificates were issued by the revenue officials. In Paruthipally Range two passes were issued after cancellation of the GO.

Palode Range :In Palode Range 12 passes were issued in LA lands areas for transport of 6 Teak trees(4.316m³, 1.49 lakhs) and 12 Rosewood trees (10.812m³, 6.87 lakhs). In all the cases village officers had issued certificates even though wordings are different in different passes. Two passes are seen issued after cancellation of the GO with the certificate from the revenue department.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Vigilance & Forest Intelligence)

നം.	റെയിഞ്ച്	തേക്ക് തടികൾ	ഇട്ടി തടികൾ	മരങ്ങൾ വീണ്ടെടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ യെന്നത്	നഷ്ടം (ലക്ഷത്തിൽ)
1.	നേര്യമംഗലം	144		44.188 M ³	36.48
2.	അടിമാലി	264	17	105.823 M ³	85.442
3.	മുളളരിങ്ങാട്	61		ഇല്ല	18.11
4.	കാളിയാർ	22		ഇല്ല	7.79
5.	ദേവികുളം	5		ഇല്ല	3.452
6.	മറയൂർ	15		ഇല്ല	1.637
7.	കാഞ്ഞല്ലൂർ	6		ഇല്ല	0.138