

COPY OF;

Government of Andhra Pradesh  
Forest Department.

Ref.No. 3703/79/F.3  
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Office of the Chief Conservator of  
Forest, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Sri P.S.Rao, I.F.S.,  
Chief Conservator of Forests.

CIRCULAR No. 27/79.

Sub:- Forest Dept. - Rewards to informers under the A.P.  
Forest Reward Rules and the Secret Service Fund -  
Payment of Reward -Instructions-Issued.

The Department had introduced a scheme to provide incentives by way of cash rewards to informers who furnish information leading to detection of forest offences or to persons who render meritorious service culminating in successful penal action against the offenders. The payment of cash rewards is regulated under the A.P. Forest Department Reward Rules, 70 framed under section 68 (2) (c) of the A.P. Forest Act of 1967. Under these rules, different categories of forest officers have been empowered to grant cash rewards ranging from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 500/-. The officers, as well as gazetted officers. The expenditure incurred under this scheme is accountable by way of vouchers and the identity of the payee as well as payer is disclosed in the vouchers and the relevant cash accounts. The expenditure is charged to the following head of account.

313 Forests

- (01) -Direction and Administration
- (03) -District Offices
- (010)-Salaries
- (014)-Other allowances.

2. If it is decided to pay a cash reward, to an informer whose information has led to detection of an important forest offence, or to a person whose valuable service contributed to successful punitive action, the officer competent to grant such cash rewards must obtain detailed information in Form-I appended here etc. Having regard to the circumstances of each case and keeping in view the service rendered by informer or other person, the forest officer must give sanction in accordance with the scales prescribed in Rule 4 of the Reward Rules. The payment will then be made after taking a voucher and for all the payment will procedure of accounts and audit will be duly observed. Cash rewards to Government servants Non-Gazetted or Gazetted, as the case may be) will however be sanctioned by either the Chief Conservator of Forests or the Government.

3. Some times, persons interested in passing on information as to forest offence, do furnish information to forest officers; but they do not like their names to be disclosed. Some times persons are also engaged to obtain information in Secrecy. Such communications made to the forest officers in official confidence will have to be kept as guarded secret in public interest. Yet such persons, who render useful service by furnishing information leading to detection of forest offences involving forest

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produce of great value, will also have to be duly rewarded. To enable the Department to provide incentives to such of the persons, who do not like their names to be disclosed, a scheme has been sanctioned by the Government for the first time in G.O.Ms. No. 91 Forests and Rural Dev.(For.I) Dept. dated 26-12-1975 communication in Chief Conservator's Ref.No. 87864/75/F.2 dated 28.3.1976. This scheme is intended to purchase information with a view to check smuggling activities in Sandal wood, Red Sanders wood, valuable timber of other species and other forest produce from reserved forest which is carried out on an organised scale. The Chief Conservator of Forests is the drawing and disbursing officer and the Chief Conservator of Forests alone can operate the account of Secret Service Fund. Under this system, no vouchers need be furnished to the Accountant General and at the close of the financial year, it is enough if a certificate is furnished indicating the total amount spent, without mentioning the details by the Audit of the expenditure will not be subject to scrutiny by the Audit Authority. The expenditure is debitable to the following Head of Accounts.

- " 313 -Forests.
- (01)-Direction and Administration.
- (03)-District Offices.
- (012)- Secret Service Expenditure.

4. For payment of rewards under the Secret Service Fund, the Chief Conservator of Forests only is the competent authority to draw and disburse the amount. Therefore definite orders from the Chief Conservator of Forests will have to be obtained before any payment under the scheme is contemplated. In all cases where cash rewards to the persons rendering useful service under the secret service fund are considered necessary. The Divisional Forest officers will have to submit their proposals in Form-I appended hereto (omitting information in Col.8) through the respective Conservator of Forest's After careful consideration of such proposals received, orders as deemed necessary will be passed by the Chief Conservator of Forests.

5. On receipt of sanction from the Chief Conservator of Forests the Divisional Forest Office's will draw the amounts and make payment of the amount to the persons concerned. The entry in the cash book of the expenditure incurred will be made as "payment under the secret service fund" without obtaining any voucher. The Divisional Forest Officer will then furnish a certificate to the Chief Conservator of Forests in the following form to enable the CCF of Forests to send a consolidated certificate to the Accountant General at the close of the financial year

" I hereby certify that an amount of Rs. ....  
 (Rupees ..... only )  
 sanctioned in the Chief Conservator of Forests  
 Proceedings No.....dated .....  
 has been disbursed by me on .....

6. A register shall be maintained in the office of the Chief Conservator of Forests in Form No.II appended hereto showing a progressive total of the expenditure under the Secret Service Fund. At the end of the financial year certificate as required under the G.O. will be furnished to the Accountant General.

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