

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT**

Ref.No : 27473/2013/X2
Dated : 16.08.2013.

Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Head of Forest Force), Andhra Pradesh,
Aranya Bhavan, Saifabad, Hyderabad.

**Sri B.S.S.Reddy, I.F.S.,
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force).**

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Circular No.11/2013.

Sub:- Forest Department – Establishment of Saw Mills and
Wood Based Industries – Frequent Inspections -
Instructions reiterated – Reg.

Ref:- PCCF Ref.No.28420/2000-X1, dt.24.07.2000.

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The officers are aware that the Supreme Court in the Order dt.29.10.2002 passed in I.A.No.566 and batch in W.P.(C) No.202 of 1995, reported in T.N.GODAVARMAN THIRUMALPAD, directed that no State or Union Territory should permit unlicensed saw mills, veneer or plywood industry to operate and further directed closure of all such unlicensed units forthwith.

In the recent judgment delivered by the Hon'ble A.P. High Court dt.5.7.2013 in W.P.No.16482/2013 filed by M/s.Srinivas Saw Mill and Industries, the Hon'ble High Court has allowed the Writ Petition without cost. The Hon'ble High Court while referring to the above mentioned Supreme Court Order dt.29.10.2002 passed in I.A.No.566 and batch, has specifically observed that,

“the unlicensed saw mill is functioning for the last (14) years and the Forest Department even though having Vigilance Parties and Flying Squad Parties have failed to monitor and function of such saw mill and in enforcing the relevant Rules. The State Governments / Union Territories were to permit the opening of saw mills, veneer or plywood industries only with the prior permission of the Central Empowered Committee and the Supreme Court directed that the Chief Secretary of each State would ensure strict compliance with this direction.”

There is no relaxation of the Rule with regard to grant of licenses and the prior concurrence of the Central Empowered Committee is a must. The Government of Andhra Pradesh came out with the guidelines in G.O.Ms.No.91, EFS&T(For III) Dept., dated 11.7.2006. These guidelines were issued in the context of ownership and relocation of Saw Mills. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andhra Pradesh, also issued guidelines/ Administrative instructions in Prl.C.C.F's Ref. No. 56114/2005/V4, dated 28.9.2007 on sawmills issues in the light of the Order of the Supreme Court.

Inspite of various Rules governing Saw Mills, viz., the A.P. Saw Mills (Regulation) Rules 1969 and the Andhra Pradesh Forest Produce (Storage and Depot) Rules 1989, administrative instructions issued by the Head Office from time to time on the Rules, inspite of efforts by the regular staff, Flying Squad Parties and Vigilance Parties, it is noted that still some Saw Mills and Wood Based Industries are running without licenses.

The Flying Squad Parties of the concerned Circles are touring the Divisions in connection with enquiry on complaint petitions, inspecting the works and for enforcement of Saw Mill Rules in discharge of their duties as a "Forest Officer", as per the provisions of the A.P. Forest Department Code and various Forest Laws. It is the duty and responsibility of Flying Squad Parties to ensure strict compliance of Rules by checking unlicensed Saw Mills and Wood Based Industries.

In the light of the above circumstances and to ensure a thorough check on such illegal Saw Mills and Wood Based Industries the following further instructions are issued:

1. The Flying Squad Parties and regular staff should check thoroughly the Saw Mills and Wood Based Industries in their respective Divisions and submit returns of such checking to the Circle Heads/Conservators of Forests concerned quarterly.
2. If any Saw Mills is found running without license, the Divisional Forest Officer, Flying Squad Party along with concerned territorial DFO will be held responsible.
3. The Flying Squad Parties shall inspect the Saw Mills to ensure that:-
 - a) Registers are maintained by the Saw Mills in Form III (A) & (B) and ensure that license holder is accounting for fully the timber received in the saw mills for conversion and its disposal.
 - b) The licensing authority has complied with the Provisions as laid out in the said Saw Mills Rules and if any deviations are made the same should be reported.
 - c) Gather information on Saw Mills running without license and seize them and proceed against such Saw Mill owner as per A.P. Forest Act, 1967 and A.P. Saw Mill Rules.

The Circle Heads/Divisional Heads (Territorial, WLM & Flying Squad) shall acknowledge the receipt of this Circular by return of post.

Sd/- B.S.S.Reddy,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force).

To

All Addl.Prل. Chief Conservators of Forests / Chief Conservators of Forests /
Conservators of Forests of Territorial & WLM Circles in the State.

All Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial, WLM) & (Flying Squads) in the
State.

Copy to the Divisional Forest Officers Vig I, II & III O/o Prل.CCF (HoFF), A.P.,
Hyderabad for information and necessary action.

Copy to the Addl. Prل. Chief Conservator of Forests (Prod), O/o PCCF w.r.t.
U.O. Note No.21753/2013/V3, dt.24.07.2013.

Copy to Superintendent 'V' Section.

Copy to Stock File.

// t.c.b.o. //

Superintendent

