

Government of Andhra Pradesh

Forest Department

From

Sri H.K. Desai, I.F.S.,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests,
Aranya Bhavan, Andhra Pradesh,
Hyderabad - 500 004.

To

The Prl. Secretary to Govt.,
Engery and Forests Department,
Andhra Pradesh,
Hyderaba.

Ref. No. 32234/88/A1, dated 31.1.1994.

Sir,

Sub: Establishment - Forest Department Declaration - of the posts of Forest Range Officers as gazetted Delegation of powers to issue search warrant and compounding on Forest offences - under A.P. Forest Act 1967 and under A.P. Forest Offences (Compounding and Prosecution) Rules, 1969 - Proposals submitted - Reg.

Ref.. G.O. Ms. No. 188 E.F.E.S & T (For. IV) Department dated 9.9.1993.

In the G.O. cited orders were issued declaring the posts of Forest Range Officers as gazetted. The A.P. Range Officers Association in the meeting held on 15.1.94 have requestedd to empower the Forest Range Officers to issue search warrant to issue prosecution orders and to enhance the limit of compounding powers in Forest offence cases.

In this connection it is submitted that under Section 62 1(b) of the A.P. Forest Act 1967 any Forest officer not below the rank of Asst. Conservator of Forests can search or issue search warrant which may be executed in the manner provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure. Since the category of Forest Range Officer has been notified as Gazetted there is justification in the demand in empowering adequately in dealing with Forest offences. Similarly they have to be appropriately delegated the power to issue prosecution under A.P. Forest Act 1967 in all cases where the accused have to be prosecuted and where value of the Forest Produce seized is not more than 7,500/-.

As regards the powers to compound the Forest offence, at present the Forest Range Officers can compound those offence cases the value of which do not exceed Rs. 100/-. But the amount is unreasonable. As such it is decided to enhance it to Rs. 7,500/-

It is requested that the Government may be please to consider the above proposals.

Accordingly necessary draft amendment to A.P. Forest Act, 1967 are submitted for approval and communication of orders at an early date.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/- **H.K. Desai**,
Prl. Chief Conservator of Forests,

// True //

for prl. Chief Conservator of Forests