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Office of the Chief Conservator of
Forests, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
Sri A.K.Mathur, I.F.S.,
Chief Conservator of Forests.

Circular No.21/82

Sub:- Sandal-wood - Possession and Transport - Rules
regulating possession and transport - Implement-
ing - Instructions - Regarding.

Owing to high value and economic importance, Sandal wood and Red Sanders wood have been given special importance and separate rules under the provisions of Forest Act have been framed. The very object of these rules is to prevent smuggling of these valuable Forest Produce and accordingly stringent punishments are provided.

2. The transit of Sandalwood is regulated under the A.P. Sandalwood and Red Sanders wood transit Rules, 1969. As per Rule 3 of the said rules, permits in Form-I shall be in quadruplicate and shall have all columns filled up by the Divisional Forest Officer or a subordinate officer duly authorised by him in this behalf. The Divisional Forest Officer or the subordinate officer so authorised as the case may be shall hand over the original permit to the purchaser and the duplicate to the Range Officer and the triplicate to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer at destination by Registered Post with Acknowledgement. Due before movement of the consignment and retain the quadruplicate as counterfoil for record in his office. The Sandalwood must also bear an authorised marking. Contravention of this rule either for transport without a valid permit or for absence of authorised marking or seal of Government must be regarded as a forest offence liable for punishment as Forest Offence provided in law.

3. The procedure of issuing permits and the form thereof is given in Rule 4 of the Sandal wood and Red Sanders wood Transit Rules 1969. For Sandalwood purchased from the Government, the permit shall be in Form-I and in all other cases in Form-II. When sandalwood is imported into the State, the permit issued by the concerned authority of that State is valid till it reaches the destination within the period allowed. The permits both in Form-I and Form-II have to be in quadruplicate and the procedure as laid down in the rule should be strictly followed. It has come to the notice of the Chief Conservator of Forests that this procedure is not being followed. The Divisional Forest Officers are therefore requested to see that sufficient number of permits depending upon the requirement are printed in advance and stocked for use.

4. So far as the property marks are concerned, the procedure for Registration is laid down in Rule 7 of the Sandalwood Transit Rules. The Sandalwood imported into State from other States should bear the mark of the Government Origin. Sandalwood grown and moved from private lands within the State should have departmental hammer. The Sandalwood other than that extracted from private lands should bear the Divisional Pass hammer. The sandal wood either from private lands or that obtained other than private lands shall have to bear property mark. The property mark is meant to indicate the owner ship and may be in

addition to the authorised marking to be affixed by the Forest Department. The consignment which does not bear the Government marking is regarded as an illegal material and action should be taken accordingly.

5. The procedure for extracting Sandalwood trees from private lands is laid down in the rules which should be followed scrupulously.

6. The provisions relating to the possession of Sandalwood are laid down in Chapter V of the Forest Act while the rules of procedure are laid down in the A.P. Sandalwood Possession Rules, 1969. The rules have recognised two categories of persons namely "dealer, who deals with sale and purchase of Sandalwood" and "stockist, who stores Sandalwood for conversion into oil and other products". The application for licence and the form of licence are as laid down in Form-I and II respectively. The dealer and the stockist must be treated as two distinct categories of persons for the purpose of granting licence, compliance of the terms and conditions to maintain and render accounts.

7. Any Divisional Forest Officer who issues licence to sandalwood dealer and stockists (fresh licence or renewal) for possession and or trade in sandalwood, shall insist ~~forxxx~~ on the applicant or licence to submit an application in proforma-I enclosed to this circular letter failing which licence should not be issued or renewed, and permission for converting the sandalwood already with such licencees, and/or for transport of the same should not be given till they comply with the above strictly. These instructions shall apply to all occasions when a sandalwood licensee wants to transact business in purchase/sale/conversion/ or transport of sandalwood to and or from his licenced premises.

8. Whenever any stockist or dealer receives any consignment of sandalwood, he is required to intimate the fact to the Divisional Forest Officer within (24) hours, and the Divisional Forest Officer is expected to satisfy himself about the bonafides of the sandalwood. Further more, if a dealer or stockist is desirous of converting the sandalwood he should seek prior permission of the Divisional Forest Officer. If the required permission is not accorded within one month, the dealer or stockist has the liberty of proceeding to convert the Sandalwood but without offending the provisions of the Forest Act and the Rules made thereunder. The Divisional Forest Officers must see that these rules of procedure are strictly enforced.

9. Similarly whenever forest subordinates are deputed to inspect stocks of sandalwood on applications received from licence holders to grant permission for conversion of the sandalwood held by them or for transport of the same to other places, the forest subordinate concerned who shall be of a rank not ~~xxx~~ lower than that of a Range Officer, should be made to furnish his inspection report in a detailed proforma (Proforma-II) so that the inspection by the subordinates concerned is thorough. In case the provisions of sandalwood rules are not followed scrupulously necessary action may be taken against defaulting officer.

10. The rules provided for maintaining accounts of the receipt and disposal of Sandalwood and the licences are expected to maintain their accounts in the prescribed form. I find that the Divisional Forest Officers are not insisting on maintenance of sandalwood accounts properly. Consequently the returns from the licences are not being received regularly. If any licensee is found to have failed to maintain the accounts it should be regarded as breach of conditions of licence and the defaulting licensee should be dealt with according to the rules.

11. It has been clearly laid down in Rule 7 of A.P. Sandalwood Possession Rules, 1969 that a stockist will have to maintain accounts of sandalwood stored and used by him for manufacture of different articles, it is laid down further that the place of Storage must be displayed by a distinguishable board. The dealer or stockist is also bound to render accounts for the Sandalwood received and issued including the Sandalwood ~~received~~ used for the purpose of distillation into oil.

12. It is misconstrued that Sandalwood is not a forest produce and therefore there is no need to have any permit for its transport. This is a wrong notion. Sandalwood oil is undoubtedly a "Wood Oil" and according to the definition given under section (2)(g)(1) of A.P.F.A. wood oil whether found in or brought from forest or not is a forest produce. According to the Indian Forest Utilisation compiled and written at the F.R.I. and published in 1972 wood oils include (1) Sandalwood oil (2i) Agarwood oil (iii) Doodar oil (iv) Pine oil vide P.665. On page 226 & 227 of the said book it is mentioned that Indian Sandalwood oil is obtained from the heart wood by simple steam distillation or solvent extraction and are known to the trade as wood oils. Sandalwood oil is an essential oil as described on page 226 last para of Forest Utilisation Vol.I. As per Indian Standard Glossary of terms relating to Natural and Synthetic perfumery materials (IS:6597-1972) essential oil is a volatile perfumery material derived from a single source of vegetable or animal origin by a process, such as Hydrodistillation, steam distillation, dry distillation or expression. Therefore sandalwood oil must be regarded as any item of forest produce and its transport must be regulated under the Forest Produce Transit Rules.

13. The Divisional Forest Officers and the Flying Squad Divisional Forest Officers should make surprise inspection of all the sandalwood godowns which are licenced and within their jurisdiction atleast once in a quarter and verify the stock held on that day by the licensees and whether returns furnished by them regularly. On such inspection, the officers should check all the registers to be maintained by the licence holders as per rules and see that all registers are maintained properly and posted upto date.

Sd/- A.K.Mathur,
Chief Conservator of Forests.