Executive Directive No. 2/2020/PHQ

Sub : Police Officers to report to Authorized officers to Biological Diversity Act – Reg.

Ref : Procedure for restricting activities violating the objectives of conservation of biodiversity – Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules 2004

Access to bioresources for commercial utilization by Indian Nationals is regulated under Section 7 and Section 24 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. Prior intimation to State Biodiversity Board in the prescribed Form I is necessary before any person undertakes such activities. The Central Government has notified certain items as Normally Traded Commodities as exempted from the ambit of the Act vide Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change notification S.O.3533 (E) dated 7th November 2017 and S.O. 1352(E) dated 7th April 2016.

02. The Biological Diversity Act also regulates access to bioresources by foreign nationals for research or commercial utilization. As per section 3 of Biological Diversity Act 2002 prior approval of National Biodiversity Authority in the prescribed Form I is necessary before any foreign nationals undertake such activities. The provision of the Biological Diversity Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions in any other law relating to forests or wildlife for the time being in force.

03. The offences under Biological Diversity Act shall be cognizable and non-bailable and punishable under Section 55 and 56 of the Act. The Government of Kerala vide Order G.O.(Rt) No. 19/2019 F&WLD dated 16.01.2019 has designated all Territorial and Wildlife Range Forest Officers in the State as authorized officers to enforce the regulatory provisions of the Act.
04. It is hereby directed that in the event any police officer in the State of Kerala has reasonable grounds to believe that any person or agency has committed an offence under the above said provisions or committed any act without the prior approval of Kerala State Biodiversity Board or National Biodiversity Authority as the case may be, shall verify the facts by a spot inspection and immediately inform the concerned Forest Officers to take necessary action. The Police Officers shall observe the prescribed procedures under CrPC before entering/searching any premises/vehicle/individual.

Loknath Behera IPS
State Police Chief

To : All officers in List B
Copy To : Copy to: CAs to all Officers in PHQ/DD, PR for information & n/a ED Register
Kerala Police Website