

KERALA FOREST DEPARTMENT

V4-4567/96.

Forest Head Quarters,
Thiruvananthapuram.
Dated: 15-7-1997.

CIRCULAR NO.12/1997

Sub:- Issues relating to smuggling of sandal wood and extraction of sandal oil in Sandal oil factories.

It has been brought to the notice of the undersigned that certain officers of the Department subscribe to the view that sandal wood would yield sandal oil on distillation. Such a view is totally unfounded in view of the results of scientific researchers and finding in the Government owned sandal oil factory, the resume of which is given in the Technical note attached herewith. The technical note form part and parcel of this circular.

In view of the facts mentioned above and in the technical note, any officer who subscribe to the myth to the effect that sandal cap wood yield sandal oil can only be regarded as an accomplice in the clandestine and illegal deal. Therefore, it is directed that no officer shall certify production of sandal oil as genuine if it is shown to have derived from sapwood of sandal and no pass for transport of the same shall be issued. Further, it is directed that the quantity of sandal in each class shall be separately shown in the transit pass issued. The sandal oil factory owners shall also be directed to maintain their stock accounts class wise. This circular is issued as per decision in the meeting of council of Chief Conservator of forests on 3-7-1997. The facts mentioned in this circular and technical note may also be brought to the notice of the Honourable Court during litigations in respect of sandal wood and sandal oil wherever applicable.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF
FORESTS (G).