

Departmental Circular No. 15 of 1986

My No: 66 - 00078.,
Irrigation Department,
Colombo - 7.
1986.11.27.

Range D.D.

Irrigation Engineer

Removal of Trees From Tank Beds

It has been found that, in some instances, when tanks are built by the Irrigation Department standign trees in the tank beds are not extracted before water is impounded. This action deprives the country of valuable timber which is becoming harder to come by, day by day and also prevents sthese tanks being used for in-land fishing as well.

2. The following circulars have been issued to G.AA. regarding the release of State forest lands which have to be cleared for development activities, to the STC for extraction of time.

Circular No. 135 of 26.08.1982 - On "Release of Forest for exploitation by the District Authorities.

Circular No:02/200 of 30.4.1985 - On "Release of Forests Administered by G.AA.

Circular No.02/ 207 of 24.12.1985 - On "Release of State Forests for extraction of timber by the STC and supervision of filling operations.

It is revealed that a substantial number of lands released, involves the construction of Minor Irrigation Tanks, falling mainly in the districts of A'pura, Moneragala, Ampara, Hambantota, Polonnaruwa, Puttalam, Badulla, Ratnapura and few other districts.

3. Sometimes delays in timber extraction, it is reported, had affected construction work, while in some other cases timber had been allowed to be submerged to achieve construction targets. In order to avoid this situation, you will appreciate that construction work should be coordinated closely with the District Authorities so that the delays in timber extraction, construction work and non-utilisation of valuable timber could be avoided.

4. When an item of work is included in the construction list for a given year, if a plan showing the area coming under FSL and the command area, wherever new lands are involved are sent to the GA early, action could be taken by him to inform the STC to remove the timber. The STC also could then programme their work well in advance.

5. Please acknowledge receipt of this Circular.

Sgd./
Eng. K.D.P. Perera,
Director of Irrigation.

Copy to : S/L & L.D. - Reference 06/02/5 (1) of 19.11.1986.