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

Sri Munawar Hussain, I.F.S.,  
Chief Conservator of Forests.  
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CIRCULAR NO. 29/81

Sub:- Raising of 18 months and 24 months old and tall seedlings in much pots for Avenue and Canal Bank planting from 1982-Regarding.  
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It is likely that the Department may taken up large scale, Avenue, Canal Bank etc., plantation raising activity from 1982 onwards utilising funds available either under the proposed Candian assisted Social Forestry Project or under the Government of India sponsored Rural Fuelwood plantation scheme or under National Rural Employment Programme. Experience with raising avenue plantations in the past, using mostly below 45 cms. tall and six months to one year old seedlings, has not been very satisfactory, with heavy casualties and repeated replacements, inspite of fairly expensive watering for 2-3 years and tree guards provided, all at considerable expense. The reasons for this are many, important of which are (1) planting comparatively small seedlings which require intensive care and protection and also watering for about 2 years, to enable the seedlings to grow up beyond the reach of the cattle damage, (2) Inadequate protection from cattle, even though the seedlings were provided with various types fairly expensive tree guards then fencing to begin with and kept in good repair later on.

Full time watchers were also appointed for every stretch of 5 Kms. to protect planted the seedlings and to keep the tree guards/fencing around the seedlings in good repair. Fairly large amounts were also spent on watering of the seedlings as per regular schedules drawn up and even water tankers and tractors were purchased for this purpose in same divisions. Unfortunately, however, watering does not appear to have been done properly and adequately as provided in the sanctioned estimates, due to lack adequate control by the supervisory and superior officers and the seedlings were also not protected well, finally resulting in failure of almost all the avenue plantations raised during last 3-4 years, in most divisions.

A number of North Indian States like Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat developed considerable expertise over the last 20-25 years in raising Avenue Canal Bank plantations, with techniques evolved to suit local conditions and species also carefully choosen for such planting to suit the local conditions and have almost perfected the avenue and canal bank planting techniques now. The basic element of success in raising avenue plantations in all these states, is to plant only hardy tall striplings 2-3 Mts. tall raised carefully in mud pots or mud bricks of adequate size over 2-3 years in nurseries. Such seedlings planted in adequate sized pits (50-100 cube usually combined with a trench to protect the seedlings from browsing animals, have given fairly satisfactory results, even without regular watering of the seedlings and protection tree guards etc. after they are planted out.

In order to streamline the avenue Canal bank planting in our State also from new in, it is necessary that immediate steps are taken by all the Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial and Extension) to start raising immediately about 20,000 seedlings for 1982 planting only, in each division, utilizing readily available 4-6 months or older seedlings (bag or naked) in their own nurseries, for this purpose, of 100% survival for 1982 planting and above 40% each



Gulmohar, Peltorum etc., The 4-6 months old seedlings available in the nurseries should be transferred to adequate size (about 40 cm tall and about 30 cm wide at the top and 20 cm wide at bottom) mud pots filled with suitable mixture of soil and manure (1:1) and maintained with proper watering, weeding etc., till 1982 rains to bring them to a height of at least 150 cms and preferable 200 cms. The seedlings to be raised in each division as above, will be distributed in three or four central nurseries, where water is available throughout the year. The potted seedlings are well looked after, including watering regularly with small doses of fertilizers applied at about one month interval they will reach a height of between 1.5 to 2.0 m. by rains of 1982 and be in a fit condition to planting out then. The seedlings could be hardened for about 15 days before actual planting by reducing watering, and will also be stripped of leaves and small branches in the lower half of the crown before planting out in field to reduce transpiration.

For canal bank/river bed planting of the first row of planting "Sissoo" will be mainly preferred along with "Janun" and "Babul" where the soils are heavy and water logging is likely to take place in the rainy season.

All the Divisional Forest Officers are requested to take immediate necessary steps to raise the required number of seedlings as indicated above, utilizing the Social Forestry/National Rural Employment Programme, D.P.A.P./Rural Fuelwood Plantation funds, as are available to them for this purpose this year. The Divisional Forest Officers should report before end of October, 1981 positively, with a copy to the Chief Conservator of Forest concerned, on the location of each nursery (preferably one for each range except in the agency areas), the number of seedlings being raised species wise etc. in each nursery for avenue planting and possible canal bank planting, to facilitate inspections of the nurseries by various officers on their tours. Wherever small size seedlings of Neem, Tamarind etc. are not available either in beds or bags in certain divisions at present for transplanting them into big size earthen pots, the Conservator of Forests should make arrangements for supply of these seedlings from other divisions under their control where they are available. If adequate number of Neem and Tamarind seedlings are not available in any division of a Circle at present, immediate action should be taken to raise the required number of Neem and Tamarind seedlings in normal size polythene bags, so that these seedlings could be transplanted by January, 1982 into earthen pots. Some of these seedlings attain a height of at least 1 m through proper nursery management, these seedlings may be considered for planting during 1982 rains. Otherwise all these seedlings will be maintained till 1983 to be used in 1983 rains planting only in which case there will be no Avenue/Canal Bank planting during 1982 in these divisions. The Conservator of Forests and all the Divisional Forest Officers are requested to take immediate action in the matter and report compliance before end of October, 1981 indicating the number of already available seedlings species wise that are transferred into big size pots and number of seedlings species wise shown now in polythene bags and any other useful information. The target of 20,000 pots seedlings for each division should be achieved. The Conservator of Forests should review the progress in this direction in detail at frequent intervals and report results in their monthly D.O. reports.

The receipt of the circular letter should be acknowledged.

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