

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH = 43 =  
FOREST DEPARTMENT

No.No. 48442/85/WL3,

Office of the trl. Chief Conservator  
of Forest, A.P. Hyderabad.

Sri V.S.Sastry, I.F.S.,  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests.

CIRCULAR NO. 19/85.

Sub:- wild life- Curbing of Illicit trade in wild  
Life products like Froglegs, Snake and Skins etc.,  
instructions issued.

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It has come to notice that certain firms are engaging in illicit trade in frog legs are likely to take up same in Hyderabad & Secunderabad, Khammam and Warangal, Vijayawada, Nellore etc., Frog legs are being exported mostly to Bombay and Madras by train under the guise of "Marine Products" like fish. The modus operandi appears to be to hide the frog legs under a few layers of fish in baskets.

2. The state Government has already imposed a ban on trapping, killing and trade in all wild life and its products including frog legs in the state applicable for a period of five years from 1982 to 1983. In spite of ban clandestine dealings are reported not only in frog legs but also in wild ~~publix~~ animal skin of tiger, snakes skin etc., which leads to public criticism against the Forest Department Officials.

3. As per the wild life protection Act and Rules of the state Government issued in 1974 all the Divisional Forest Officers are the Wild Life Wardens and Conservator of Forests are Deputy Chief Wild Life Wardens within their jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of the Wild Life Wardens implement the Wild Life Act and curb the underground dealings in Wild Life products without proper licence and permission. Such activity not only brings a bad name to the Department but also causes incalculable imbalance in the ecology of the particular area. You are therefore requested to keep a strict vigil on the clandestine dealings in Wild Animals products like Frog legs, skins of Tigers, Crocodiles, Snakes skins etc., and take prompt steps to prosecute the culprits by booking cases against them in the court of law or proceed against them fearlessly.

4. The Flying Squad Officers including Wild Life Anti-Poaching Squads are requested particularly to make surprise raids at Railway Stations, Bus Stations Business centres etc., enlisting the cooperation of the station authorities and Police Officers and unearth such secret dealings. Secretly the traders may transport such product in the name of other items.

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(Frog legs being transported in the name of "Marine Products")  
Such cases can be traced out if proper check and investigation is made.

5. The South Centre Railway and transport agencies have already been alerted in this regard. Any case of laxity at local level should be brought to notice. The Officers are requested to report at once by wire to the Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests if any case of illicit or clandestine dealings in Wild Life products is noticed by them pending submission of a detailed report later on. They should take prompt steps as per law without waiting for any orders etc.,

The receipt of the reference may please be acknowledged by return of post in the enclosed form.

Sd/-V.S.Sastry,  
Chief Wild Life Warden.