

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
**REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT**

No. FS-51/2017- 21261/R&DM. Dated 1.7.2017

From

Dr. Chandra Shekhar Kumar, IAS  
Principal Secretary to Government

To

Secretary, Board of Revenue  
All RDCs  
All Collectors

**Sub: Guidelines for taking up plantations in Government waste land**

Sir,

In inviting a reference to the subject cited above, I am to say that during past several years, as a part of welfare measures, Government waste lands have been allotted/ permissive possession given to different agencies, individuals, NGOs and Departments of Government for raising plantation under different schemes of Government. In certain cases like ERRP Scheme, lands were allotted to Individuals for raising plantations and to enjoy the usufructory/ Dafayati rights. Guidelines have been issued by this Department from time to time for allotment of Government waste land for the purpose of the scheme. Such guidelines provide for temporary lease/ occupation permit for a fixed period with specified terms and conditions. However, in all cases, it has been provided that the lands can be resumed if any of the conditions is violated.

2. With passage of time, many such schemes have either been discontinued or renamed with a different package for benefit of general public. However, no database is available at this level regarding the status of the lands leased out and fate of the plantations raised thereon. The major schemes/ guidelines on plantation are as indicated below;

| Sl | Programme  | Letter No & date         |
|----|--|--------------------------|
| 1  | Economic Rehabilitation of Rural poor (ERRP) through food for work programme. (Temporary allotment of one hectare of land for 3 years in favour of small/ marginal farmers/ agricultural labourers in selected areas of Boudh, Khandhamal/ Kalahandi | No.22057/R Dt 20.03.1979 |
| 2  | Development fo Kantabada cluster of villages 96 villages namely  | No.48808/R Dt            |

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
|    | Kantabada, Bholā, Deula, Giringaput, Bhagabatipur and Kujimahal) in Bhubaneswar tahasil for plantation & fodder Dev Scheme   | 3.07.1979  |
| 3  | Measures against shifting cultivation-allotment of podu affected land for plantation   | No.3755/R<br>dt.18.01.1980   |
| 4  | For coconut and other fruit bearing trees on/along canal/ flood protection embankments in favour of landless/ poor   | No.33789/R<br>dt.20.05.1981  |
| 5  | Land based schemes for ERRP plantation in Abad Ajogya Anabadi lands  | No.37565/R<br>Dt.20.07.1981  |
| 6  | Land for coffee plantation   | No.62322/R<br>dt.27.08.1979  |
| 7  | Land for cashew plantation   | No.4535/R<br>dt.22.01.1980<br>& No.17392/R<br>dt 11.03.1980  |
| 8  | Non-cultivable waste land, village forest and Gochar lands under Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) assisted social forestry projects in 9 districts namely Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Ganjam, Mayurbhanja, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Bolangir and Sambalpur for raising fodder and other small timber species | No.37883/R<br>dt.06.06.1984  |
| 9  | Utilization of waste land for plantation under schemes formulated by National Waste Land Development Board/ State Waste Land Dev Board, through village community, NGOs etc  | No.35216/R<br>dt.29.05.1986  |
| 10 | Lease of land to Tree Growers' Cooperative Society (TGCS) sponsored by FF&AH Dept under SIDA/ NDDDB assisted projects  | No.46758/R<br>dt.9.10.1990/<br>No.33323/R<br>dt.26.06.1992/<br>No.63197/R<br>dt.29.12.1992/<br>No.26633/R<br>dt.14.06.1994 |
| 11 | Temporary lease of land to the beneficiaries for plantation and enjoyment of usufructuary rights   | No.8905/R<br>dt.23.02.1991   |
| 12 | Scheme for management of Gochar lands for fodder plantation under SIDA Assisted projects   | No.42213/R<br>dt.21.09.1991  |
| 13 | Lease of land in favour of Gram Panchayats for plantation under "Utkal Sabuja Gramya Yojana"   | No.1511/R<br>dt.10.01.2003   |
| 14 | Non-forest/ revenue forest lands for Compensatory afforestation in lieu of forest lands diverted for developmental/ industrial/ mining purposes  | Forest Deptt.<br>D.O No.197/<br>CS dt<br>01.11.2000  |

3. Rule 9-A of the OGLS Rules provide that permissive possession of land may be granted for the purpose of plantations subject to such terms and conditions and

on payment of ground rent, cess and such amount of fees as may be decided by the Government by general or special order. Collector, may, by a written order, cancel the permissive possession on violation of any of terms and conditions of the sanction of such possession or can terminate the permissive possession at any time if the land is required for the purpose of settlement for any purpose under these rules without payment of any compensation.

4. This being the position of law, it has come to the notice of Government that plantations are being taken up in vacant Government lands, without assessing the kizam of land, its status as regards its reservation for any developmental activities, etc.

- In many cases, no permission is taken from the Revenue Authorities before taking up plantations.
- It is also learnt that a portion of lands allotted to different organizations like Universities, Technical Institutes have been utilized for plantation purposes, without prior permission of the Lessor.
- Even instances have come to the notice that forest species like teak, sal etc and fruit bearing species like mango are being planted in vacant Government lands.

5. Plantation is a good effort to save the planet. However, the Government wasteland, which can be better utilized and more useful for the purpose other than agriculture, need to be properly managed also. In this Connection, it is relevant to mention that Government land is gradually becoming scarce, when the demand for such land has increased due to rapid industrial and infrastructure developments in the State. Indiscriminate plantations including forest species in available vacant non-forest Government land without permission has further narrowed the option of utilizing the wasteland for developmental, industrial and infrastructural requirements at present, which may be more acute in future.

6. Keeping in view the above facts, it is reiterated that following guidelines shall be followed while allotting revenue wasteland for plantation purposes.