

ABSTRACT

Development of Hill Areas - Constitution of Hill Areas Conservation Authority in Tamil Nadu - Orders - Issued.

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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (TC II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.44

Dated: 2.4.1990

Read:

1. From the Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board D.O.lr.No.CH/IA/37, dated 23.4.87.
2. Proceedings of the meeting held on 15.3.88 in the Chambers of Chief Secretary to Govt. (communicated by Environment control dept in lr.No.295/B2/7-12, dt. 23.3.88).
3. From the Director of Town & Country Planning D.O.lr.No.42094/TC/RI, dated 6.12.88.

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ORDER

The present status of the Hill areas of Tamil Nadu are fast reaching a point of no-return. There has undoubtedly been an alarming decline in the eco-system of the Western Ghats even within living memory. This is because all economic activities, ultimately, entail increased extraction of environmental resources and always have an impact in modifying them. Majority of development activities are carried out only with general social benefits in mind involving a large number of agencies - public and private. Therefore, when the development takes place in ecologically fragile area like hills, the interaction leads to serious stress when the environment is loaded beyond its safe use capacity.

2. Often, the economic decisions are not guided by the social costs on the infrastructure and hill ecology. The entirely desirable goals of vegetable cultivation, livestock breeding, dairy development, repatriate rehabilitation, communication improvements, tourism promotion etc. have all led to overall severe deterioration in our hill environment. This is because of the fact that the hill areas require a policy different from that of the plains which has not been fully recognised. The construction of an overall development philosophy for the hill areas is a specialis



task to be done by agencies specifically committed for the task. Such an effort calls for a multi-disciplinary approach which will encompass the activities of different government departments - Central and State Governments, non-governmental agencies, Institutions or private individuals and a comprehensive programme for implementation.

3. Considering these, it has been decided to create a body, that will develop the hills into an ecologically acceptable and environmentally desirable area of India Land Mass. Therefore the Director of Town and Country Planning has sent a proposal for setting up a "Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Development Authority" under the provisions of section 10 of the "Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning act, 1971".

4. The Government, after careful consideration, have decided that an ad-hoc Authority should be set up now and the same be given a statutory basis in due course. The Government accordingly direct that an authority to be called "The Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority" be constituted with immediate effect:

5. Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority shall consist of the following members.

1. Chairman : A very senior Officer of the IAS to be appointed by the Government (part-time)
2. Member Secretary : Senior I.A.S., Officer to be appointed by the Government.
3. Ex-officio Member. : Secretary, Planning and Development Department.
4. -do- : Secretary, Finance Department.
5. -do- : Secretary, Environment & Forest Dept
6. -do- : Secretary, Agriculture Dept.
7. -do- : Secretary, Animal Husbandry Dept.
8. -do- : Secretary, Public Works Dept.
9. -do- : Secretary, Information & Tourism Dept.
10. -do- : Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Dept.
11. -do- : Secretary, Industries Dept.
12. -do- : Secretary, Rural Development Dept.
13. -do- : Secretary, Municipal Administration and Water Supply Dept.
14. -do- : Chairman, Tamilnadu Water Supply and Drainage Board.



- 15) Ex-officio Member : Chairman, Electricity Board
- 16) -do- : Director of Town & Country Planning
- 17) -do- : Director of Horticulture
- 18) -do- : Collector, The Nilgiris.
- 19) -do- : Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

6. The Government also direct that an Advisory Council consisting of the following members to be constituted for the specific purpose of advising the Hill Areas Conservation Authority.

1. Chief Engineer, Soil conservation
2. Chief Engineer, Highways
3. Chief Engineer, Buildings
4. & 5. Chief Engineer, Irrigation & General
6. Director of Rural Development
7. Director of Animal Husbandry
8. Director of Geology & Mining
9. One sitting Member of the Legislative Assembly representing any one of the constituencies in the Nilgiris District to be nominated for a two year term by the Government.
10. One sitting member of the Legislative Assembly representing any one of the constitutencies in which one or more of the Hill taluks other than Nilgiris, to be nominated for a two year term by the Government.
11. One chair person of any one of the Panchayat Unions or Municipalities in the Nilgiris areas to be nominated for a two year term by the Govt.
12. Chairperson of the Kodaikanal Panchayat Union
13. Four Environmentalists to be nominated for a two year term by the Government and one representing Non-Government.
17. Voluntary Organisations connected with environment and ecology to be nominated for a two year term by the Government.
18. The Authority may co-opt any District Collector having jurisdiction over the Hill taluks or any other official or non-official as Associate Member or Invitee or Special Invitee.

7. The functions of the Authority shall be as indicated in Annexure-II to this order.



8. Orders regarding the appointment of the Part-time Chairman, Member-Secretary and other members of the "Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority" will issue separately. Pending issue of orders, the Joint Secretary to Government, Planning and Development Department in charge of Hill Area Development Programme and Western Ghats Development Programme is designated as the Ex-Officio Officer on Special Duty' and he will form with immediate effect the "Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority" with the staff in the Hill Area Development Programme and Western Ghats Development Programme cells in the Secretariat last continued in G.O.Ms.No.105, P&D (TC I) Department dated 16.6.89 read with G.O.Ms.No.253, P&D (OP) Dept. dated 9.11.89. The above two cells will be subsumed by the Authority and they will be merged to form the Administrative unit for the 'Authority' at State level.

9. The Plan formulation cell (HADP) and the District Planning Cell at Udhagamandalam will be merged together along with the staff last continued in G.O.Ms.No.104, P&D (TC II) Dept, dt. 15.6.89 and G.O.Ms.No.251, P&D (OP.II) Dept., dt. 9.11.89 and the merged unit will be brought under the 'Hill Areas Conservation Authority'. It will be headed by a Project Officer, a senior officer of Indian Administrative Service who will also be the Member-Secretary for the 'Authority'.

10. The 'Authority' shall be funded and financed by the Government. To start with, the Government accord sanction for an initial grant of Rs.2/- lakhs (Rupees two lakhs) only under the Hill Area Development Programme for setting up the 'Authority' immediately. The expenditure should be debitable to "2052.00 Secretariat General Services - 090. Secretariat Schemes in the VIII Five Year Plan-II State Plan-JA. Technical cell for Plan Formation under HADI - 26 Other charges-DPC 2052-00-090-JA-2602. The amount will be adjusted from regular grant after formation of Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority.

11. The Government also direct that all plan funds for the hill areas listed in Annexure-I to this order shall be routed through this 'Authority'. To start with, the Hill Area Development Programme and the Western Ghats Development programme hitherto Administered by the Planning and Development Department shall be administered by the 'Authority'.

12. Sanction is also accorded for the creation of one post of 'Assistant Project Officer' in the scale of pay of Rs.3500-5000 initially for a period of one year from the date of employment or till the need therefor



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ceases whichever is earlier. The incumbents of the posts will be eligible to draw besides their pay and allowances, other usual allowances admissible to Government employees from time to time.

13. Pending extension of the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act 1971, to the hill areas, the Government, direct that all Government and Quasi-government departments shall consult even now the 'Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority' in respect of all development programmes undertaken by them within the hill areas listed in the Annexure-I to this order under the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971. The departments of Secretariat (Except Law Finance and Legislative Assembly departments) are accordingly requested to issue suitable instructions to the Heads of Departments and other autonomous bodies/Corporations under their administrative control to the effect that they should get the prior clearance of the "Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority" in respect of any development programme undertaken by them in the listed hill areas before they approach the Government for administrative and financial sanctions and to draw up their future programmes for development within the listed hill areas in consultation with the "Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority".

14. The Government also direct that all future budget allocations relating to hill areas development including Hill Area Development Programme & Western Ghats Development Programme may be transferred to the 'Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority'. The 'Authority' may also receive funds and subsidies directly from the Government of India and Union Planning Commission particularly the Western Ghats Secretariat.

15. The amount sanctioned in para 10 above shall be drawn and placed at the disposal of the Ex-officio Officer on Special Duty.

16. Necessary provision will be made in RE/FMA 1990-91 by reappropriation from savings within the grant or by providing additional amounts.

17. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its U.O.No.736/FS/P/90 dated 2.2.90.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

M.M. RAJENDRAN  
CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government, Madras-9.  
The Secretary to Government, Planning and Development  
Department, Madras-9.



- The Secretary to Government,  
Finance / Environment & Forests Department, Madras-9.  
The Secretary to Government, Agriculture Dept., Madras-9.  
The Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry Dept., Ms-9.  
The Secretary to Government, Public Works Dept., Madras-9.  
The Secretary to Government, Information & Tourism Dept. Ms-9  
The Secretary to Govt., Housing & Urban Development Dept.  
The Secretary to Govt. Industries Dept. Ms-9. Ms-9.  
The Secretary to Govt., Rural Development Dept., Madras-9.  
The Secretary to Govt., Municipal Administration & Water  
Supply Dept., Madras-9.  
The Chairman, Tamilnadu Water Supply & Drainage Bd, Ms- 5.  
The Chairman, Tamil Nadu Electricity Board, Madras-2.  
The Director of Town & Country Planning, Ms-5.  
The Director of Horticulture, Dharmapuri.  
The Collector of Nilgiris, Uthagarandalam.  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Ms-6.  
The Chief Engineer, Soil Conservation, Nandanam, Ms-35.  
The Chief Engineer, Highways, Madras-5.  
The Chief Engineer, FWD Buildings, Madras-5.  
The Chief Engineer, FWD Irrigation, Madras-5.  
The Chief Engineer, FWD General, Madras-5.  
The Director of Rural Development, Madras-100.  
The Director of Animal Husbandry, Madras-6.  
The Director of Geology & Mining, Guindy, Madras-32.  
The Joint Secretary to Government, Planning and Development  
Department, Madras-9.  
The Accountant General- I & II, Madras-10.  
The Accountant General- I & II, Madras-10(b.n).  
The Planning and Development (OF) Department, Madras-9.  
All Departments of Secretariat, Madras-9.  
The Finance (Pub)/(BG.II) Dept., Madras-9.

SI/So.

/ true copy /

sd/-  
Research officer.

ANNEXURE - I

LIST OF HILL TALUKS COVERED BY THE AUTHORITY.

1. Gudalur
2. Udhagamandalam
3. Coonoor
4. Kotagiri
5. Mettupalayam
6. Coimbatore
7. Udumalpet
8. Pollachi
9. Dharampuram
10. Dindigul
11. Kodaikanal
12. Periakulam
13. Uzilampatti
14. Uthamapalayam
15. Shencottah
16. Tenkasi
17. Ambasamudram
18. Nanguneri
19. Sankarankoil
20. Sivagiri
21. Kalkulam
22. Vilavancode
23. Agastheswaram
24. Thovala
25. Srivilliputhur
26. Rajapalayam
27. Sathur
28. Vellore
29. Polur
30. Tirupathur
31. Chengam.
32. Yercaud
33. Attur
34. Namakkal
35. Kallakurichi
36. Sathyamangalam
37. Bhavani
38. Valparai
39. Avinashi
40. Rasipuram
41. Salem
42. Thuraiyur
43. Palani.



ANNEXURE - II

Functions of the Tamil Nadu Hill Areas Conservation Authority.

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1. Functions listed in Section 12 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971; and
2. (i) To prepare an environmental report of the hill areas and keep it updated every three years.
  - (ii) To undertake continual monitoring of ecological parameters;
  - (iii) To prepare a structural development plan indicating the carrying limits of the hills and propose alternatives to the hill population where reasonable economical development cannot be locally provided without serious over all damage ;
  - (iv) To draw up guidelines for development of hills and compulsorily require prior clearance for any development listed in Annexure-II and ban the activities listed in Annexure-IV altogether
  - (v) To advise government on the policy and strategy for all development activities in the hills;
  - (vi) To issue such directions as necessary to local authorities to enable the compliance and have necessary powers delegated to it under the Municipal and Panchayat Acts; and
  - (vii) To prohibit expenditure by any Government department or undertaking on any plan or scheme not cleared by \* (Plan and non plan) by all departments are only for schemes cleared by it.

\* it in that area and require all budgetary provisions.