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**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL FORESTRY**

*Sub:- Disciplinary action in the case of Shortfall in plantation works in
Lamberi Range of Social Forestry Division, Rajouri-reg.*

S.F Order No: 14 of 2023

Dated: 17 -04-2023

Whereas, a complaint in the form of video clip was received on WhatsApp from PCCF (HoFF), J&K Forest Department regarding execution of sub-standard fencing work in plantation closure at DharpurMakol in Lamberi Range of Social Forestry Division, Rajouri;

Whereas, it was alleged in the complaint that the DFO, S.F. Division, Rajouri has released payment to the contractor without verification of the quality of works viz-a-viz specifications mentioned in the work order and the execution of sub-standard work has resulted in wastage of public money;

Whereas, an enquiry committee was constituted by this office vide No. DIR/DSF/M&E/1812-20 dated: - 03.11.2022 headed by Shri Alok Kumar Maurya, IFS with officers of Forest (T) and Forest Protection Force as other members for verification of works executed in Lamberi Range of Social Forestry Division, Rajouri to ascertain factual position;

Whereas, the enquiry committee furnished its report on 30-11-2022 and during the physical verification by the committee they found various shortcomings / deficiencies in the works executed and despite these deficiencies full payments were released to the contractor by DDO (DFO, S,F, Rajouri).

Whereas, based on the findings of the Enquiry report, Shri Mohinder Kr Gupta Regional Director SFD Jammu was appointed vide No. DIR/DSF/Estt/888-89 dated: - 05.12.2022 to initiate the disciplinary

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proceedings as per provisions of J&K CSR , against the erring officers/officials in view of the lapses /dereliction of duty brought out in the enquiry report.

Whereas, based on the findings of enquiry report , the following non-gazetted officials entrusted with the responsibility were placed under suspension:

Shri Mohd Shafiq, I/C S.F. Range, Lamberi

Shri Parveen Dutta, I/C S.F. Block Sunderbani

Shri Rakesh Kumar, I/C S.F. Block Kalakote/Nowshera.

and Shri Rakesh Kumar Saraf DFO SFD Rajouri was attached with PCCF's Office vide Govt order No 183 JK(FST) of 2022 dated: 18.11.2022.

Whereas, after detailed enquiry and examining the shortfalls detected by the Enquiry Committee, the Regional Director furnished his report vide No. 35/RD/SFJ dated:- 03.04.2023 wherein it has been mentioned that the following officers/officials who were associated with execution/supervision and release of payments in the instant case have been charge sheeted as per procedure, for dereliction of duty which resulted in substandard works by the contractor and payments from govt exchequer were released without ascertaining quality/quantity of works .The shortcomings./ deficiencies in the works vis-à-vis the bills raised and expenditure booked, have been valued to the tune of Rs. 7,13,061/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Thirteen Thousand & Sixty One only).

Whereas, the Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry in his report also mentions that due opportunities were given to each one of the above-mentioned officials to explain, if they have anything to say on the charges framed against them regarding dereliction of duty resulting in execution of sub-standard afforestation works and booking of expenditure against such works , thus leading to wasteful expenditure which is a serious misconduct.

Whereas, the Regional Director, Jammu in his report communicated that based on the proceedings, replies received from delinquents and scrutiny of records, it is established beyond doubt that the erring officials have exhibited sheer negligence of duty and complete disregard to Govt. directions/guidelines. The afforestation works were carried out in the month of July/ August, 2022 & payments (100%) were released to the contractor in August/September, 2022 without exercising due supervision/monitoring of works. Before release of final payments, they failed to ascertain the qualitative and quantitative specifications of works which is a serious violation of the standing directions/financial guidelines of the Govt. So much so, even after release of

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final payments to contractors, they did not bother to inspect the works on site to ascertain their quality and quantity, as a result many short comings / deficiencies were detected during enquiry. The dereliction of duty and complete noncompliance of the Govt directions/guidelines regarding execution of public works and booking of expenditure has resulted in execution of substandard works and release of payments against such substandard works to the 3rd party, the report mentions;

Whereas, the erring officials were given another opportunity by the PCCF/Director (Appointing Authority) in terms of Article 34 of J&K CCA vide No. DIR/DSF/Estt/26, 27 and 28 dated: 06-04-2023 to explain their inaction. Their replies were examined and found unsatisfactory and devoid of merit. The charges mentioned in the report thus have been found established beyond doubt.

Now, in view of above and as recommended by the Regional Director, it is hereby ordered that an amount as shown against each shall be deducted from salary/pension of the officials :

Sr. No.	Name of the officer/official S/Shri	Amount to be recovered	Mode of recovery
1	Mohd Shafiq, Forester (the then I/C S.F. Range, Lamberi)	Rs. 2, 37, 688/-	In 24 Installments viz. Rs. 10000/- per month for 23 months and remaining Rs. 7688/- in 24 th installment.
2	Parveen Dutta, SFW (the then I/C S.F. Block, Sunderbani) now retired.	Rs. 1,31,041/-	One time from Gratuity
3	Rakesh Kumar, SFW (the then I/C S.F. Block, Kalakote/Nowshera)	Rs. 1,06,647/-	In 24 Installments viz. Rs. 4500/- per month for 23 months and remaining Rs. 3147/- in 24 th installment.

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The concerned DDOs shall effect the recoveries and ensure that necessary entries are recorded in their Service Books/pensionary records. A close watch shall be kept on the work and conduct of above officials in future.

The Regional Director, Department of Social Forestry shall propose other disciplinary actions, if required, against these officials under rules & also ensure processing of suspension cases for review as per rules.


Roshan Jaggi, IFS,

PCCF/Director,

 Department of Social Forestry, J&K 

No: DIR/DSF/Estt./86-90

Dated: 17-04-2023

Copy to the: -

01. Principal Secretary to the Government Forest Ecology & Environment Department Civil Secretariat, J&K for favour of information. The report pertaining to Shri Rakesh Kumar Sharaf then DFO, SF Division, Rajouri shall be submitted separately.
02. Regional Director Department of Social Forestry Jammu.
03. Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division Rajouri for immediate necessary action. He may serve this order to concerned officials and ensure that recoveries are effected from the monthly salaries/pension as the case may be & entries made in the service books of serving officials.
04. I/c Website, Directorate of Social Forestry Department.
05. S.F. Order File.