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**CIRCULAR NO. 01 -A/2004 G1**

Sub: Andhra Pradesh Forest Department - SMC works in forest area Saturation level water shed treatment - SUJALAM -SUPHALAM- Workshop held on 17-18<sup>th</sup> December 2004 in the office of the Pri. Chief Conservator of Forests - Certain clarifications and guidelines issued - Regarding.

- Ref: - 1. Circular No. 5 & 5-A/2002/PMU. I /3 communicated in Pri. CCF's ref. No. 17309/2000/PMU. I/3, dated 23.8.2002
2. Circular No. 6 /2003/PMU III/2m Communicated in Pri. CCF's ref. No. 4483/02/PMUIII/2, dated 15-07-2003
3. Circular No. 2 /J.4/2004/ Communicated in Re. No. 16284/2003 J4, dated 08-03-2004
4. Circular No.1/2004/Q1 communicated in Pri. CCF's ref. No. 33820/04/G. 1, dated 11-10-2004
5. Pri. CCF ref. No. 19427/2004/G.1, dated 22-12-2004

The Forest Department aims at alleviation of Rural Poverty through sustainable management of forests with the involvement of the local community.

2. One of the strategies to achieve this lofty goal is to treat the forest areas on watershed basis to saturation level. Accordingly, several instructions have been issued in the references cited above.
3. In the workshop held on 17-18<sup>th</sup> December, 2004 the field level functionaries posed a few problems which are coming in the way of treating the forest areas / watershed to saturation level. The problems noted are : -
- (a) The manual rate of excavation as per the PWD SSR is not workable.
  - (b) The existing instruction is to carry out the work manually and there is a ban on use of machines.
  - (c) In APCFM Project area, there is a ceiling on expenditure for carrying out SMC works and this is coming in the way of carrying out saturation level watershed treatment even where the wage rate is low.
  - (d) The existing instruction from the Head Office not to spend fund from different projects in the same VSS area i.e. if in a VSS area SMC work is being carried out under APCFM project, no fund from any other project like RIDF(SMC) can be spent.

4. After detailed discussion, it has been decided that government will be approached for allowing the Department to use machines for carrying out SMC works in the areas where it is feasible to utilize the machines. In this regard, Government order is likely to be received within a few days.
5. Regarding inadequacy of manual rate in PWD SSR, the Rural Development Department has already taken up the issue. They took the consultancy of Engineering Staff College of India to collect the data and it is understood that the data has been collected, processed and approval of the appropriate rate is under consideration by the Government. The order in this regard is likely to be issued within a short time.
6. Regarding the ceiling on expenditure under APCFM Project, it has been clarified in the workshop that wherever it is essential to exceed the limit to achieve saturation level watershed treatment, the field level functionaries are permitted to do so under APCFM Project. However, while treating the watershed in VSS area under APCFM Project, if certain portion of the watershed falls outside the VSS area, such area should be treated under RIDF.

In this regard, it may however be noted that the quantity and type of SMC works / structures per unit area in different locations is neither equal nor of the same type as it depends on the topography, rainfall, soil etc., and the officers will see to it that cost effective structures with appropriate technology are only used to achieve the saturation level watershed treatment in order to observe economy.

7. It has further been clarified that in the VSS area other than that falling under APCFM project, RIDF (SMC) fund can also be utilized if the amount provided under the project is not adequate to achieve saturation level treatment.

However, the area being treated under different schemes may be demarcated clearly on the ground by creating a fire line/sector line etc.

Thus the VSS areas either under APCFM project or under FDA will not have any fund constraint to be treated on watershed basis up to saturation level. However, only one Measurement Book has to be maintained for a particular VSS area for all SMC works irrespective of source of fund.

8. Since the instructions/clarifications issued in the reference 5<sup>th</sup> cited do not conform to the above outcomes of the workshop, the reference is withdrawn.
9. The Conservators of Forests/Divisional Forest Officers are requested to -
  - (1) Divide the forest / VSS areas into watersheds and treat them to saturation level,
  - (2) Carry out certain works manually, and certain other works by machines in the easily accessible discharge area.
  - (3) Once the government approves the revised manual rate and machine is permitted to carry out the SMC works, all efforts should be made by them to achieve substantial progress within a short time.

- (4) All the officers are requested to keep the plan of Action ready for immediate implementation once the order of the Government is received.
- (5) Note that if any area is treated up to saturation level, a perennial tank will be created in the discharge area necessarily. This is the test of saturation level treatment.
- (6) In addition to a perennial tank in the forest/watershed area it may be a good idea to provide tanks to the villages where there is water scarcity under village Development Programme (CFM) / Entry Point Activity (FDA). This may however be decided after thorough discussion with the villagers.
- (7) Water is the starting point for development and the officers are requested not to overlook this point in case of the villages located near the forest area.

Sd/- **(S.K.DAS)**

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests