

Annexure VII (8), (Vide Article - 7.03)

Subject :- Maharashtra Private Forests (Acquisition) Act-Cultivation of Nagli and other rotational crops by erstwhile owners-cutting of grass for bonafide personal requirements of erstwhile owners.

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA,
Revenue & Forests Department,
Circular NO. PRF 1075/136700/F2,
Mantralaya, Bombay-400 032.
Dated :13th May 1977.**

- READ :- i) Government Circular, Revenue & Forests Department No.PRF 1075/136700-F2, dated 5th May, 1976.
ii) Government Circular, Revenue & Forests Department No.PRF/1075/136700-F2, dated 19th June,1976.
iii) Government Circular, Revenue & Forests Department No.PRF/1075/136700-F2, dated 5th April,1977.

CIRCULAR

The aforesaid circulars pertain to nagli cultivation by the erstwhile owners of the private forests which have been taken over by the Forest Department. It has since been decided that the same orders should be applicable also to varai and any other like crops raised by shifting cultivation.

2. According to the Private Forests (Acquisition) Act, the lands left under the ownership of the cultivators comprise the lands which were lawfully cultivated during Kharif 1975 and maximum of 2 hectares per holder where notice was issued under section 35(3) of the Indian Forest Act. It has, however, been noticed in some cases that the lands left with the holders are not adequate to meet the personal genuine, bonafide requirements of the erstwhile owners in respect of grass required for fodder, for thatching of huts or as rabi purposes. While the grass on the land which has vested in the Government legally belongs to the Government, Government desires that the erstwhile owners and particularly those of them who are small farmers should be allowed to remove free of charge the grass from the lands formerly owned by them to meet their bonafide personal requirements. It may, however, be clarified that it is not the intention of the Government to permit the erstwhile owners the removal of grass for the purposes of sale. Thus, where there are extensive pieces of erstwhile private forests belonging formerly to parties who are not small farmers, there would be no objection to the forest officers continuing to dispose of it as at present.

By order and in the name of the Governor of Maharashtra,

(L. S. LULLA)
Special Secretary to Government.
