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FOREST DEPARTMENT  
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Ref.No.12370/89/J3,  
Dated:16-1-1989.

Office of the Prl.Chief Conservator  
of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad.

Sri K.V.S. Babu, IFS.,  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests &  
Ex-Officio Secy. to Government.  
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CIRCULAR NO. 4/89.

Sub:- Forest Department-Reservation of Forest blocks -  
Collection of particulars of Area/Ayacut statement-  
Village maps etc. for notification u/s. 4 of A.P.  
Forest Act - Regarding.  
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There are 509 Forest blocks which were notified u/s 4 of Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967, with the Forest Settlement Officers spread over the entire State. Of these 133 blocks pertain to Andhra Districts while 376 to Telangana districts. Most of these blocks were notified at a time when revenue survey and settlement was not completed by the Revenue Department for these areas. For the purpose of section.4, the available Revenue Survey and Settlement is completed and survey Nos. and boundaries are re-organised and village maps accordingly prepared.

It is generally observed that the Officers do not seem to be aware of the provisions of section 7 of Hyderabad Forest Act 1326 Fasli and Section 4 of Andhra Pradesh Forest Act, 1967, wherein it is clearly instructed that the boundary description and demarcation on the ground as notified under section 7 and 4 are sacrosanct and the areas notified is only approximate. However, it is seen that number of litigations are coming in the way of getting these blocks finally notified. Instances have come to notice where the Revenue and Survey Departments having been claiming that the Forest Department is in possession of more area than what is notified under section 4 and are initiating proceedings to acquire such excess area for assignment purposes and regrettably the Officers in the field are not effectively countering such an action from the Revenue Department. This is the of contention between Forest and Revenue Departments on account of which many complications have arisen. What needs to be emphasized to Revenue Survey authorities as well as Forest Settlement Officers is that the boundaries description and demarcation on the ground as notified under section 7 and 4 is un-alterable and the provisions of the sections are inviolable and therefore, any change in the area due to survey etc. is not negotiable and would be in violation of provisions of Forest Conservation Act of 1980. It is therefore, essential that survey numbers and village maps duly attested by Mandal Revenue Officers are of paramount importance where ever blocks are notified under section 4 or in the process of notification. It is for this purpose that the emphasis is given on the need for more awareness amongst our field officers regarding provisions of the Act.

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During joint inspections of some of the Forest blocks it was observed that the details as notified under Section 4 did not tally with the corresponding details available in the latest revenue records and the survey parties which took up identification of Forest boundary for these blocks expressed difficulty to complete survey of the blocks and incorporate in the revenue maps.

In this connection, the Conservators of Forests and Divl. Forest Officers are informed that there is urgent need that the forest block boundaries are correctly surveyed and incorporated in the Revenue records and maps, so that the revenue Department may not grant pattas in the Forest blocks. This is necessary even to deal with encroachments in the Forest blocks effectively. Therefore, it is considered desirable and expedient that the concerned forest Officers should arrange to collect area particulars, village maps as per latest survey and settlement records of Revenue Department under the attestation of Mandal Revenue Officers concerned, keep one set with them and furnish another set to the concerned Forest Settlement Officers. The area statements and maps should show the details as notified in the Sec. 4 of the Forest Act, 1967. Copies of these area statements and maps for each block should also be submitted to the Conservator of Forests concerned and Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests also for record purpose to be filed in the concerned section 4 notification file. When required the area statements should be modified and renotified to be in conformity with the survey maps of the Revenue Department. The Divl. Forest Officers should organise this work on top most priority and complete it within 2 months positively. The Conservators of Forests should keep a close rapport with the day to day progress of the work by the Divl. Forest Officers and see that this work is completed within the stipulated time.

There are also 332 blocks which are yet to be notified under section 4 of A.P. Forest Act, 1967. Of these 110 blocks pertain to Telangana districts and 232 blocks to Andhra Pradesh. Area statements, maps for these blocks should be prepared based on the latest revenue Survey and Settlement records and maps. The Divl. Forest Officers should ensure that the area and S.Nos particulars and Village maps collected for the purpose should bear the attestation of the Mandal Revenue Officers concerned before they are forwarded for submission of section 4 notification proposals to this office through the Collector and Conservators of Forests.

The Conservators of Forests are informed that these Forest blocks on hand are too many. They were pending since a long time without notification under section 4 of the Forest Act, 1967 despite specific instructions from this office that this work should be completed on top-priority.

The Government have constituted special survey teams to complete survey and demarcation of Forest blocks in the State among other thing in consultation with the Forest Department and the Forest Department has been requested to furnish survey No. wise village wise particulars of areas included in the Forest blocks along with the block map incorporated with the corresponding details of S.Nos village boundaries of the latest revenue maps. The Divl. Forest Officers are required to furnish the above details to the

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concerned survey teams when they take up work in their respective divisions, and follow for joint inspections to locate the forest boundary on the ground as per the notifications approved under the Forest Act.

I would, therefore, urge upon you all to do intensive field inspections of such blocks in the process of notification and make sure that the boundaries of these blocks as notified are consolidated and that there is no ambiguity or any doubt to its physical features.

The Department can not afford to break any delay in the completion of this work. The Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers are once again requested to attend to this on top-priority and complete it within 2 months positively, and their statements, maps should reach this office within the period stipulated.

They will please acknowledge the receipt of the circular in the enclosed proforma.

Sd/-K.V.S. Babu  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests.

To  
All the Officers in Distribution List 'A'.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Ref.No.84652/87/G4.  
Dated:17-5-1989.

Office of the Prl. Chief Conservator  
of Forests, A.P. Hyderabad.

Sri K.V.S. Babu, IFS.,  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests.

Circular No. 5/89.

Sub:- Saw Mills - revocation of licence - certain instructions - regarding.

It has been noticed that in number of cases of revocation of Saw Mill licence by Divl. Forest Officers, the grounds of revocation are not properly constituted and as the grounds are not proper, the appellable authority has to allow the appeals under the statutory provisions of the Act.

To appraise the Divisional Forest Officers in this regard, the following instructions are being issued:

Whenever an application for saw mill licence is received, the licensing authority must conduct a proper enquiry, and decide the case either for sanctioning the licence or for rejecting it giving full justification in either case.

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