

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT: SETTLEMENT BRANCH
ASSAM SECRETARIAT (CIVIL) : DISPUR
GUWAHATI -6

No. RSS.188/2011/PT/29

Dated: Dispur, the 15th June, 2015.

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Protection of government land especially VGRs and PGRs and the land reserved for specific purposes including roadside reserves and riverside reserves is the prime responsibility of the officials of the Revenue & Disaster Management Department. Assam Land Records Manual provides the mechanism to keep the record of government land and encroachment thereon. Rule 18 of the Settlement Rules under Assam Land and Revenue Regulation 1886 provides that encroachment on government land should be removed forthwith and the power to remove encroachment was delegated to Circle Officers vide letter No. RLR 162/2008/25, dtd. 6/2/2010. Para 6.1 of Land Policy, 1989 also underlines the need for protection of VGRs and PGRs. Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgment dtd. 20th January, 2011 in Civil Appeal No.1132/2011, SLP(C) NO.3109 of 2011- (Jagpal Singh & others- Vs-the State of Punjab & others) issued clearcut directions in this regard.

Two important steps to ensure the protection and management of government land that have been taken recently are (i) Preparation of Village Land Banks and (ii) Formation of Village Land Management Conservation Committees in every revenue village. These are meant to bring about transparency and facilitate active engagement of community in the protection and management of government land.

Following instructions are issued to further strengthen the institutional mechanism for the protection and management of government land and ensure effective compliance with Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgment :

- (I) To create a comprehensive database on VGRs and PGRs and the nature of encroachment thereon, GIS mapping of the VGRs and PGRs should be done and integrated with the digitized Village Land Banks.
- (II) It shall be mandatory for Gaon Burhas to report new encroachment on government land within twelve hours of encroachment having taken place.
- (III) It shall be mandatory for Circle Officers to remove new encroachments within twenty four hours of getting the information from Gaon Burhas/ Village Land Management and Conservation Committees.

- (IV) All the encroachments on VGRs and PGRs having taken place after 20th January, 2011 shall be treated as new encroachments.
- (V) It shall be mandatory for the Circle Officers to make the entries of encroachment and removal thereof using Dharitree.
- (VI) The Director of Land Records, Assam shall put in place an on-line, mobile application based reporting system for enabling Gaon Burhas/ VLMCC to upload information on encroachment. A Web enabled monitoring system shall also be put in place for effective review of the status of action taken on reports of encroachment.
- (VII) Deputy Commissioners shall prepare a plan of action for the protection and management of VGRs and PGRs in consultation with other government departments like Panchayat and Rural Development, agriculture, Veterinary & Animal Husbandry, Soil Conservation, Forests etc. The plan of action should include measures for the green fencing of the VGRs and PGRs, using them for agro-forestry and fodder plantations etc.

Director, Land Records, Assam, Deputy Commissioners/ Sub-Divisional Officers(C) and Circle Officers are directed to take necessary action as per the instructions given above and submit the progress report within seven days of every quarter.

Sd/-

Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Revenue & Disaster Management Department

No. RSS.188/2011/PT/29-A

Dated: Dispur, the 15th June, 2015.

Copy to:

1. Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Assam, Revenue & Disaster Management Department
2. Director, Land Records and Surveys, Assam, Guwahati -32
3. Director of Land Acquisition Requisition and Reforms, Assam, Guwahati -32
4. Principal, Assam Survey & Settlement Training Center, Dakhingaon, Guwahati.
5. All Divisional Commissioners
6. All Deputy Commissioners
7. All Sub-Divisional Officers (Civil)
8. All Circle Officers.
9. Settlement Officer, Cachar, Hailakandi, Dhubri, Kokrajhar.

By order etc.

Deputy Secretary to the Government of Assam,
Revenue & Disaster Management Department