

FOREST DEPARTMENT

Ref: No. 46961/81 E.2
Dated: 14.9.81.

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

Sri Munawar Hussain, I.F.S.,
Chief Conservator of Forests.

CIRCULAR NO. 28/81-E.2

Sub:- Proper maintenance of nursery/plantation
journals-Regarding.

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Repeated instructions were issued in the past on need for proper maintenance from year to year of nursery/Plantation journals for all nurseries and plantations raised and being maintained in each division and a proforma was developed and communicated to all Divisional Forest Officers for maintaining such journals. It is however noticed during my inspection in the recent months that in most of the divisions nursery/plantation journals are maintained only in names, sake if at all, and very rarely such journals contain full information required to be furnished therein. Such journals not even contain such vital information like planting technique (Spacing, pit size etc.) adopted, dates of planting linked with receipt of rains, weeding, soil working etc. carried out etc. Very rarely such journals contain inspection notes of the Divl. Forest Officers or the Conservator of Forests that ought to be written, when they inspect such nurseries/plantations. In most cases the only item scrupulously entered in these journals pertains to the expenditure incurred voucherwise in raising and maintaining the plantations. Another important item of information which is found missing in most of the plantation journals is the origin of the planting stock and the size of the seedlings when they are planted, which is all important and determined the success or failure of the plantation raised.

As technical officers, the Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers ought to be aware of the utmost importance that should be attached to the proper maintenance and recording of all events in the nursery/plantation journals to be opened for each nursery/plantation as work is started. It is, therefore, very surprising to note that the Range Officers and their staff are allowed to get away scot free when they exhibit such glaring indifference to maintaining properly such a vital documents. This can only be presumed to be due to complete indifference exhibited by the Divisional Forest Officers and Conservators of Forests to this important item of work. In the absence of well maintained journals, it has become very difficult or almost impossible to assess the reasons for failure of the Nursering or plantations, (which has become fairly common in recent years) so that we are able to learn from experience, and improve on our performance through suitable revision of the techniques adopted earlier that might have resulted in failure of partial success only of the plantations.

It is, therefore, impressed on the Conservators of Forests and the Divisional Forest Officers once again that they must take all possible and necessary steps to ensure that Nursery plantations journals are properly and adequately maintained and posted with all relevant and required information in the proforma already communicated to begin with for all plantations raised during 1981 if not already done and see that the journal for 1980 are also fully posted up to date very early they should also ensure that each plantation journal contains a location sketch on a one inch= one mile scale, and also and also survey sketch on a scale of not less than eight inches= one mile. The Conservator of Forests and the Divisional Forest Officers are requested to make a regular habit of asking for nursery/ plantation journals whenever they visit any nursery/plantation scrutinise the same carefully to see that they are properly maintained and posted up to date and record in their own hand, their observations based on the inspection, as well as instructions if any issued to Range Officers and their staff, on any particular aspect of the nursery/plantation raising or maintenance. If at any time in future the Chief Conservator of Forests notice during their inspections, that nursery/plantation journals are not maintained properly up-to-date disciplinary action will be initiated straight away against the Officers concerned, also for negligence on their part in ensuring that such journals are properly maintained, in spite of repeated instructions from the Head Office, and the importance of such documents.

It is also noticed that plantation journals are at times maintained in all sizes of books. It should be ensured that plantation journals are only maintained in full scape length bound registers. It is also observed that Plantations journals of older plantations are at times missing and the stock reply given by the Range Officers is that their predecessor has not handed over those journals to them. The Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers should see that this does not happen and all journals are properly handed over.

The Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers are requested to acknowledge receipt of this Circular letter at once. The Divisional Forest Officers are requested to issue suitable instructions to all their Range Officers on this subject at once and mark copies of the same to the Chief Conservator of Forests and Conservators of Forests for their information. The Conservators of Forests and the Divisional Forest Officers should note that no excuses will be accepted in future from any one for non maintenance and recording in full and up to date the nursery/plantation journals, and action as indicated earlier will be initiated forthwith against all concerned.

Sd/- A.L.Rao,
Addl. Chief Conservator of Forests
(Social Forestry)