

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Ref.No.43702/83-J1
Dated: 28-6-1985

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

Sri V.S.Sastry, IES.,
Prl.Chief Conservator of Forests.

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CIRCULAR NO. 17/85

Sub: Forests - Taken-over estate and Jagir Forests -
constituted as Forest blocks - Notified U/s.4 of
A.P.Forest Act 1967 - pending notification U/s.15-reg.

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The following statement shows the present position of
pending reservation cases in each circle from the records of
this office.

Circle	Total blocks	Notified U/s.4	Notified U/s.15	Balance to be notified U/s.15	Blocks to be notified U/s.4/24
1	2	3	4	5	6
Guntur circle	152	152	111	11	--
Logging Project Circle	322	155	113	42	167
Kurnool Circle	32	32	30	2	Not available
Anantapur "	101	101	78	23	-do-
S.C.Circle				74	42
Visakhapatnam	250	250	176	56	26
Adilabad Circle	149	123	67	132	18
Nizamabad "	257	239	107	49	Not available
Khammam "	278	278	229	75	32
Warangal "	216	184	109	84	72
Hyderabad "	230	158	74		
Total:	1987	1672	1124	548	357

From the above statement it is observed that there are
as many as 548 blocks which were notified U/s.4 of Andhra Pradesh
Forest Act, 1967 pending finalisation by the concerned Forest
Settlement Officers. Instructions were issued time and again
to clear the pending reservation cases. There was no proper
response reported from the departmental officers. The Forest
Settlement Officers also have been often complaining that there
is no co-operation from the department side particularly

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(1) in implementing the Forest Settlement Officer's awards, (2) furnishing required particulars and (3) providing vehicles for Joint inspections. The Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers were often instructed that the Forest Settlement Officers are functioning at the cost of Forest Department and to such there is need for the Forest department to extend fullest co-operation to the Forest Settlement Officers and see that all the pending blocks are finalised and notified U/s.15. Some difficulties were reported with regard to implementation of Forest Settlement Officers awards where inclusion of Forest areas are involved in the context of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, with a view to speed-up the progress of reservation which has of late become stand still. Instructions were issued to the Conservators of Forests through this office D.O. letter reservation cases under the following (5) categories.

1. Enquiries completed by the Forest Settlement Officer awards issued and implemented. Finalisation of Section 15 awaited by the Forest Settlement Officers for want of sketches/information by the department.
2. Enquiries completed and no awards are there involving exclusion of forest areas.
3. Enquiries completed. Awards passed involving exclusion of forest areas but not implemented before the conservation Act, 1980 and agreeable to the department.
4. Enquiries completed. Awards passed involving exclusion of Forest areas but not implemented before the conservation Act, 1980 and not agreeable to the department.
5. Enquiries on hand

It was specifically made clear to fix-up phased programme to attend to the cases falling under categories 1 and 2 on priority and clear from departmental side within 2 months. In respect of the cases under item-3 also, the Conservators of Forests were requested to arrange submission of proforma particulars on prescribed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 so as to enable this office to obtain the permission of Government of India.

It was also suggested to review the cases under items 4 and 5 and frame guidelines for quick disposal. But though nearly a year has elapsed and despite frequent reminders from this office no proposals contemplated under the above instructions have been received. The Conservators of Forests also did not bother to report compliance on the above instructions. The Forest Settlement Officers progress reports reveal that the pending position of reservation cases continued to be the same without any progress since several years. In the absence of proposals or reports on the improved position of clearing pending reservation cases, it is conclusive that the Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers did not feel the urgency and importance that the matter deserved in the context of every growing problems from the side of public in this regard.

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Due to abnormal delay in the disposal of these cases several complications are being faced by the department in the day to day administration besides litigation and loss of Forest wealth. It is therefore imperative on the part of Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers to realise the urgency involved in the quick disposal of all the pending reservation cases. All the Conservators of Forests in general and Conservators of Forests of circles where the pendency is heavy in particular are therefore requested to organise special drives, fix-up phased programmes after reviewing such case on its merits and see that no case of reservation coming under the class of items 1, 2 & 3 are pending with the department by 31.8.1985. The Conservators also should mark copies of their programmes fixed to the Divisional Forest Officers to this office also. It is the personal responsibility of the Conservators of Forests to show the desired progress. If any Divisional Forest Officer fails to rise to the occasion and show satisfactory progress, the Conservator of Forests should initiate suitable disciplinary action and see that they do their job promptly. If necessary the Conservators of Forests may take the help of the Working Plan Officers in consultation with the Conservator of Forests Project Formulation Circle.

The Conservators of Forests are also informed that there are as many as 357 Forest Blocks awaiting notification under section-4. As already pointed-out, delay in the notification of these forest areas under the Forest Act creating many problems to the department and much of the previous time of the departmental administration is being wasted in attending to these problems. Hence the Conservators of Forests are requested to see that these cases are also disposed of simultaneously. The Chief Conservator of Forests would like to see the progress in the disposal of reservation cases also in their M.D.Os. until such time the pendency is cleared to minimum.

The Conservators of Forests should acknowledged the receipt of the circular by return post.

Sd/- K.V.S.Babu,
Chief Conservator of Forests (M)

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