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No.F.7(111)/For/For/FP/FP-2016-17/Railway/449-458
GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Dated...18./09/2018

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for determining 'Surplus' timber
for export from the State through Railways**

As per MoEF&CC, GOI's guidelines circulated vide F.19-2/2016-SU (NEC) (Pt.) dated 9.5.2017 regarding regulatory committee on movement of surplus timber from NE states to other parts of the country and related SOP dated 18th Nov. 2016 in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 12th April, 2016, the Government may take steps to ensure that the movement of surplus timber from NER is carried out only in accordance with regulatory control. An SOP for determining the movement of surplus timber in the state is envisaged which is as follows:

- A. Assessment of total quantity of timber available during the year (Seized timber as well as extracted timber from jote lands) : Total assessment shall be made from following sources-
 - i. Quantity of timber available from Government source as per report from DFO/SDFO office comprising departmentally operated timber and seized timber
 - ii. Quantity of timber available from private source based on permits issued by SDFO office for extraction from Jote Lands
- B. Assessment of total quantity of timber demand during the year (Government as well as non government): Data may be obtained from the following sources :
 - i. Government : PWD/RD/I&C/Education/Other Government department's procurement of timber as per requisition placed with DFO/SDFO office
 - ii. The requirement of Timber Traders/Furniture /Cabinet shops may be calculated from the records of licensed sawmills
 - iii. The requirement of Personal use may be calculated based on Permits issued (for upto 2 cum) by DFO/SDFO
 - iv. Apart from (i) & (iii) above, the quantity of timber disposed through tender/auction from the stocks of DFO/SDFO may be treated as demand during the concerned period
- C. Quantity Deficit/Surplus (A-B) : It shall be worked out for all districts and compilations shall be done so as to arrive at Net figure of Deficit or Surplus available.

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D. These annual calculations will be completed within 15th April, each year for the preceding year. Further for effective monitoring of surplus and deficit in the state, the exercise may be repeated on 15th July, 15th October & 15th January of each year to know the trend of surplus/deficit. Based on these calculations Deficit or Surplus shall be arrived at. The demand of all government departments and ecological sustainability shall also be considered while making the assessment of exportable surplus. For each quarter as well as for the entire year, depending on the status, the quantity of either surplus or deficit timber shall be notified after obtaining Govt. approval.

E. The notification shall be based on the recommendation of the committee comprising of following officials

Chairman- PCCF

Member- Director Industries

Member CE PWD

Member- CE RDD

Member MD TFDPC Ltd.

Member Secretary- CCF (FP)

The committee shall meet once in 3 months to give its recommendations on status of timber either surplus or deficit.

F. Based on the notifications about Deficit/Surplus, decisions may be taken for allowing exports, issuance of jote land permits etc. It will also generate sufficient timber related market intelligence so as to avoid over exploitations of poor jotedars by traders, hoarding, adopting unfair practice for pricing and regulate the timber availability in the local markets.

G. No timber shall be exported outside the state without being designated as "Surplus timber". The timber trader has to first make sincere attempts to sell out the same in the state or local market. Hoarding of timber for price manipulation by trader must be avoided. The attempt made by trader must be certified by local DFO that sufficient effort has been made by the trader to sell the stock of timber to Government and non Government agencies in the State.

H. After the exercise, if there is available surplus, then the applicant/exporter has to submit petition to the DFO concerned. After due examination of its classification as Surplus and attempts made by Exporter to sell off the timber in local market, the DFO may

recommend the export petition to PCCF. PCCF shall obtain Government approval of the case before recommending it to Regional office, MoEF&CC for allotment of wagons. Wagon allocation to individual exporter shall also be done in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

1. Thereafter, SOP for movement of timber from NER to the rest of the country in compliance of orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 12th April, 2018 shall be adhered to as per MoEF&CC's communication vide no.F.19-2/2016-SU(NEC) dated 18th Nov, 2016 and MoEF&CCs notification dated 27th Feb, 2018.

By order of the Governor,

(B. Debbarma)

Addl. Secretary to the
Government of Tripura

17/09/18

To

The Manager, Tripura Government Press, Agartala along with 10 copies of the SOP for publication of the SOP in the next issue of the Tripura Gazette.

Copy to:-

1. The Deputy Inspector General of Forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (SU Division), Vayu Wing, 6th floor, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bagh Road, Ali Ganj, New Delhi-110003.
2. The Addl. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), North Eastern Regional Office, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Law-U-Sib, Lumbatagen, Near MTC workshop, Shillong-793021.
3. The SA & JS to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura.
4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Tripura.
5. The Managing Director, TFDPC Ltd., Abyoynagar, Agartala.
6. The Chief Conservator of Forests (FP), O/o the PCCF, Tripura.
7. The Chief Engineer, PWD, Govt. of Tripura.
8. The Chief Engineer, RDD, Govt. of Tripura.
9. The Director, Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Tripura.
10. The Deputy Conservator of Forests (FP), O/o the PCCF, Tripura.

Addl. Secretary to the
Government of Tripura

17/09/18