

FOREST DEPARTMENT

Ref.No. 21388/89/J3

Dated: 30-10-1989.

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

Sri. Pushpkumar, IFS.,  
Pril. Chief Conservator of Forests.

CIRCULAR NO. 15/89.

Sub:- Forest Department - Maintenance of Forest  
boundaries with the prescribed size of Cairns  
and out lines - instructions - Regarding.

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According to the standing instructions and the practice followed, all the forest block boundaries are required to be maintained with out lines and prescribed specification size of cairns. The boundaries and cairns are also to be periodically maintained with well defined signboards wherever required. But due to efflux of time, paucity of funds and also due to lack of attention on the part of field staff, the boundaries of our Reserve Forests are in a state of dereliction and therefore not visible on the ground. This is a serious situation and needs immediate attention. I have a reason to believe that adequate field inspections are not being carried out at various levels.

Instances have come to notice of this office, that due to improper maintenance of the Forest block boundaries by the concerned officers of the Department encroachments took place, in the past and continue to take place even now. In certain cases even the Revenue Department granted pattas in the block areas and our staff are totally oblivious of the fact. When detected and pointed-out they are forwarding the plea that these had happened due to lack of clear out forest boundary demarcation with cairns. This type of lapse on the part of Forest Guards, section Officers, Range Officers/Divnl. Forest Officers is leading to all type of complications and confusion of the present day problems faced by the Department in the matter of encroachment grant of irregular pattas etc. thereby placing the Department in a very awkward positions. Hence all the Conservator of Forests/Divnl. Forest Officers are requested to see that Forest block boundaries of their respective divisions are first got inspected and properly maintained to the required width of out lines i.e., not less than 5.50 Mts. for block external boundaries and 2.75 Mts. for enclosure and internal block boundary. The Forest boundary pillars will of course mark the actual limits of the Reserve Forest as notified and should be placed on the outer edge of the cleared line. The pillars should be visible from one to the other and in case where the turning points of boundary are too far so as to render them not easily visible intermediate cairns or pillars should be erected. As a rule boundary pillars should not be more than 200 Mtrs. apart and free from any tree or shrub growth with the prescribed size of cairns. The cairns will be built round the post of the largest stones procurable upto a height of 1.25 Mts. and should be 1.25 Mts. in diameter of square at the base and 3/4 mts. at top. In the localities where stone slabs or monoliths are cheaply and easily procurable locally they may take advantage of the same to be used for boundary pillars. They should stand 1 1/2 mts. above the ground and be strong enough to prevent their being removed by people or broken off by cattle rubbing against them.

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Similarly where RCC pillars are considered desirable they may be erected with the same shape and size of the slab or monolith stones.

Where masonry pillars are considered reasonable they may be constructed adopting the specifications provided for cairns. Specimen figures are attached to the Circular. The cairns. Specimen figures are attached to the Circular. The cairns and pillars also should be numbered as per the notifications, white washed periodically and maintained well so that the public or other departmental Officers who happen to visit these areas would easily identify the Forest limits. The Divisional Forest Officers also should arrange to display sign Boards with the name of Forest Block, Divisions etc., both in Regional Language English and for the guidance of the public in all important places particularly at the point of entry and exit of public right of ways. The conservator of Forests should make it a point to inspect the Forest block boundaries, cairns, sign boards etc., during their inspections in the divisions and see that they are properly maintained and they confirm to the specification given in the relevant provisions of Forest Manual, Hand Book. The Divisional Forest Officers should make the Range Officers personally responsible for the proper maintenance of Forest block boundaries, Cairns and sign boards etc., coupled with beat inspections and should initiate drastic action against the concerned Range Officer for any lapses. They should also bring this to the notice of the concerned field staff for immediate action.

The Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers should acknowledge the receipt of this circular by return post.

Sd/- Pushp Kumar,  
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests

To  
All the Conservators of Forests (Territorial)  
All the Divisional Forest Officers( -do- )

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