

Government of Andhra Pradesh
Forest Department

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

Dr. K. Kesava Reddy, IFS.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests

CIRCULAR NO. 6/92

From time to time Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers send reports regarding un-authorized and illegal use of forest lands by Government agencies and Department at the district level for construction purposes or other activities, developmental or otherwise. They propose that action against the concerned officers may be taken under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 i.e. by prosecution.

2. Forest Officers are quite well-versed with the A.P. Forest Act, 1967, which empowers them to deal with all kinds of offences relating to forests and forest lands, no matter who commits them. Forest Officers are empowered there under to themselves book the offences described in sec. 20. of the Forest Act, 1967, including the abettors and accomplices of such offence, which include trespass, felling or damaging of trees, clearing and breaking up of land etc.,

3. Instead of first taking action under the Forest Act 1967, therefore it is not understood why the officers are reporting under an act which gives them no powers, nor to this office into the State Government. There can be no justification for their abdicating the powers and authority vested in them by a sound and sound legislation like the A.P. Forest Act. 1967.

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4. It is therefore impressed upon all officers that first and foremost all offences punishable under the A.P. Forest Act, 1967 shall invariably be booked under that Act only, even when the perceived offender is a Government Agency/Department or an official or their agent/contractor. They will not be absolved of their failure to book the case under the Forest Act, if they allow any illegal use/encroachment/trespass of forest land, or other types of forest offence, just because it was committed by a Government Agency, Department or an official or contractor. Such cognizance or prior booking of an offence will of course not prevent it from being reported under the Forest (Cons) Act, 1980 also.

5. From now onwards the officers are informed that failure to invoke A.P. Forest Act, 1967 and take prompt action by the respective officers as per the Act will be viewed seriously. They should bring the contents of this circular to all concerned under their control and watch over its implementation.

Receipt of the circular may please be acknowledged.

SD/-K.KESAVA REDDY ,

PRL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

To

All Officers in Distribution List 'A'