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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Rc.No.49614/91/U1,
Dated: 27-03-1998.

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

Sri S.D.Mukherji, I.F.S.,
Pri.Chief Conservator of Forests

C I R C U L A R No.6/98

Sub:- F.D.- Raising of plantations by the Department under various schemes –
failure of plantations proposals for write off the wasteful expenditure –
evolving a system of annual assessment report on various plantations
raised – certain instructions – issued.

Ref:- 1. G.M.No.15616/For.II/95-4, dated 20-7-1996.
2. G.M.No.15616/For.II.1/95-5, dated 20-9-1997.

The Department is raising plantations under various schemes financed by Government of India/State Government/External agencies. The plantations are raised during the monsoon i.e., from July to August and replacement of casualties is carried out in the year of raising. By the end of the financial year, stocking of the plantations is assessed and entered in the plantation journal. During the 1st year maintenance, apart from other operations, replacement of casualties is done. Thus the condition of the plantation is periodically assessed.

On verification of the audit objections raised by the Accountant General and reports received from the Conservator of Forests, it is noticed that the system of annual assessment of the plantations raised is not enforced. The scheme completion reports are being submitted subsequently without indicating survival percentage. The Accountant General's audit is raising objections on poor stocking/ failure of the plantations etc., and adversely commenting on expenditure on these plantations as infructuous. Even when plantations fail due to natural calamities, the Accountant General is raising objections and advising to seek ratification/write off orders from Government. The officers are not making entries in the journal giving the reason for failure. In the absence of proper documentation, it is becoming difficult to convince the Accountant General.

It is observed that abnormal delays are occurring in submission of write off proposals to the Pri.Chief Conservator of Forests. The Government are also raising objections for the delay in submitting the write off proposals. It is observed in general that the Divisional Forest Officers/Conservator of Forests are submitting write off proposals only after the Accountant General's audit points out the lapses and issues audit paras. It is also pertinent to note that the write off proposals are being submitted with a delay of one year to 10 years. These delays are causing embarrassment to approach the Government for write off proposals.

In order to overcome such situation, Government in their memos cited have advised to evolve a system of annual assessment report on various plantations taken up by the Department from time to time so that the position will be known to audit. In PCCF Rc.No.49614/91/U1, dt.12-3-1996 the Conservator of Forests were already requested to examine during the office and field inspections of Sub-officers and initiate necessary action for processing write off proposals for damages or failure of plantations as per the provisions of financial code. Inspite of repeated instructions, the system is not improved.

It is found appropriate to fix a norm as to what should be the survival in a successful plantation and which is considered failed. It is not proper to fix a uniform percentage of survival for the plantations throughout the state without considering the varied nature of climatic and edaphic factors in different agroclimatic zones. The

- I. Andhra Area + 70%
(Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, E. Godavari, W. Godavari, Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore)
- II. Rayalaseema Area + 50%
(Chittoor, Anantapur, Cuddapah and Kurnool)
- III. Telangana Area + 60%
(Adilabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Medak, Warangal, Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Mahabubnagar and Khammam)

The to are indicating of overall situation. Every effort is to be made to make it 100%.

The Conservators of Forests are requested to obtain survival percentage of plantations raised during previous financial year in their Circles from the Divisional Forest Officers and invariably inspect all such plantations where the survival is poor and put in all efforts to receive such plantations with full stocking. The Conservators of Forests should also record their observations from time to time in the plantation journals especially in cases where the stocking of the plantation is below the norm fixed and when the plantations is beyond recovery even after casualties replacement in the 2nd year maintenance, submit proposals for write off with full justification after taking into consideration the action to be taken against the subordinates for failure and the fact reported to the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests. This should be complied with immediately and the annual assessment reports of 1996-97 plantations should be filed with the Divisional Forest Officers and Conservator of Forests before end of April, 1998. Annual assessment reports shall be filed with the Conservator of Forests. The Conservators of Forests should take prompt action to submit proposals for write off otherwise the Conservator of Forests will be made responsible for infructuous expenditure.

Acknowledge the receipt of the Circular by return of post.

Sd/- S.D. MUKHERJI,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests

To
All the Conservators of Forests including Social Forestry and Wildlife Circles.
Copy to all Divisional Forest Officers including Social Forestry and Wildlife Divisions.

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