

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
FOREST, ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
CIVIL SECRETARIAT, JAMMU**

Subject : Public Interest Litigation (PIL) No. 25/2017 CM No. 1456/020 IA Nos. 1/2017 and 2/2017 titled SAVE (Save Animal Value Environment) Vs Union Territory of J&K & ors (regarding encroachment of forest land)- Suspension of Sh. Alok Kumar Maurya, IFS DFO Jammu Forest Division regarding.

**Government Order No. : 59 - JK (FST) OF 2021
D a t e d : 19.05.2021**

Whereas, a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) No. 25/2017 titled SAVE (Save Animal Value Environment) Vs State of J&K & Ors is pending before the Hon'ble High Court of J&K and during the course of hearings in the PIL multiple orders have been issued regarding encroachment on Forest Lands, wherein, inter-alia, the Forest Department was directed to submit details of the persons in unauthorized occupation of Forest Lands, put up the details of Forest Lands encroached on the website of Forest Department and to take steps to evict the encroachers from the land;

Whereas, in the order dated 07.10.2020, the Hon'ble High Court was also pleased to direct that - *"Let the respondents also file a report before us giving the action taken to retrieve the land from the 50 largest encroachers (in terms of size of the land encroached) before the next date of hearing."*

Whereas, the status of retrieval of encroached Forest Land was reviewed by authorities on 30th April, 2021 and it was observed that in Jammu Forest Division no tangible action has been taken to effectively demonstrate the compliance of the directions of Hon'ble High Court, as regards the eviction and retrieval of the encroached Forest Lands;

Whereas, Sh. Alok Kumar Maurya, IFS, DFO Jammu Forest Division has failed to comply with the directions of Hon'ble High Court in retrieving and securing the encroached Forest Lands. Evidently, his inaction has further delayed evictions and retrieval of the encroached lands. Infact, he has faltered in performing his legitimate duties, as Divisional Forest Officer, for retrieving and safeguarding the encroached Forest Lands, including retrieval and restoration of the Forest Lands from the clutches of the identified largest encroachers;

Now, therefore, pending enquiry into the matter, Sh. Alok Kumar Maurya, IFS, (JK:2015), DFO Jammu Forest Division is hereby placed under suspension for dereliction of duties and for his abject failure to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble High Court. The suspension shall be with immediate effect

During the period of his suspension, Sh. Alok Kumar Maurya, IFS (JK:2015) shall remain attached with the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, J&K.

By order of the Lieutenant Governor.

**Sd/-
(Sanjeev Verma) IAS
Commissioner/ Secretary to the Government**

Dated: 19.05.2021

No: FST/SST/Misc/2021

Copy to the: -

1. Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, New Delhi.

2. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K
3. Joint Secretary (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, J&K. He will give charge of the post of DFO, Forest Division Jammu to a suitable officer, till regular incumbent is posted.
5. Director, Information, J&K.
6. Concerned Officer.
7. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K.
8. Private Secretary to Commissioner/Secretary to Government, General Administration Department.
9. Private Secretary to Commissioner / Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology and Environment Department.
10. I/c Website
11. Government order file (w.3.s.c).


(Vivek Phonsa) KAS
Deputy Secretary to Government