

MINUTES OF THE 20th MEETING OF STATE LEVEL COMMITTEE (SLC) HELD ON 25.11.2024 at 3.30 P.M ON WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE PRL. CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS & HEAD OF FOREST FORCE, A.P., MANGALAGIRI.

The 20th meeting of the State Level Committee (SLC) was held on 25.11.2024 at 3.30 PM in the Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri to consider various proposals of Wood Based Industries for transfer of ownership by succession, Sale, Sale along with relocation and relocation and other related matters as per Andhra Pradesh Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018.

The following members attended the meeting:

1.	Sri Chiranjiv Choudhary, IFS, Prl.CCF & HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri
2.	Dr.P.V.Chalapathi Rao, IFS, PCCF (Production& RS), O/o Prl.CCF&HoFF, A.P., Mangalagiri
3.	Sri N.Nageswara Rao, IFS., CCF (WP), O/o the PCCF &HoFF, A.P., Mangalairi.
4.	Sri K. Balaji, IFS, Asst. Inspector General of Forests, Sub-office, Vijayawada, MoEF&CC(Online)
5.	Smt. N. Swarnalatha, Divisional Manager, APFDC Ltd
5.	Sri M.V.R.Saibaba, Assistant Secretary (LP), O/o the Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (Online)
6.	Smt. V.V.Vijaya Lakshmi, Director, ATMA, Agriculture Department(Online)
7.	Sri M.V.Ramana Reddy, Industries.
8.	Sri Dwara Ramakrishna, General Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Federation of Timber Merchants', Sawmillers& Allied Industries.

At the outset, Dr.P.V.Chalapathi Rao, IFS.,Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests (Production& Red sanders) and Member Secretary, SLC has welcomed the Chairman and all the members of the SLC present in the meeting and briefed about the Agenda for the 20thSLC meeting as follows:

S.No	Agenda
1	ATR on the MoM of 19 th SLC held on 25.06.2024.
2	Proposals for Transfer of ownership
	a. by Succession (14) b. by Sale (12) c. Sale along with relocation of Sawmill (12)
3	Relocation of Sawmills (8)
4	Fresh license for lapsed licenses (1)
5	Left over proposals for new/additional machinery in the 18th SLC wherein certain verification was requested by the DFOs
6	Any other items with the permission of the Chair:

With the permission of the Chair, agenda was taken up for discussion one by one and decisions by the SLC.

1. Action Taken Report on the decisions in the 19thSLC meeting.

The minutes of the 19th meeting of SLC were placed before the SLC for confirmation and the same were confirmed. The ATRs submitted by the Circle heads has been examined and decided to get reports from the field about establishment of New Saw Mills and installation of Additional machinery which were permitted in the 19th meeting of SLC and their functioning. Further, it is also decided to prescribe time line for making payments.

2. Proposals for Transfer of ownership:

The SLC has examined the proposals under different categories and decided on each category as detailed below:

a. Transfer of ownership by Succession:-

The proposals mentioned at S.No. 1 to 14 of Saw Mills (except Proposal at S.No.6) were approved, under Rule 11 of the Andhra Pradesh Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018, as the Circle Heads and the District Forest Officers concerned have recommended for transfer of ownership by succession. However, the proposal mentioned at S.No.6 is deferred to the next meeting of SLC along with justification and required documents.

S. No	Division	Sawmill Name	Distance from Forest (km)
1	Vizianagaram	Sri Annapurna Saw Mill & Depot	22.08
2	Anakapalli	Sri Sai Prakash Saw Mill	4.36
3	Eluru	Sri Lakshmi Saw Mill & Timber Depot	4.25
4	Eluru	Sri Srinivas Saw Mill & Timber Depot	4.8
5	NTR Division	Narasimha Timber Depot and Saw Mill	3.48
6	SPSR Nellore	Srinivasa Saw Mill	2.97 (Deferred)
7	SPSR Nellore	Sri Venkateswara Saw Mill	0.35
8	SPSR Nellore	Venkateswara Saw Mill	4.36
9	Sri SatySai	Ghousiya Saw Mill	1.96
10	Bapatla Division	Sri Sai Ram Wood Industry/Saw Mill	11.90
11	Visakhapatnam Division	Sri Ganesh Sawmill	4.21
12	Vizianagaram	Sri Satyanarayana Baburao Saw Mill	6.80
13	Vizianagaram	Sri Venkata Satyanarayan Saw Mill	11.14
14	Vizianagaram	Sri Venkata Padmavathi Saw Mill	11.24

b. Transfer of ownership by Sale:-

The proposals mentioned below from S.No.1 to 12 (except proposal mentioned at S.No.9), for transfer of ownership by sale were approved, under Rule 11 of the Andhra Pradesh Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018, as the Circle Heads and Divisional Forest Officers have recommended for transfer of ownership by sale. However, the proposal mentioned at S.No.9 is deferred to place the proposal in the next meeting of SLC along with proper justification and detailed report.

S. No	Division	Sawmill Name	Distance from Forest (km)	License valid upto
1	Visakhapatnam	Sri Jalaram Timber Depot	3.80	2024
2	Anakapalli	Sri Subramanay Saw Mill	9.5	2024
3	Anakapalli	VenkataSatyaSai Saw Mill	1.42	2024
4	Vizianagaram	Sri Viswakaram Saw Mill Depot	25.63	2024
5	ParvathipuramManyam	Jai Gopal Timber Depot	9.050	2024
6	Vizianagarm	Sri SawmyAyyappa Saw Mill	18.36	2024
7	ParvathipuramManyam	Sri Muralikrishna Saw Mill and Depot	5.30	2024
8	SPSR Nellore	VenkataSatyanarayana Saw Mill	2.5	2024
9	Tirupati Division	Nageswara Rao Saw Mill	1.65	2023 (Deferred)
10	Ankapalli	Sri VenkataRamani Saw Mill	5.41	2024
11	Ankapalli	Sri Venkata Lakshmi Swa Mill	6.08	2024
12	Ankapalli	Sri Siva Sakthi Saw Mill	6.08	2024

c. Transfer of ownership along with relocation of Sawmill

The proposals in respect of the following (12) Sawmills were approved under Rule 11 of The Andhra Pradesh Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018, as the Circle Heads and the Divisional Forest Officers have recommended for transfer of ownership along with relocation.

S. No	Division	Check List Type	Sawmill Name	Relocation Distance (km)
1.	Ananthapuramu	Within the division	Rabu Saw Mill	6.2

2.	Ananthapuramu	Within the division	Sri Vinayaka Saw Mill	12.37
3.	Sri SatyaSai	Within the division	Mubarak Saw Mill	14.91
4.	Ananthapuramu	Within the division	GurrappaSwamy Saw Mill	5.88
5.	Ananthapuramu	Within the division	Sri Veerabhadra Saw Mill	6.29
6.	NTR	Vizianagaram Division	NarayanaSwamy Timber Depot and Saw Mill	17.75
7	West Godavari	To Vizianagaram Division	SatyaDurga Saw Mill	26.32
8.	Bapatla	To Srikakulam	Sri Srinivasa Saw Mill	5.4
9	Prakasam	To Markapru	Sri Balaji Sawmill cum Timber Depot	4.86
10	Srikakulam	Within the division	Sri Kota Durga Sawmill & Depot	8.80
11.	West Godavari	To Vizianagaram	SaiNagendra Timber & Saw Mill	9.53
12.	Bapatla	ParvathipuramManyam	Sri Siva Timber Depot and Saw Mill	5.60

3. **Relocation of Sawmills:-**

The proposals in respect of Saw Mills mentioned below from S.No.1 to 8 (except S.No.5) were approved, under Rule 11, of the Andhra Pradesh Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018 as the Circle Heads and the Divisional Forest Officers have recommended for transfer of ownership with relocation with valid renewal licenses. However, the proposal mentioned at S.No.5, is rejected.

S. No	Division	Check List Type	Sawmill Name	Relocation Distance (km)
1.	Vizianagaram	Within the division	Sri Satya Saw Mill	6.99
2.	Viziangaram	Within the division	Sri Lakshmi NarsimhaSwamy Saw Mill & Depot	8.13
3.	Krishna	Within the division	Sri Lakshmi Saw Mill	7.29
4.	SPSR	Within the division	Sri Rama Country Wood Saw Mill and Timber Depot	3.11
5.	Kurnool	PT Nandyal	AL-FALAAH Saw Mill	10 (Rejected)
6.	Atmakur	Within the division	Madeena Saw Mill	6.49
7.	Ananhtapur	Within the division	Moulana Saw Mill	2.52
8.	Srikakulam	Within the division	Sri Kamala Sawmill & Timber Depot	10.88

4. Fresh license for lapsed licenses:-

The following proposal placed before the SLC, has been examined by members.

S.No	Division	Sawmill Name	Distance from Forest (km)
1	Visakhapatnam	Gandhi Timer Depot	6.2

The CF, Visakhapatnam has submitted proposal for Transfer of Ownership by way of succession (Son) along with restoration of lapsed sawmill license. The sawmill license was not renewed beyond 31.12.2018 for want of certain documents. However, the renewal fee was paid up to 2025. Now, the applicant has submitted the said documents. As per Rule 10(2), if renewal application is not submitted within the stipulated time by the applicant, it will be deemed that, the licence has lapsed and the wood based industry owner should apply for fresh licence. As such, the applicant shall apply for new saw mill duly following procedure as per rules in vogue, as and when the department invites applications.

5. Left over proposals for new saw mills in the 18th & 19th SLC for re-examination:

1. In the 18th SLC meeting held on 19.02.2024, the SLC has made the following recommendation regarding the establishment of new saw mills.

S.No.	Description	Number of proposals
1	Accorded permission for establishment of new saw mills	85
2	Proposals considered subject to submission of non-residential area certificate	10
3	Re-examination of rejected proposal	125

2. In the 19th SLC, (13) revised proposals were received from 125 rejected applications, after examining, (2) proposals were considered, (2) were rejected and (9) were returned to the DFOs concerned to submit genuineness report on the non-residential area certificate submitted by the applicants.
3. Now, the Circle Heads and DFOs have submitted the following revised proposals (3 from item no.2 of 5(1) & 8 from item no.3 of 5(1)) for consideration in the 20th SLC meeting.

Submission of non-residential certificate (10 proposals)							
S. No	App. ID	Division	Name of Sawmill	HP	Timber allocation req. (Cum)	Remarks	Decision
				Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	AP100650	Tirupati	Srinivasa Saw Mill	19.5	810	Required documents submitted.	Accepted
2	AP100925	Tirupati	Saikrupa Timber & Traders	25	1080		Accepted
3	AP101012	Vizianagaram	S.V.L.N.Saw Mill & Wood Works	12	810		Accepted
Revised proposals from 125							
4	AP100698	Chittoor	J.C.Reddy Enterprises	21.5	1080	Required documents submitted.	Accepted
5	AP100724	Chittoor	Sri Vinayaka Enterprises	25	1080	Required document submitted	Accepted
6.	AP100634	Srikakulam	Sri Krishnaveni Saw Mill & Timber Depot	35	1080	Required document submitted	Accepted
7.	AP100603	Chittoor	Sri KalyanaVinayaka Timber Depot	22.5	1080	Required document submitted	Accepted
8.	AP100604	Chittoor	Pujitha Furniture and Timber Depot	22.5	1080	Required document submitted	Accepted
9.	AP100939	Atmakur	Suresh Saw Mill & Timber Depot	25	1080	Required documents submitted.	Accepted
10.	AP100451	Vizianagaram	Sri VenkataDurga Saw Mill	26	1080	Required documents not submitted.	Rejected
11	AP100175	Vizianagaram	Sri Vinayaka Saw Mill	40	1080	Required documents not submitted.	Rejected.

4. The CF, Ananthapuramu has submitted the following (3) proposals for cancellation of the approval given in the 18th SLC, as part of 85 new applications, since the applicants are not able to establish Saw Mills due the reasons of ill health and financial problems

S. No.	Application ID No.	Division	Name of Saw Mill	H.P
1.	AP100689	Ananthapur	Sri ShanmukhaSubramanyeswara Saw Mill & Timber Depot	29
2.	AP101021	Ananthapur	Sri Vijaya Saw Mill & Timer Depot	29
3.	AP100750	Ananthapur	Sri ALN Saw Mill	40

The SLC has decided to cancel the approval accorded in the respect of the above proposals.

5. The CF, Ananthapuram has submitted the following proposals for closure of applications after re-examination which was requested in the 18th meeting of SLC (125 cases), as the applicants have not produced any documentary evidence that they are falling in non-residential area.

S. No.	Application ID No.	Division	Name of Saw Mill
1.	AP100130	Ananthapur	Mohammad Gouse Saw Mill
2.	AP100940	Ananthapur	Samee Traders and Saw Mill
3.	AP100243	Sri SatyaSai	Sri Lakshmi Venkateswara Saw Mill

The SLC has decided for closure of the applications.

6. Other items:

- i. **W.P No.5212 of 2016 filed by Sri MahendraSankar Patel, S/o SankarSomaji Patel, Owner of Mahesh Timber Depot and Saw Mill, Vedayaplem Nellore Town, SPSR Nellore District in the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati.**

- The order of the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati is as follows;

“In view of the said assertions, this Court is inclined to dispose of the writ petition directing the respondent-authorities to take appropriate decision on the petitioner's' application for renewal of licence, within a period of two (02) months from the date of receipt of a copy of the order.

Accordingly, the W.P is disposed of. There shall be no orders at to costs.

- The DFO, Nellore has submitted proposals through CF, Guntur for renewal of the license and transfer of ownership by way of succession in favour of Applicant i.e, Sri MahendraSankar Patel, S/o SankarSomaji Patel, as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court Orders in W.P No.5212 of 2016 dt.16.07.2024, to place the proposal before the SLC.

- The SLC has examined the proposal with reference to Rule 10(2) of A.P.Wood Based Industries Rule, 2018 and resolved that, the applicant may apply for new Sawmill duly following the procedure as per extant rules as and when the Department invites applications for new saw mills.

II. **Request for new Saw Mill license instead of additional machinery sanctioned:-**

- Sri D.GeethaCharan, Prop: Sri Satyanarayana Peeling and Plywood Industry, Burrada Village, RegidiAmadavalasa (M), Vizianagaram division has applied for additional machinery in the online portal (Id No.AP100176), which was considered by the SLC in its 18th meeting held on 19.02.2024.
- The DFO, Vizianagaram has not allowed for expansion of additional machinery as there is no wood based industry in existence as per the A.P. Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018.
- Aggrieved with the above, Sri D.GeethaCharan has filed a W.P.No.14682/2024 before the Hon'ble High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Amaravati for considering his request for installation of additional machinery.
- The Hon'ble High Court disposed of the case on 12.07.2024 with the following order;

“Without going into merits of the case, the Writ Petition is being disposed of directing the concerned respondent to examine the representation dated 26.06.2024 made by the petitioner and pass appropriate orders, in accordance with law, within a period of four (04) weeks from the date of receipt of a copy of this order and communicate the decision to the petitioner. There shall be no order as to costs”.

- The DFO Vizianagaram has issued speaking order to the Applicant in Ref.No.1500/2024/S2, dt.28.08.2024 stating that the applicant has furnished false information to get permission for additional machinery and violated the A.P. Wood Based Industries (Establishment and Regulation) Rules, 2018.
- Subsequently, on 14.08.2024, Sri D.Geetha Charan has submitted a representation to the DFO, Vizianagaram requesting to consider his application for new Saw Mill licence in the same location, if there is no possibility to consider his application for additional machinery. The CF, Visakhapatnam has submitted proposals, for placing before the SLC.
- On 08.11.2024, the CF, Viskhapatnam has been requested to submit a detailed action taken report against the applicant for misleading the department as well as on the officers and Staff responsible for recommending the case without proper verification of field condition. Further, the Vigilance wing of this office has also been requested to enquire the matter and furnish a report for taking further course of action. **However, the reports are still awaited.**
- The SLC has reviewed its recommendation made in the 18th meeting of

SLC held on 19.02.2024 and resolved to withdraw the approval accorded to Sri Satyanarayana Peeling and Plywood Industry for expansion of additional machinery since he has furnished false information to get permission for additional machinery without having any Saw mill and therefore violated the provisions of A.P.Wood Based Industries (Establishment & Regulation) Rules, 2018.

III. Establishment of wood based industry by M/s. Century Panel Limited, Gopavaram (V) & (M), YSR District:-

- On 17.12.2022, the DFO, YSR division has issued certificate of registration to M/s. Century Panels Limited under Rule (8) of the AP WBIs (E&R) Rules, 2018, for establishment of HPL, Medium Dense Fibre board (MDF), Particle Board and Plywood at Industrial Park, Gopavaram (V) & (M), YSR district, under Rule (8) of the AP WBIs (E&R) Rules, 2018, subject to certain conditions, without taking prior approval of SLC.
- On 04.11.2024, the CF, Kurnool (FAC) has submitted proposal for ratification of the action taken by the DFO, YSR (T) division, Kadapa since it required approval of SLC as per the MoEF&CC guidelines dated 22.03.2022.
- The applicant shall pay Rs.50.00 lakh to establish HPL, Medium Dense Fibre board (MDF), Particle Board and Plywood at Industrial Park, Gopavaram (V) & (M), YSR district.
- The SLC has resolved to ratify the action taken by DFO, YSR (T) division, Kadapa, subject payment of Rs.50.00 lakh by M/s. Century Panel Limited.

IV. Authorizing the Divisional Forest Officers (T) for renewal of licenses:

As per Rule 10(5) of the Andhra Pradesh Wood Based Industries (Establishment & Regulation) Rules, 2018, the Licensing Authority shall renew the license after receipt of permission /authorization from the State Level Committee.

The SLC has agreed to authorize the Licensing Authorities/DFOs to renew the license of the existing Sawmills beyond 31st December, 2024, as per the extant Rules.

The meeting concluded with the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force thanking all the members for participating and providing valuable inputs.

Chiranjiv Choudhary Ifs
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF&
Chairman, State Level Committee,
Andhra Pradesh