ABSTRACT

Forest - Gulf of Manner Biosphere Reserve Trust (GOMBRT) – Continuance of the GOMBRT activities for a further period of 5 years from 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 – Administrative sanction and sanction of funds for the year 2017-2018 – Orders – Issued.

Environment & Forests (FR9) Department

G.O.(Ms) No: 152

Dated: 07.12.2017

Read:


ORDER:

In the Government Order first read above, a sum of Rs.1.00 lakh was sanctioned towards the corpus fund for formation of a Trust to be designated as “The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust” for implementing the assistance of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) of about 7.8 million United States Dollars to save the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve. In the Government Order second read above/orders were issued for constituting the Board of Trustees for Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to Government. In the Government Order third read above, the Government had extended the project period of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust for a further period of 3 years i.e. up to 31.12.2012. Consequent on the conclusion of UNDP-GEF funding to Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust, the State Government had took over the functioning of the Trust vide Government Order in the fourth read above.

(p.t.o.)
2. Subsequently, funds were sanctioned for carrying out the Trust Activities of GOMBRT in the following Government Orders as indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>G.O. No&amp;Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount sanctioned(Rs.in lakhs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>G.O.(Rt.)No.727 Environment and Forests Department, dated 23.10.2013</td>
<td>2013-2014</td>
<td>250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>G.O.(Rt.)No.282 Environment and Forests Department, dated 27.07.2016.</td>
<td>2015-16</td>
<td>44.824</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>[2nd installment]</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden in the letter fifth read above has stated that the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve is one of the biodiversity rich marine areas in the world with more than 4 thousand marine species of flora and fauna. About two lakhs fisher folk of the region are dependent on artisanal fisheries based livelihoods in the region and their well being are closely linked with Coral Reef resources. The fisher folk are diverted to exploit only the marine resources in Gulf of Mannar for their lively hood options. Hence, Eco-development activities are necessary to enforce various sustainable livelihood options among coastal fisher folk to reduce the pressure on over harvesting of resources, exploitation and better management of the area. He has further stated that the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust which is adopting a multi-pronged integrated strategy in addressing issues of conservation, sustainable development of marine resources, poverty alleviation of the fisher folk, awareness creation and capacity building of stake holders, social and economic empowerment of Women and research on marine eco system and it has to continue the activities such as (i) Strengthening the management of Marine National Park (ii) Development of sustainable livelihood options (iii) Capacity building (iv) Biodiversity overlay (v) Eco-development activities and (vi) Research activities on Coastal and Marine Eco systems.

(p.t.o.)
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has forwarded the proposal of the Trust Director, GOMBRT for the continuance of the Trust for a further period of 5 years i.e. from 2017-18 to 2021-22 with an outlay of Rs.7.50 crores @ Rs.1.50 crores per year and requested the Government for necessary orders to continue the activities of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust for a further period of 5 years from 2017-2018 to 2021-2022.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden in the letter sixth read above has further stated that the Chief Conservator of Forests and Trust Director, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust has sent Annual Work Plan proposal for the year 2017-2018 for Rs.150.00 lakhs as proposed in the Comprehensive Action plan wherein the Chief Conservator of Forests and Trust Director has requested to sanction Rs.141.10 lakhs for the year 2017-18 and further informed that the balance amount of 8.90 lakhs pertaining to 2016-2017 towards the unspent balance is being utilized to meet the emergency expenses as permitted by the XI Board of Trustees till the sanction of the funds. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has recommended the proposal of the Chief Conservator of Forests and Trust Director, Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust and has requested to sanction a sum of Rs.141.10 lakhs to carry out the trust activities during the year 2017-2018.

6. The Government after careful examination accept the proposal of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden and accord administrative approval for continuance of the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust activities for a further period of 5 years i.e from 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 with an outlay of Rs.7.50 crores at Rs.1.50 crores per year and Financial sanction for a sum of Rs.141.10 lakhs (Rupees One Hundred and Forty One Lakhs and Ten Thousand only) to carry out the annual work plan of Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust for the year 2017-2018 along with permission to utilize the unspent amount of Rs.8.90 lakhs pertaining to 2016-2017.

7. The expenditure Sanctioned in para 6 above shall be debited to the following head of account:-

"2406 Forestry and Wild Life – 02 Environmental Forestry and Wild Life -110 – Wild Life preservation – State’s Expenditure – AN Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust – 09 Grants –in Aid -03 Grants for specific schemes
(DPC: 2406 02 110 AN 0934)

8. Necessary additional funds of Rs.141.10 lakhs will be provided in Revised Estimates / Final Modified Appropriation 2017-2018 to meet the expenditure sanctioned in para 6 above. Pending provision of such funds, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden is authorized to incur the expenditure. However, the above expenditure shall be brought to the notice of the Legislature by a Specific Inclusion in the Supplementary Estimates for 2017-2018. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden is also directed to include this expenditure while sending the budget proposals for RE/FMA 2017-18 and also send draft explanatory notes for inclusion of this expenditure in Supplementary Estimates to Finance (AHD&F/BG.I) Department at an appropriate time without fail.

(p.t.o.)
9. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide its
U.O.No.57397/AHF/17 dated. 05.12.2017 with ASL No. 2078 (Two Thousand and
Seventy Eight).

(By order of the Governor)

MD. NASIMUDDIN,
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Department), Chennai-15.
The Chief Conservator of Forest and Trust Director,
Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve Trust, Jawan Bhavan (1st Floor),
102/26, Kenikarai, Ramanathapuram – 623 504.
The Pay and Account Officer, (South) Chennai-35.
The Accountant General, Chennai-9/18 (By Name).
The Resident Audit Officer,
O/o. Principal Accountant General,
(General and Social Sector Audit),
Secretariat, Chennai-9.
The Treasury Officer, Ramanathapuram,
The Commissioner of Treasury & Accounts,
Chennai-15.

Copy to:
The Principal Secretary II to Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Chennai-9.
The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister’s(Finance/Forests),
Chennai-9.
The Finance(AHF/B1/B-II) Department,
Chennai-9.
The Senior Private Secretary to Principal Secretary,
Environment & Forests Department,
Chennai-9.

The National Informatics Centre,
Chennai-9.

// Forwarded by Order //