



GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Agriculture Department-Establishment-Disciplinary action initiated against Smt. Mini Joseph, Agricultural Officer -Finalized -Orders issued.

AGRICULTURE (ESTT.A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Rt) No.2293/14/AD

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 29.12.2014

Read:-

- 1) Letter No.E8(SC 43/2012/TSR)24030/2012 dated 16.10.2012 of the Director, Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau
- 2) Government letter No.5804/D3/2013/Vig dated 03.07.2013
- 3) Memo of Charges No.25097/EA3/13 dated 01.02.2014.
- 4) Defence statement dated 15.03.2014 submitted by Smt. Mini Joseph, Agricultural Officer
- 5) Letter No.SVC(5)53440/13 dated 08.08.2014 of Director of Agriculture, Thiruvananthapuram.

ORDER

As per the letter read as second paper above, the Vigilance Department in Government has forwarded the report of surprise check conducted at various Grama Panchayaths in Thrissur District by Vigilance and Anti Corruption Bureau as part of a state wide operation to detect the irregularities if any in the issuance of building permit, sand pass and illegal building permit used for construction in paddy land and connected irregularities. In the Surprise Check conducted on 08.06.2012 at Cherpu Grama Panachayath, the Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau has detected the following irregularities:

- i. Building Permit register is maintained without entering pertinent data whereby making it unuseful.
- ii. The Personnel Register of A2 clerk and A1 clerk are improperly kept.
- iii. Applications for 4 Building Permit, 30 for assigning Building Numbers and 6 for ownership change are pending and files are not properly kept at the office.
- iv. A1 clerk has not prepared and kept Trader's list, which is to be maintained in the office to find out the defaulters of license fee and unauthorised traders.
- v. 9 persons were granted building permit to construct houses in the paddy fields without complying the directions in the Government Circular No.4545/RA-1/11/LSGD dated 22.01.2011 such as preparation of mahazar, taking photos etc.

vi. 3 persons were denied Building Permit without complying the procedures in the above circular.

vii. Panchayath Secretary, Agricultural Officer, Village Officer Urakam -Cherpu, Chevoor and Assistant Engineer have failed to convene the paddy committee meeting once in a month, though there were applicants and hence violated the direction in the order.

The Vigilance Department has recommended to initiate disciplinary action against Smt. Mini Joseph, Agricultural Officer. In consonance with the said recommendation Memo of Charges and Statement of Allegations was served on her as per reference read as 3rd paper above. Smt. Mini Joseph, Agricultural Officer has submitted her defence statement as per reference read as 4th paper above and Director of Agriculture has furnished his remarks on the defence statement as per letter read as 5th paper above.

Government have examined the case with reference to the records available and the defence statement submitted by the accused officer. The permit to construct houses in reclaimed paddy field has to be issued based on the instructions in Circular No.4545/RA1/08/LSGD dated 22.01.2011. A committee with the Secretary, Grama Panchayath as Convenor and the Agricultural Officer, Village Officer, Assistant Engineer and Town Planning Officer concerned as members has been authorized to issue Building permit. The Committee has to visit the plot, prepare Mahazor and then decide whether permission can be issued or not and all these details has to be entered in the Minutes Book. The Vigilance team found that no such procedure was actually followed in the case of building permits issued in respect of reclaimed paddy and in Cherpu Gramapanchayath.

Smt. Mini Joseph, Agricultural Officer in her defence statement had raised the contention that all the activities related to the issue of Building Permit was done by the convenor and she was denied her opportunity to record her objection. If this was the case as a responsible officer, she ought to have reported this matter to her higher authorities and should have taken effective steps to prevent this irregularity. But no such action was taken by her. This was a serious lapse on her part. However, there is no finding that this procedural lapse was a deliberate attempt to help any illegal activity.

In the circumstances, disciplinary action initiated against Smt. Mini Joseph, Agricultural Officer is finalized by censuring her for the lapses on her part as a member of the Scrutiny Committee for issuing Building Permits in Cherpu Grama Panchayath.

(By Order of the Governor)

K.S. Anil Kumar

Additional Secretary to Government

To

The Director of Agriculture, Thiruvananthapuram

The Director, Vigilance & Anti Corruption Bureau

Smt. Smt. Mini Joseph, Agricultural Officer (through Director of Agriculture,
Thiruvananthapuram)

The Accountant General (A&E/Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

Vigilance (B) Department

Forwarded/By order

The Stock file/Office Copy

Section Officer

