

FOREST DEPARTMENT

Ref.No. 13579/81/W2
Dated: 5-4-1981

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

Sri A. Ramakrishna, IFS.,
Chief Conservator of Forests

CIRCULAR No. 15/81

Sub: Forest Depots - Register of Bidlists - Instructions
Issued.

1. Several instances of malpractices in auction transactions have been brought to the notice of the Chief Conservator of Forests and Government in the past when contract system was in vogue as well as in the present times when departmental extraction and sale through auctions in the depots. Where the cut material is sold in auction, the main complaint is that the bid lists are being replaced after conclusion of the sale, the classification of the product is being altered after the conclusion of the sale. Some of these are found to be facts and some are under investigation. There can be no two opinions that these malpractices reflect on the reputation of the Department very badly, as they undermine the faith the public reposed in Government machinery and personnel.

2. Hon'ble Minister for Forest Sri M.A. Aziz, after this visit to the Government timber depot at Mahabubabad in Warangal South Division has suggested that the bid lists may be entered in a bound register and that the quality classifications of stocks to be sold also may be duly recorded a week in advance of the sale. The suggestion has been examined in consultation with all the senior Officers of the Department. It is felt that although statistically such malpractices as mentioned above may occur rarely, the endeavour of the Department should be to eliminate even the remotest chances of such malpractices in order to infuse confidence in the Public that the Government Machinery is above board and above reproach.

3. The following procedure is therefore prescribed for strict observance in future with immediate effect.

- i) Bidlists should be entered in a Bound Register serially numbered and attested to be called bidlist register. Till arrangements are made to supply these bidlist register the bidlist proforma should be got bound into a register before bringing them into use. For Convenience of sales, at any one sale, two registers may be used, so that the sales in a timber depot, particularly, can go on, without break and in quick succession to keep up the tempo and tenor of the auction.
- ii) The details of the unit to be sold should be entered in the Bidlist Register one week in advance after due check of no less than a Gazetted Officer who should certify in token of having checked the list at the bottom of the bidlist sheet.

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iii) The knock down endorsement should be recorded at the end of the sale of the unit positively and not postponed to the end of the days sale under any circumstances.

iv) The confirmation endorsement should be made in the bidlist not later than one day after the days sale if it can not be done the same day on the spot. This is not impossible, particularly in the case of timber and fuelwood etc.

4. It has also come to notice that there are serious lacunae in the manner in which the lots, and timber stocked in the depot as offence timber, drift timber etc., are put for sale. The Divisional Forest Officers are not in the habit of submitting the list of lots that will be exposed for sale and getting the approval of the Conservator of Forests for the sale of the lots and the deviations to the approved sale of lots (ie., unsold, withdrawal of approved lots for sale of etc.,) Further, the valuable offence timber are not advertised for sale, but are sold separately, which denies many bidders the chance to participate in the sales and thereby they do not attract competitive price. The following further instructions are issued in this regard.

- i) The Divisional Forest Officers conducting the auction should report well in advance of the sale of the lots that are proposed to be put for sale, the classifications of each lot and their cubical contents, the expected upset price, the rate fetched at the previous sale, if it is an unsold item of the previous sale and any other information pertaining to the sale that is proposed to be put for sale.
- ii) The Conservator of Forests should personally go through the list of lots that are proposed to be exposed for sale and give his approval well before the date of sale.
- iii) The Divisional Forest Officers while reporting the result of the sale indicate clearly the lots that were exposed for sale and lots that remained unsold giving reasons for not getting a price.
- iv) Unauthorised inclusion or exclusion of lots from sale by the Divisional Forest Officer without the approval of the Conservators of Forests is prohibited.
- v) The timber in the depots should be sold in the publicised general sale and not piecemeal as offence timber, drift timber etc.

The Conservator of Forests should make it a point to attend as many sales as possible and ensure that the above instructions are given effect to.

The receipt of this circular should be acknowledged in the proforma enclosed. They shall also separately report compliance.

Sd/-A. Ramakrishna,
Chief Conservator of Forests.

To
The Officers of Distribution List 'A'
Copy to 'Y' Section/Gazetted Asst(N.E.).

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SUPERINTENDENT