

**25.** (1) With effect from the commencement of this Code, the right to all trees standing or growing on any occupied land shall vest in the holder thereof but if the State Government is of opinion that it is necessary to prohibit or regulate the cutting of certain trees for preventing erosion of soil, it may by rules prohibit or regulate the cutting of such trees.

Right to trees inholdings.

(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall affect in any area any right in trees in the holding of an occupant in favour of any person existing on the 1st day of October 1955, but the occupant may apply to the Collector to fix the value of such right and purchase the right through the Collector in such manner as may be prescribed.

(3) Any sale or agreement for sale of trees made by any person before the commencement of this Code in anticipation of the vesting such trees in him by virtue of the provisions of this section shall be void, and any consideration given for such sale or agreement shall be refunded.

**26.** The right to all trees, brushwood, jungle or other natural product growing on land set apart for forest reserves under section 22, and to all trees, brushwood, jungle or other natural product, wherever growing, except in so far as the same may be the property of persons capable of holding property, vests in the State Government and such trees, brushwood, jungle or other natural product shall be preserved or disposed of in such manner as the State Government may from time to time prescribe, by rules made in this behalf.

Trees and forests vesting in Government.

**27.** Any person who shall unauthorizedly fell and appropriate any tree or any portion thereof which is the property of the Government shall be liable to the Government for the value thereof, which shall be recoverable from him as an arrear of land revenue, in addition to any penalty to which he may be liable under the provisions of this Code for the occupation of the land or otherwise and notwithstanding any criminal proceedings which may be instituted against him in respect of his said appropriation of Government property.

Recovery of value of trees, etc., unauthorizedly appropriated.

**28.** (1) Where trees are standing in any waste land outside any reserved forest, the villagers in general may take firewood, and agriculturists such wood as may be required for agricultural implements, without payment of any tax but subject to rules made by the State Government.

Regulation of cutting and supply of wood, etc.

(2) In lands which have been set apart under section 22 for forest reserves subject to the privileges of the villagers or of certain classes of persons to cut firewood or timber for domestic or other purposes, and in all other cases in which such privileges exist in respect of any alienated land, the exercise of the said privileges shall be regulated by rules made by the State Government in this behalf. In case of dispute as to the mode or time of exercising any such privileges, the decision of the Collector shall, subject to one appeal only in accordance with the provisions of this Code, be final.

#### *Of the Grant of land*

**29.** (1) There shall be under this Code the following classes of persons holding land from the State, that is to say—

Classes of persons holding land.

- (a) Occupants—Class I,
- (b) Occupants—Class II,
- (c) Government lessees.