

**IN THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI
ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 129 OF 2024**

IN THE MATTER OF:

IN RE: NEWS ITEM APPEARING IN DECCAN HERALD DATED 05.01.2024 TITLED "FOREST LAND FIVE TIMES DELHI'S GEOGRAPHICAL AREA UNDER ENCROACHMENT, GOVT DATA SHOWS"

STATUS REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF MANIPUR

FILED ON: 18.04.2024

NEW DELHI

FILED BY:



(PUKHRAMBAM RAMESH KUMAR)

ADVOCATE FOR THE STATE OF MANIPUR

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ADVOCATE FOR THE STATE OF MANIPUR

Factual status and Action taken report on the encroachment in the forest lands in the State of Manipur

1. The total forest area of the State is 17,418 Sq. Km, out of which areas under Reserved Forest and Protected Forest are 984 Sq.Km and 4,171 Sq. Km constituting about 4.4% and 18.6% of the geographical area of the State respectively. The remaining 12,263 Sq. Km is classified as Unclassed Forests which constitute about 54.9% of the geographical area of the State.
2. Forest Department, Manipur has reported to MOEF & CC, Government of India vide letter No.8/75/2025/Forests dated 20.06.2019 that the total number of encroachers in the Reserved Forests and Protected Forests of the State as 5,596 occupying an area of 2213.82 Hectare (22.1382 Sq.Km), which is about 0.43% of the total area of the Reserved Forests and Protected Forests of the State.

A copy of the letter No.8/75/2025/Forests dated 20.06.2019 is appended as Annexure A/1.

3. The Department has been taking actions to check and evict encroachers from the Reserved Forests and Protected Forests. Eviction of encroachers from RFs and PFs is a continuous process. From 24 October 2015 to 18 April 2023, the Department has evicted 413 encroachers and recovered an area of 75.59 hectare of Reserved Forest and Protected Forest lands from encroachment.

Details of the encroachers evicted from the Reserved Forests and Protected Forests during the period is appended as Annexure-A/2.

4. Overlapping of records of revenue surveyed land falling within the forest areas, issuing of Patta/Jamabandi inside the forest land, recognition of village inside the forest lands, non-completion of settlement of rights under FRA, 2006, pending litigations in different courts etc are major impediments in the eviction drives taken up by the Department.
5. To settle the issue of overlapping records of lands by the Revenue Department and Forest Department, which is one of the major causes hindering eviction of encroachers

from the Reserved Forest and Protected Forest, the State Government constituted a State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Manipur on 30.04.2020 with senior officers of the Revenue and Forest Department as members to look into the matters about overlapping of records on surveyed revenue villages and forest areas and to cause survey of these areas by using modern equipment and GIS technologies and to subsequently prepare digital maps.

Orders No.21/176/2017-R (Pt) dt. 30.04.2020 of the constitution of the Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Manipur is appended as Annexure-A/3.

6. Joint Teams of the Deputy Commissioners and Divisional Forest Officers of each District and Forest Division initiated the survey work in a time-bound manner. By the end of March, 2023, joint surveys of 9 (nine) Reserved Forests and 3 (three) Protected Forests have been completed, maps prepared and signed by the concerned Deputy Commissioners and Divisional Forest Officers. Corresponding digital maps have also been prepared by using modern GIS applications. These maps have been re-verified and accorded necessary approval by the State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur. However, the joint survey works could not be continued since the violence broke out in the State on 3rd May, 2023.
7. Along with the joint survey, the Forest Department also initiated an exercise for updating the number of encroachers in all the Reserved Forests and Protected Forests. However, the exercise has also been suspended due to the ongoing violence in the State. The exercise shall be resumed once the situation permits.
8. The Forest Department, Manipur has been taking all possible actions for the eviction of illegal encroachers from the Reserved Forest and Protected Forest of the State. Joint survey of the remaining Reserved Forests and Protected Forests and follow-up action for eviction of encroachers shall be resumed as soon as the normalcy is restored in the State.

Government of Manipur
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
Forest Department: Manipur

ANNEXURE A/1

Ref.No.8/75/2015/Forests/463

Imphal, the 20th June, 2019

To,

S. Elamurugannan
Assistant Inspector General of Forest (FPD)
Email:-fpdmoef@gmail.com
Telefax:011-24695459

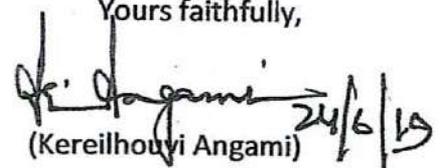
Subject:- Information regarding Forest Protection.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.17-1/2015-FPD, Dated 20th August, 2018 regarding submission of information relating to illegal felling of trees, encroachment, forest fire and staff position, please find enclosed herewith the required information pertaining to forest Department Manipur (Annexure-I to IV).

Enclosed: As above

Yours faithfully,


(Kereilhouyi Angami) 24/6/19

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF
Government of Manipur

Annexure-I

Table 1 : Details of Illegal Felling of Trees (2018-19)

| Sl. No. | Name of District | No. of Cases detected | Details of Trees | | No. of cases disposed of | No. of cases pending in court |
|---------|------------------|--|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | No. of trees | Volume in Cubic metre | | |
| 1 | Manipur State | During the year 2018-19, no case of illegal felling was reported. However, a total of 996.755 cum of timber was seized during the year and was disposed of through public auction. | | | | |

Annexure-II

Table No.2 : Details of Encroachment on Forest Land

| Sl. No. | Name of District | No. of Cases detected | Total Area under encroachment (in ha) | No. of cases disposed of | Total area restored from encroachment | Balance Area under encroachment (in ha) |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Bishnupur | 49 | 23.21 | 164 | 164 number of encroachers evicted | |
| 2 | Senapati | 682 | 344.00 | | | |
| 3 | Kangpokpi | 859 | 729.87 | | | |
| 4 | Tamenglong | 63 | 50.00 | | | |
| 5 | Noney | | | | | |
| 6 | Churachandpur | 1126 | 83.39 | | | |
| 7 | Pherzawl | | | | | |
| 8 | Thoubal | | | | | 827 |
| 9 | Imphal East | 1310 | 246.09 | | | |
| 10 | Imphal West | | | | | |
| 11 | Tengnoupal | | | | | 467 |
| 12 | Chandel | 213 | 491.00 | | | |
| 13 | Jiribam | | | | | |
| Total: | | 5596 | 2213.82 | | | |

Eviction process is in progress. Show Cause notice issued to many encroachers. Till date 164 encroachers evicted from Forest Land of the State (79 from Chingkheiching RF & Nongmaichhing RF, 32 from Langol RF & 53 from Heingang RF). However, the eviction process could not be effected in totality and is hampered by Courts' Intervention, delay in processing due to Forest Rights Act, shortage of staffs, etc.

Dr. Jyoti
24/6/19

Details of encroachers evicted from Reserved Forests & Protected Forests in Manipur from 24.10.2015 to 18.04.2023

| SI No | Name of RF/PF | Location | District | Division | No. of Encroachers evicted | Area evicted (Ha) | Date of eviction |
|-------|---------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Heingang RF | Along the foothill of Heingang RF | Imphal East | Central | 64 | 0.41 | 24.10.2015 |
| 2 | Langol RF | Lamlongei | Imphal West | Central | 32 | 1.34 | 03.08.2016 |
| 3 | Langol RF | Iroishemba | Imphal West | Central | 26 | 0.26 | 10.08.2016 |
| 4 | Nongmaiching RF | Awaching/Kobithabi | Imphal East | Central | 74 | 4.21 | 02.07.2018 |
| 5 | Chingkheiching RF | Chingkheiching (Panthou area) | Imphal East | Central | 5 | 0.25 | 03.07.2018 |
| 6 | Langol RF | Tarung area | Imphal West | Central | 18 | 0.09 | 09.07.2019 |
| 7 | Langol RF | Lamlongei | Imphal West | Central | 3 | 0.61 | 24.04.2020 |
| 8 | Langol RF | Warok (1 No.) & Punshileikai (1 No.) | Imphal West | Central | 2 | 0.06 | Oct-20 |
| 9 | Khamenlok-Gwaltabi RF | Khamenlok-Gwaltabi RF | Kangpokpi | Central | 16 | 9.70 | 21.11.2022 |
| 10 | Langol RF | Langol Aying Leikai | Imphal West | Central | 1 | 0.01 | 31.05.2022 |
| 11 | Heingang RF | Near Pony Farm | Imphal East | Central | 1 | 1.06 | 01.09.2022 |
| 12 | Langol RF | Yumjaomanbi (2 Nos), Leimakhullen (1 No.) & Guigailong (1 No.) | Imphal West | Central | 4 | 0.06 | 09.09.2022 |
| 13 | Waithou PF | Usoipokpi to Waithou Bazar | Thoubal | Thoubal | 69 | 3.20 | 12.06.2022 |
| 14 | Langol RF | ICAR Research Area | Imphal West | Central | 1 | 0.01 | 25.09.2022 |
| 15 | Kanglatongbi-Kangpokpi RF | Kanglatongbi-Kangpokpi RF (Unoccupied huts) | Kangpokpi | Kangpokpi | 21 | 22.00 | Aug-Nov,22 |
| 16 | Kangchup-Chiru RF | Kangchup-Chiru RF | Kangpokpi | Kangpokpi | 3 | 0.40 | 06.12.2022 |
| 17 | Langol RF | Iroishemba | Imphal West | Central | 2 | 0.02 | 13.02.2023 |
| 18 | Churachandpur-Khoupum PF | K. Songjang | Noney | Noney | 15 | 3.69 | 20.02.2023 |
| 19 | Nongmaiching RF | Esing chaibi area | Imphal East | Central | 21 | 25.60 | 22.02.2023 |
| 20 | Langol RF | Lamlongei | Imphal West | Central | 1 | 0.20 | 28.03.2023 |
| 21 | Nongmaiching RF | Kobithabi area | Imphal East | Central | 3 | 0.18 | 05.04.2023 |
| 22 | Langol RF | Lamlongei | Imphal West | Central | 29 | 1.58 | 11.04.2023 |
| 23 | Langol RF | Khonghampat | Imphal West | Central | 1 | 0.64 | 14.04.2023 |
| 24 | Langol RF | Leimakhullen | Imphal West | Central | 1 | 0.01 | 18.04.2023 |

TOTAL

413

75.59

Government of Manipur
Secretariat: Revenue department

ANNEXURE A/3

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR
Imphal, Dated 30th April, 2020

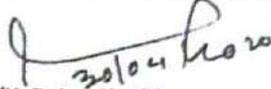
No.21/176/2017-R(Pt): As per the decision taken in the meeting chaired by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur on 27th April, 2020, the Governor of Manipur is pleased to constitute the following Committee to address the pending issues of surveyed land falling within the Forest Reserve Areas in Manipur:-

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Chief Secretary, Manipur | - Chairman |
| 2. Addl Chief Secretary (Forest Department) | - Member |
| 3. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests | - Member |
| 4. Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests | - Member Secretary (Convenor) |
| 5. Commissioner(Revenue Department) | - Member |
| 6. Shri Lenin Hijam (Additional Advocate General) | - Member |
| 7. Director (Tribal Development) | - Member |
| 8. Deputy Commissioner (IE/IW/Bpr/Kak/Tbl) | - Member |
| 9. District Forest Officer (IE/IW/Bpr/Kak/Tbl) | - Member |
| 10. Director, Settlement and Land Records | - Member |
| 11. Director, Environment | - Member |

The terms of reference of the Committee shall be as follows:-

- The Committee shall examine the overlapping areas between the surveyed revenue villages and the Forest areas.
- The Committee shall recommend measures for resolving the overlapping areas within one month from the date of this order.

By Orders and in the name of the Governor,


(Y. Rajen Singh)

Joint Secretary (Revenue Department)
Government of Manipur

Copy to:

- The Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Manipur
- P.S. to the Hon'ble Minister (Revenue Department)
- Staff Officer to Chief Secretary, Government of Manipur
- All members
- Office file.