

## **RESERVATION OF A FOREST LAND**

Reservation is a piece of a forest land from which uncontrolled activities is prohibited. These activities include extraction farming, mining and any other human activity which may endanger the life and growth of such a forest.

Reservation includes these major procedures:

Preliminary Procedure

Enquiry

Judgment

Appeal

Final Procedure

Provision affecting grants

### **PRELIMINARY PROCEDURE**

This will include specification of the situation, location and the limit of the land.

The nature of the reserve i.e. will it be a state, local government or communal forest reserve.

Appointment of Reserve Settlement Officer (R.S.O.) whose functions will be the information of local communities of the intention of the government to reserve the land. It is also the function of the R.S.O. to propose the purpose for which the land is reserved. It is also the duty of the R.S.O. to show that the proposed reserve is published in the government gazette the finally his duty is to translate the contents of the gazette into the local language.

### **ENQUIRY**

It is at this stage that the R.S.O. would ascertain the ownership and claims to any other items on the land. It is also at this stage the R.S.O. will give an ultimatum as to the claims of ownership of land or any other ownership. This ultimatum is usually published along with the gazette.

### **JUDGEMENT**

Because of the various claims and interests, the R.S.O. has some posts vested on him so that in this case he can deliver judgement with guidance by experts from land dept. and somebody from the area who is knowledgeable about the historical background of the area. When a judgement has been delivered as to the claims or interests of the land. A dissatisfied party has a right to appeal to Chief Magistrate. And if the Chief Magistrate has declared and yet dissatisfied he can still appeal to the high court. The decision or proclamation by the high court or Chief Judge is the final. After proclamation by the high court, the governor then assents.

It is after the assent that the final stage will be taken. The final procedure will include settlement of compensation problems. After paying compensation, we now have the

statement of provision which effects rights and privileges of a community. The right in this case will include possibility of fetching fuel wood, provision of entry etc.

In the reservation of a forest land the government does so by the power conferred on it by the Forest Ordinance of 1916 which empowers the governor through the C.C.F. or its agents to reserve compulsorily forest lands the destruction of which will have serious repercussion on the society.

It is worthy of note that in the old days, land was acquired by government and compensation was paid but after the Land Use Edict, 1978 compensation is only paid for landed properties, tree crops but not for land acquired.

## **FOREST ADMINISTRATION**

The staff of any government civil service usually falls to three main categories.

Professionals

Technical

Non Technical

Professionals is composed of university graduates who are designated Forest officers or Assistant Conservator of forests. The forestry service is controlled by the C.C.F. and is responsible to the Commissioner of the Ministry. A deputy C.C.F. assists him. The assistance create room for any of the two to leave the headquarter for a period long enough for visits to outstations. The 2 officers deal with matters of personnel or administration .

A.C.C.F. or the P.F.O. is in charge of conservancies (commission control) working cycles or divisions into which their territory is divided. He also carries out administration and personnel management job. The S.A.C.F. and A.C.F. are district officers who are ultimately connected with forests practice in a variety of ways or fields. Their work will largely be in the forest.

The technical division consists of the forest superintendents, forest assistants, silvicultural assistants.

The F.Ss should be able to supervise demarcate on work, survey and carry out enumeration surveys and rotate silvicultural operation. He should be able to handle other forestry work given him.

The non technical consists of the forest guards and rangers who are normally in charge of beats which can be 2 or more forest reserves. His duties consist of policing his bits and ensuring proper maintenance of boundaries. He may do the work himself or by labourers. He will be read to undertake visits to right given by owner to do and to take measurements of felled trees and logs.

He is also expected to have a good knowledge of the vernacular names of the local trees.

Commissioner

Permanent Secretary

D. F.

D.D.F

A.D.F.

