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GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Ref.No.37913/2k-W2(i)  
Dated: 20.10.2000

O/o.the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,  
Aranya Bhavan, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

Sri S.D. Mukherji, I.F.S.,  
PRL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

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CIRCULAR NO. 4 /W2/2K

Sub:- Irregularities in disposal of timber in Government Timber Depot -  
Corrective steps - Regarding.

Ref:- GA(V&E) Deptt., U.O.Note No.22/V&E-NR2/2000-1 from  
G.A.(V&F) Deptt., dt.31.7.2000.

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During the enquiry by the V&E Department on the disposal of Government timber in public auction at Eturunagaram Depot recently, following serious irregularities were reported:-

1. Upset price is reduced drastically and approved by CF. ✓
2. DFO/CF avoided attending sale for four months continuously. ✓
3. CF/DFO did not inspect lotting. ✓
4. CF/DFO did not inspect Depots. ✓
5. The particulars of lots put up for sale were not informed to participants. ✓
6. Bids were written on white paper instead of in the bid register. ✓
7. Signatures of the second highest bidders were not taken in the bid register/list. ✓
8. Classification of timber not checked properly. ✓
9. Sale conducting officer did not sign the bid list. ✓
10. The sale amount is not written in words. ✓
11. Tampering/overwriting of bid amounts was noticed. ✓
12. Keeping depot forester or depot clerk away from all the sales. ✓

The Vigilance & Enforcement Department reported that due to above irregularities, Government suffered revenue loss.

The Government viewed the above irregularities very seriously and issued directions that such serious corrupt and fraudulent transactions should not recur in Government Timber Depots in future. Following instructions are therefore, issued to prevent such serious irregularities:-

1. All the Conservators of Forests are informed that a Manual for Departmental Extraction work prepared with guidelines was communicated to the all field officers vide P.L.CCF's Rc.No.64128/81-W1(i) dt.6.6.'85. In the Chapter VII of the DET Manual, detailed instructions are given on the procedure of depot sales, registers to be maintained, inspections by DFOs and CFs, test checking of timber put for sale, classifications of timber, maintenance of registers, preparation of upset price, etc.

2. The Divisional Forest Officers and the Conservators of Forests are directed to ensure that instructions issued in Chapter VII on sale in depots are scrupulously followed to check any corrupt and fraudulent transactions in Government Depots.

3. The following instructions incorporated in the DET Manual are once again reiterated for strict compliance for sale of timber, bamboo and firewood.

(a) The timber should be classified into ABC Classes and the lotting of timber should be done accordingly. If any lot is to be disposed off at 10% lower than upset price, the CF has to take a decision recording reasons.

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(b) The Conservators of Forests shall attend sales in all major depots at least 75% of sales in their Circles in a year, if they can not, they should review the sales and render their advise to the Divisional Forest Officers. The Conservators of Forests should put initial on the bid list.

(c) Each Range Officer should inspect sale depot once in every quarter. The Divisional Forest Officer should inspect the Depot once in a year in his Division. The CF has to inspect the major Timber Depots in his Circle once in a year.

(d) The lotting register should be fully checked by lotting Forester and the Depot Forest Range Officer and initial it. The lot war register should also be test checked by Asst. Conservator of Forests / Divisional Forest Officer.

(e) A list of lots to be sold/ should be prepared and circulated well in advance to all participated bidders and on the notice board.

(f) A bid register in the form of hand book which should bear office seal should be maintained. The bid lists should be filled with details well in advance of sale date.

(g) The bid register should be signed by the highest bidder.

(h) The Depot RO should check the lotting classification.

(i) The sale amount should to be written in words also.

(j) The depot timber accounts shall be compiled in Form-V. The DFO/ACF shall check-up entries of the Form-V register and initial the same to see that it is properly maintained without illegible over-writings.

(k) In order to prevent favouring a particular party, bid list shall be filled up in the presence of all parties at the time of auction and this list is also to be signed by the highest bidder and the second highest bidder, during the auction.

The Officers in the address entry are requested to follow the above instructions along with all other instructions contained in the DET Manual. For any lapses, the concerned Officers will be held personally responsible. Receipt of this Circular should be acknowledged.

Sd/-S.D.Mukherji,  
FRL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS

To

All the Conservators of Forests (Territorial).

All the Divisional Forest Officers (Territorial).

All the Divisional Forest Officers (Logg.Divns)/(F.S.Divus.)

Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests (Vigilance)/Conservator of Forests (Vigilance) for information w.r.t. his U.O.Note No.50873/99/P2, dated 4-8-2000.

Copy to the Superintendent of 'P' Section

Copy to Stock File.

///T.C.B.O.///