

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ABSTRACT

ANDHRA PRADESH FOREST DEPARTMENT - USER CHARGES - Revenue from  
'C' Fee for meeting requirements of forest protection - Orders - Issued.

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ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (FOR.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.NO.125.

DATED 23-12-2002

Read the following:

1. G.O.Rt.No.170, Fln&Plg.(Fw.BG) Deptt., dt.23.4.2001.
2. G.O.Ms.No.50, EFS&T(For.III)Deptt., dt.12.6.2001.
3. G.O.Ms.No.73, EFS&T(For.I) Deptt., dt.21.8.2001.
4. G.O.Ms.No.601, Fln.(BG) Deptt., dt. 22-5-2002.
5. From Pri.CCF., Ref.No.3794/2001/E1, dt.23.8.2002.

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**ORDER:**

In the reference 1st read above, Govt. have issued instructions on user charges to create revolving funds to enable recycling revenue generated for implementing developmental activities and to meet financial requirement of maintaining infrastructure. In these orders, Govt. had requested the respective Departments to come up with specific proposals for levying user charges and for creating revolving funds in identified activities of the Department. Accordingly proposals were submitted by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Government have issued orders in the reference 2nd & 3rd read above on certain activities.

2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests in the reference fifth read above has also submitted that Forest Protection is the primary job of the Forest Department and all the other activities would subscribe to this objective. While this is so, infrastructure and manpower provided to the Forest Department and resources provided for maintenance of infrastructure are grossly inadequate. This, while on one hand is putting strain on the scarce resources available in the Forest Department, on the other hand is resulting in poor protection of these important resources. When this matter was brought to the notice of the Government, the Govt. had advised to come up with proposals at appropriate time and this matter was discussed during the interaction on 22nd August, 2002 as part of workshop on "Governance for Results" at the MCR Institute for Human Resource Development. It was suggested during the discussions that the fines collected as part of disposal of Forest offence cases in the form of Compounding Fees should be recycled to meet the infrastructure needs for ensuring better protection to forests and it was therefore requested the Govt. to include the above item as a User Charge and permit its use by creating a revolving fund on the lines of instructions issued in the reference 1st to 3rd read above. This amount will be utilized for the following activities to ensure better protection of forests:-

- 1) Clearance and demarcation of forest boundaries, erection, repairs and maintenance of cairns,
- 2) Improving communication facilities including wireless network and telephones,
- 3) Fire Protection measures

p.t.o.

It shall be the proper account officer shall satisfy the drawing and account Govt.

- 4) Mobility to field staff including vehicle allowance, repairs and maintenance of vehicles and POL for vehicles; hiring of vehicles,
- 5) Rewards to Informers,
- 6) Incentives to staff (as per scheme approved by the Govt. in G.O. 96) and
- 7) Other Items related to forest protection.

3. He has further submitted that generally annual budgetary allocation by the Government is of the order of Rs.40 lakhs (excluding salaries) while the actual requirement is around Rs.10 crores. Annually Rs.6 crores is being realized as revenue in the form of Compounding Fees. Recycling the revenue realized from Compounding Fees will go a long way in improving status of forest protection.

4. The Government after careful examination of this issue, hereby permit the Pccf, for creation of revolving Fund for recycling of Revenue from 'C' Fees for meeting the requirements for forest protection, subject to the following conditions:--

- (1) The user charges (Compounding fee) shall be collected either in cash or through a Demand Draft and a receipt through CF-140 shall be issued to the person paying the charge. The amount shall be remitted to the Government Treasury through a challan into the deposit account under the head of account:--

0406 - Forestry and Wild life.  
001 - Forestry.  
800 - Other Receipts.  
77 - Collection of User Charges.

- (2) After depositing the user charges into the above said head of account, the drawing and disbursing officer can utilize the user charges on the items mentioned in para 6 below by deleting the expenditure to the respective detailed head under the following head of account by following the procedure laid down in references 1 and 4 read above:--

2406 - Forestry and Wild life.  
01 - Forestry.  
800 - Other Receipts.  
77 - Expenditure from out of User Charges.

- (3) In order to facilitate the proper utilization of the user charges so collected, the Head of the department will allot the amount in connection with the user charges based on the proposals received and accordingly the unit officers will make use of the user charges for the items specified. The allotment made by the HOD will be informed to the Drawing and disbursing officers as well as both DTO/STO concerned. All the drawing and disbursing officers shall submit a monthly periodical in connection with the user charges received to the HOD so that the allotments can be made by the HOD.



It shall be the responsibility of each treasury officer to ensure proper accounting and reconciliation of amounts deposited in the deposit account as well as withdrawals there from. Each treasury officer shall satisfy himself that the amounts being withdrawn by the drawing and disbursing officer concerned from the deposit account are for the approved purposes specified in the Government orders authorizing the levy of user charges. He shall also ensure that the concerned drawing and disbursing officer/Heads of Departments comply with all the requirements as per G.O. Read above.

5. The drawing and disbursing officer who is authorized to collect User Charges from the public shall issue a printed receipt (CF-140) duly numbered, to the person from whom the charges are collected. The drawing and disbursing officer shall maintain separate register for total collection and withdrawals made from out of user charges with details of purpose for which the amounts are drawn. The cash book and the registers shall be made available to the Audit.

6. The User Charges shall be permitted to be utilized for the following purposes, which are related to forest protection:-

- (i) Hiring of vehicles for using the same in patrolling of forest/vulnerable areas.
- (ii) Establishment and maintenance of communication net work, including wireless equipment and telephones.
- (iii) Payment of secret service charges to the informers who help in detection of forest offences.
- (iv) Payment of incentive to VSS members in connection with the forest offences detected with their help and where C fee is realized.
- (v) Additional running and maintenance charges of vehicles including their POL, repairs and replacements in excess of the requirement of the allotted budget for the vehicles of FSPs, Mobile nature, Vigilance officers and others involved in protection work.
- (vi) Hiring of motor boats for controlling of smuggling of forest produce on the rivers.
- (vii) Payment of wages to tribal/local personnel engaged in the sensitive areas for forest protection.
- (viii) Payment of TA/DA to FSP staff of FSP and Vigilance and Mobile Parties.
- (ix) Payment of rewards and expenditure involved in award of forest service medals to staff who render meritorious services in forest protection.

Contd...4.

- (x) For maintenance of forest boundaries, for taking up of fire protection works including construction of watch towers etc. and for procurement of equipment connected with survey land demarcation of forest boundaries and fire fighting equipment.
- (xi) Towards construction and maintenance of check posts/wireless stations and other structures required for protection of forests.
- (xii) For purchase of accessories like torch lights, search lights, Binoculars including night vision binoculars, batteries, getting the special quality permits printed, stationary etc.
- (xiii) For organizing training / Workshops / duty meets in connection with protection of forests.
- (xiv) Towards miscellaneous expenditure involved in booking of forest offences, conducting raids, court expenses etc.
- (xv) Expenses involved in other items connected to protection of forests.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests is requested to review the correct utilization of the user fees quarterly and good report to Government from time to time take action accordingly.

8. This order issues with the concurrence of Finance & Planning (Fw-EFS&T(M&F) Department, vide their U.O.No. 5301/353/A2/Exp.MA&UD & EFST/02, Dt:10-12-2002.


(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

H.S.BRAHMA  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To  
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, AP., Hyderabad.  
The Accountant General, AP., Hyderabad.  
The Pay and Accounts Officer, AP., Hyderabad.  
All Conservators of Forests / Divisional Forest Officer through PCCF.  
All District Treasury Officers.

Copy to:  
The Finance & Planning (FW.BG) Department  
The Finance (Expdr.M&F) department.  
The P.S. Pri.Secy., EFS&T Dept.  
The P.S. to Spl.Secy., EFS&T Dept.  
Sf/Scs.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

  
SECTION OFFICER.