CIRCULAR No. 46/87

Sub:- Loss of Revenue due to Short realisation of penalty for belated non-submission of monthly statements by Forest Contractors

As per the Agreement conditions of supply coupes and sale Coupes, the contractors should render monthly statements to the Range Officer/Divisional Forest Officer before 10th of the succeeding month in the case of supply coupes and to Range Officer before 5th of the next month in the scase of sale coupe. The agreement conditions also stipulate that if the statements are not furnished within the stipulated time the contractor shall be liable to pay Rs.10/- per month each for non submission of statement to Range Officer and Divisional Forest Officer in the case of supply coupes and a fine of Rs.10/- per month or fraction thereof in the case of sale coupes for each and everyu default. It was observed by Accountant General during local inspection that in many Divisions the fine from the defaulted contractors was levied for the total number of such default in arrears without regard to the period for which the statement was in arrears. The practice higherto followed in various Divisions was based on the interpretation that the non-submission of a monthly statement should be treated as a single default and that the contractor is liable to pay one fine only for each default. The Accountant Generl has observed that this procedure is irregular and that the penalty is due per month from the date of default till the statement of that particular month is furnished. The failure to submit each monthly return either to Range Officer or to Divisional Forest Officer attracts the stipulated penalty. For instance, if the statement for the month of January is filed only in April 10th or 5th as the case may be along with the statement for February and March, two months fine in respect of January and one months fine in respect of February has to be recovered from the Contractor.

The practice hither to followed ws not regular and all concerned are hereby instructed to levy penalty for each default for every month as pointed out by the Accountant General.

The receipt of the Circular should be acknowledged.

Sd/(M. Sivarajan)
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Trivandrum.

All Conservators of Forests/Field Director, Project Tiger, Kottayam for information and necessary further action.

All Divisional Forest Officers.

Copy to all Branch Officers and Section Heads in this office.

Endt. on CH-5513/85 dated 9-2-1988.

Copy to Sections, TR, ML, VC, A1 & A2. Copy to Conservator of Forests, Administrative Asst. Senior Supdt., Junior Supdt. Copy to Stock file.

> for Conservator of Forests, Trichur.