

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Ref.No. 69219/78-G3
Dated: 1-3-1979.

Office of the Chief Conservator of
Forests Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

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

C I R C U L A R NO. 5/79.

Sub:- TIMBER- Old timber- transport of -issue of permits-
Instructions-Issued.

In certain parts of the State, dismantling of used timber and transport thereof to some other place is a common feature. The definition of "Timber" given in the Forest Act does not distinguish old timber from new timber. Transport of any timber, so long as it comes under the definition of "Forest Produce" has to be regulated under the Rules. Therefore, such timber when transported from one place to another, has to be accompanied by permit and it must bear distinguishable transit mark as prescribed in the Andhra Pradesh Forest produce Transit Rules 1970. Only sawn timber and, found timber of smaller dimensions i.e. less than 25 cm. girth and 1 metre length are exempted from bearing transit mark.

2. According to the Transit Rules, the competent authority to issue permits is only the Divisional Forest Officer or an Officer authorised by him. Before issue of permits, the Divisional Forest Officer has to satisfy himself about the bonafides of the timber and the genuineness of its origin. In the name of transport of old and used timbers, some irregular and unauthorised procedures came to be adopted in certain parts of the State and such irregular procedures adopted by the Forest Subordinates have given rise to malpractices and smuggling of timber from Government forests. The timber so smuggled in certain districts of the State has assumed menacing proportions. Therefore, the Conservators of Forests in their respective jurisdictions with the object of regulating the procedure have issued certain instructions for the guidance of the Divisional Forest Officer.

3. The subject of transport of old timbers, after dismantling houses and use in construction; else-where came up for consideration during the Forest Officers Conference in July 1978 before a Committee of Officers in Group No. VI of Nationalisation of Forests working; and it was resolved that committee consisting of Conservators of Forests, Adilabad/Warangal/Khammam and Hyderabad should discuss the problem and make suitable suggestions. Accordingly a committee consisting of certain conservator of Forests met on 26.7.78 at Warangal and made the following recommendation.

contd.....

4. A person desirous of transporting the old timber belonging to him to another place for his own personal use or when he is migrating from one village to another should give an application to the concerned Divisional Forest Officers requesting for grant of permits. The Divisional Forest Officer should obtain the particulars of the material, its origin and ascertain the circumstances under which the necessity for transporting the material has arisen. The Divisional Forest Officer should enquire the genuineness of the request made either by himself, his Gazetted Assistant or the Range Officer and issue permits through the Range Officer concerned. The Range Officer should also be directed to affix his personal pass hammer on the timber to be transported as distinguishable "transit mark". A list of timber authorised for transport (with full details Hikespecis) length, length girth etc.) shall be prepared before the permit is issued and the transit mark is affixed. A record of all such permits should be kept in the division office, so that it may be inspected and reviewed by the Conservator of Forests during the office inspection.

5. After careful consideration, the suggestions made by the committed consisting of Conservator of Forests, Warangal Circle, Conservator of Forests, Sirpur Paper Mills, Conservator of Forests, Khammam Circle and the Conservator of Forests, Adilabad Circle, are hereby approved and all the Divisional Forest Officers are directed to adopt the above procedure in issuing permits for old and used timber. While considering the request for transport of old timber, the Divisional Forest Officers should discourage the tendency of selling or other-wise disposing of the timber for the benefits of the persons living else-where disposing of the timber for the ~~benefit~~ practice it is apprehended that the timber disposed initially will be replaced again by pilfering the same from the Government Forests. Any illegal transactions reported to in the course of disposal of old timber either by staff or other persons should be severely dealt with. The instructions supersede all the instructions issued on the subject. The Conservators of Forests may issue further instructions, if required, in aid of the above directions.

6. The receipt of this Circular should be acknowledged in the form given below.

Sd/- P. S. Rao,
Chief Conservator of Forests.