

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department
Civil Secretariat, Jammu/Srinagar

Subject: - Initiation of Departmental Action against Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Akhooon, the then Range Officer

Government Order No:- 89 - JK(FST) of 2022
Dated: - 20.06.2022

Whereas, General Administration Department vide No. GAD(Vig)22-RDA/2018 dated 12.04.2018 forwarded recommendations of Vigilance Organization (now ACB) for initiation of RDA against Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Akhooon on account alleged misappropriation of an amount of Rs. 69798 shown incurred as expenditure against cost of 3800 Rfts and barbed wire, besides an amount of Rs. 47575 shown incurred as fixation of 865 number of fencing posts in compartment No. 31/S, aggregating alleged misappropriation of Rs. (69798+47575)=Rs. 1,17,373 in the Shri Partap Singh Pora, Forest Division Tangmarg;

Whereas, sequel to this Regular Departmental Action (RDA) was initiated and vide Government Order No. 335-FST of 2018 dated 17.10.2018, Mr. Suresh Kumar Gupta, IFS, Director, Social Forestry was appointed as Inquiry Officer to enquire into the allegations leveled against the officer by misusing his official position;

Whereas, the Inquiry officer submitted his enquiry report on 12.11.2020; mentioning therein that the fencing was done in two parts, remnants of which can be seen on ground. The damage to the fencing can be ascribed to lack of watch and ward and proper management by the successor and thus concluded that the allegations as mentioned in the charge sheet against the officer is not proved;

Whereas, the inquiry report was examined and case was referred to the PCCF/HoFF, J&K for identifying actual persons involved in the loss. The Conservator of Forests (Vigilance), J&K vide letter No CF/Vig/Complaint/1520-21 dated 30.11.2021 stated that the matter has been inquired twice, conducted by Additional Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests and another conducted by Deputy Director, Forest Protection Force, and concluded that there is no bias and enquirers were conducted in a professional and independent manner by both the officer and concluded as under:-

1. The allegation against Sh Zahoor Ahmad Akhooon, the then Range Officer is not proved.
2. The dereliction of duty or mismanagement on part of the care taking staff has not been proved at any stage of enquiry.
3. The plantation unit established in the year 2010-11 and 2011-12 was properly safeguarded and managed by the executive agencies till 05/2011. However, due to nature calamities viz. unprecedented rains, wind storm, massive land sliding and heavy snowfall happened in June and February 2013. The well established planting unit got severely damaged.
4. The perusal of the Inquiry Report substantiated that officer in question is not guilty and accordingly, the matter was referred to the General Administration Department for its

placement before the competent authority for acceptance of the Enquiry Report submitted by the Inquiry Officer and exoneration of officer of the charges leveled against him.

Whereas. the General Administration Department vide U.O No. GAD-VIGORDA/20/2022-02 dated 16.06.2022 conveyed as under:-

Returned. The Enquiry Report has been examined in General Administration Department (Vig) and after examination the same was placed before the Chief Secretary. The Chief Secretary has accepted the recommendations of the Inquiry Officer viz-a-viz exoneration of Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Akhoon, then Range Officer, Shri Pratap Singhpora, Tangmarg, of the charges leveled against him by the Anti Corruption Bureau, J&K vide communication No. VO-FST-NG-64/2012-3612-13 dated 05.03.20218.

Now, therefore, in light of the circumstances referred heretofore coupled with the approval of the Competent Authority, the recommendations of inquiry officer are hereby accepted and Regular Departmental Action (RDA) initiated is closed and Mr. Zahoor Ahmad Akhoon, then Range Officer, Shri Pratap Singhpora, Tangmarg, is exonerated of the charges leveled against him.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sd/-

(Sanjeev Verma)IAS

Commissioner/Secretary to Government
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department

No. FST-RDA/17/2021-02

Dated: - 20 .06.2022

Copy to the:-

1. Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K.
2. Principal Secretary to the Government, General Administration Department.
3. Joint Secretary, (J&K), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
4. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K.
5. Director, Anti Corruption Bureau, J&K.
6. Director, Archives, Archeology and Museums, J&K.
7. Pvt. Secretary to Chief Secretary, J&K.
8. Concerned Officer.
9. PS to Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Forest, Ecology & Env. Department, J&K.
10. Government Order file (w.2.s.c.) /Stock file/ In charge Website

(Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi)

Under Secretary to Government
Forest, Ecology & Environment Department