

HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA HYDERABAD

MAIN CASE No:C.C.No.3243 of 2026

PROCEEDING SHEET

SL. NO	DATE	ORDER	OFFICE NOTE
	25.08.2026	<u>JAK, J</u> Today when the matter is called, learned Assistant Government Pleader has placed on record the proceedings in Rc.No.CC 3243/2026/Chandrg, dt:22.08.2026 addressed to the office of learned Government Pleader for Forests, High Court of Telangana. The Forest Range Officer, Chandrugonda has appended a notification dated 6-4-1343 Fasli (year 1933) issued under Section 7 of the Forest Act i.e., (Act 1 of 1326 Fasli) (year 1916) and Section 10 which was issued on 24.10.1343 Fasli (year 1933) bearing Gazette No.39. The said notification was issued in Urdu language declaring the lands in Chapralapalli, Annadevam, Regallapad, Rudrakshapalli, Pentlam Taluka, Madhira District Warangal under Reserved Forest Block, Annapureddypalli consisting of an area of 22,994 acres 20 guntas, which is notified in official Gazette as a Reserved Forest. It is trite law that once a notification has been issued under the Forest Act invoking Section 7 and 10 of 1916 Act, the entire extent is deemed to be Reserved Forest. The Revenue Department cannot in any	Transferred to IO Folder before corrections.

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		manner whatsoever part or assign or grant any patta in the Reserved Forest Block as the Reserved Forest exclusively is governed by the Forest Act and any interference by the Revenue authorities in assigning or granting a patta in respect of the Reserved Forest Land is not in accordance with the law as enunciated by the Hon'ble Apex Court in a catena of Judgments. It is also trite law that Forest land needs to be protected and this Court is guided by the law laid down by the Hon'ble Apex Court in <i>Hinch Lal Tiwari vs Kamala Devi And Ors</i>¹ and <i>T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad vs. Union Of India</i>². The case of the petitioner herein is that he is in possession and cultivation of the subject land for a long time. On a perusal of the documents placed before this Court from page No.15 to 39, it is apparent that the petitioner herein has been assigned land in Revenue area and not in a Reserved Forest area and the claim of the petitioner that part of the land in an extent of Acs.3.01 guntas falls in the Reserved Forest is <i>prima facie</i> not tenable. On the aspect of timely instructions to be received by the offices of law officers of the High	

¹ (2001) 6 SCC 496

² 2025 SCC OnLine SC 1227

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		Court, this Court had noted in its order that not issuing proper instructions to the office of learned Government Pleader by any of the State Instrumentalities in a contempt case would amount to a contemptuous Act. It is made clear that contempt proceedings are on a different footing to that of the proceedings in a writ petition. Such non-cooperation from the offices of the State Government is not a healthy sign (in the present case Forest Department of the District of Bhadradri Kothagudem) in contempt matters. Today when the matter is called, learned counsel appearing on behalf of office of learned Government Pleader for Forest Department has placed on record the communication dated 22.08.2026 addressed by the Principal Chief Conservators of Forests to Chief Conservators of Forests, Bhadradri Circle, including the DFO, Bhadradri Kothagudem District, for compliance. The contents are as follows: “...Attention of the CCF and DFO is invited to the subject and reference cited, wherein the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Telangana dated 21.08.2026 in the subject Contempt Case, wherein the Hon'ble Court has taken serious note of the non-furnishing of instructions by the concerned field officers, despite communications having been addressed by the Chief Law Officers of the State. The Hon'ble Court has specifically observed that the matter is a Contempt Case and that, even after	

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		notice with a time of four weeks, no instructions were available on record. The Hon'ble Court has further requested the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to enlighten the Court as to why the concerned officers were not responding to the communications forwarded by the Chief Law Officers. It has also been observed that failure to furnish instructions despite notice may amount to a contemptuous act. The Hon'ble Court has directed that the required instructions be furnished before the next date of hearing, i.e., 25.08.2026 morning, and has made it clear that, in the event of failure to furnish the instructions, the concerned officers may be held liable for their acts. In view of the above, the CCF, Bhadradi Circle and DFO, Kothagudem Division are hereby directed to treat the matter as MOST URGENT and personally ensure that complete and updated instructions, along with all relevant records and supporting documents, are furnished to the learned Government Pleader/Assistant Government Pleader immediately, enabling effective representation before the Hon'ble Court on 25.08.2026. The concerned officers shall also ensure close coordination with the Government Pleader/Assistant Government Pleader and confirm that the required instructions have been received by them. A copy of the instructions furnished and confirmation of receipt by the concerned Law Officer shall be submitted to this office immediately for record. It is further directed that such lapse in responding to the communications of the Chief Law Officers and non-furnishing of instructions in Court cases, particularly Contempt Cases, shall not be repeated in future. All concerned officers	

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		shall accord the highest priority to Court matters and ensure timely furnishing of complete instructions and records within the time stipulated by the Court/Law Officers. The CCF, Bhadradi Circle and the DFO-Bhadradi Kothagudem shall personally monitor compliance with these directions and ensure that there is no further lapse in the matter. In view of the communication from the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (HoFF), this Court is of the considered opinion that the Officers of Division of Bhadradi Kothagudem District (Forest Department) be given an opportunity not to repeat the same of not giving instructions in time. An affidavit shall be filed by the officers who are present in the Court. For the present, the presence of officers is dispensed with and they shall file an affidavit. Learned counsel appearing on behalf of the petitioner has sought time to get instructions and to file an affidavit. Post the matter on 08.09.2026. JAK, J PSW	

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