GOVERNMENT OF INDIA/BHARAT SARKAR
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS/RAIL MANTRALAYA
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No.94/LM(L)/15/4 New Delhi, dated 14-11-1994.

The General Managers,
All Indian Railways and Production Units.

Sub: Afforestation on Railway land.

In pursuance of the suggestions made by Members of Parliament during discussions in the Meeting of the Consultative Committee of M.P.s, it has been decided that the Railways may observe strictly the following guidelines on afforestation on railway land:-

i) Execution of agreement with Forest Departments

It may be ensured that Agreement incorporating all the provisions of the Standard Agreement circulated by Board vide their letter No.81/W2/15/5 dated 4-4-84 is executed with the concerned Forest Department in all cases of land handed over to them for afforestation. Specific attention is drawn to Clause 7 of the Agreement which envisages that only management of the land is handed over to the Forest Department and the application of the State Forest Act in respect of such lands can only be for the limited purpose of protection of the plantation.

The Railways may also watch the progress of afforestation on railway land handed over to the Forest Departments and ensure that the land is actually utilised for afforestation and does not remain fallow nor is it encroached upon.

No new area of railway land may be handed over to a Forest Department until a proper agreement is executed by that Department for the land already handed over and such land is actually utilised for afforestation.

ii) Plantation of fruit-bearing trees

An apprehension has been expressed that plantation of fruit-bearing trees along railway track may invite stone-throwing by people living in the vicinity, thereby causing injury to railway passengers and damage to railway property. In view of this, it may be ensured that plantation of fruit-bearing trees is restricted to staff colonies and areas away from operational buildings/ structures.

(P.K. Wahi)
Executive Director, Land Management,
Railway Board.

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