

Copy of Circular No. A2-64872/75 (K.Dis) dated 16-3-76 (Circular No.20/76) of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Trivandrum.

Sub:- Loss due to the incorrect computation of the rate for sleeper operation.

The Accountant General has observed under para VI of the Local Audit Report pertaining to the Divl. Forest Officer, Thenmala for the period from 25-6-1970 to 10-5-1971 that due to the wrong interpretation of the P.W.D. Schedule rate, excess expenditure was incurred for the work of felling trees and converting the logs into B.G./M.G. sleeper as explained below.

2. The above work was awarded to the contractor at the rate of 78% of the departmental rates. The standard rate arrived at for sleeper operation was Rs.14.90 per B.G. sleeper. This rate included the charges for putting logs in position and assisting in saving which has been calculated for 6 cft. at the rate of Rs.6.61 per 1 cu.m. (35.315 cft.) of timber. Since the rate of Rs.6.61 provided in the P.W.D. schedule of rates is for obtaining 1 cft of sawn timber, and since a B.G. sleeper after being sawn measures only 3.156 cft. charges for 3.156 cft. should alone have been taken into account for working out the standard rate. But as the rate was worked out for 6 cft. of timber the departmental basis rate was inflated by 58 paise (53 paise + 10% contractor's profit). This has resulted in extra expenditure of 45.2 paise for every B.G. sleeper (78% of 58 paise). The loss on this account has been assessed as Rs.23280/- at the time of audit. The point raised by the Accountant General is that there was error in estimating the rate for the item 'putting logs in position and assisting in saving'.

3. The necessity of issuing suitable instructions to avoid such mistakes in the department in future has been brought to my notice. In these circumstances, the Conservator of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers are instructed to see that while applying the schedule rates, mistakes of this type should be guarded against.

Sd/- P.T. Devassy,  
Chief Conservator of Forests.

To

All Conservators and Divl. Forest Officers.

Endt. on HA.6266/76 (F.Dis) dated 27-3-76.

Copy to TR, CH, KT,ML, MR and A1 sections for information and necessary action.

for Conservator of Forests. Trichur.