

GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR



ADMINISTRATION REPORT
ON THE
FOREST DEPARTMENT
IN THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES & BERAR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING THE
31ST MARCH 1940

NAGPUR
GOVERNMENT PRINTING, C. P. & BERAR
1941

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Central Provinces and Berar**

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GOVERNMENT OF THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR
FOREST DEPARTMENT

Nagpur, the 17th January 1941.

READ—

The report by the Chief Conservator of Forests on Forest Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st March 1940.

RESOLUTION

Financially the year under report was the most successful of the decade. The gross receipts increased by over Rs. 1.75 lakhs to Rs. 50.44 lakhs. All the main heads of income, except grazing, contributed to this result. The net surplus of Rs. 15.07 lakhs which exceeded last year's surplus by Rs. 1.27 lakhs was the highest since 1930-31. The improved financial results were due almost entirely to increased receipts in the departmental timber operations and to increased volume of traffic on the Raipur Forest Tramway. The departmental operations yielded Rs. 1.31 lakhs more than the previous year. The saw mill at Allapilli showed a net profit of Rs. 2.15 lakhs against Rs. 1.49 lakhs in the previous year. An innovation in the method of transport introduced at Allapilli during the year was lorries operated on producer gas, the operation costs of which are very much lower than those of petrol-driven vehicles. The results obtained so far are reported to be satisfactory.

2. The Raipur Forest Tramway also had its best year since 1931. The gross earnings amounted to Rs. 1.85 lakhs and the net surplus of receipts over expenditure was Rs. 82,773 which more than covered the depreciation charges and yielded a small interest on the capital invested.

3. There was a heavy decline of 1.25 lakhs in the number of animals sent to forests for grazing. This resulted in a fall in income of about Rs. 61,000. This shrinkage in grazing is attributable mainly to economic depression and scarcity conditions in Berar and in certain parts of the Nagpur Division. It has been estimated that the concessions granted to the public represent Rs. 12.45 lakhs in value.

4. In areas where scarcity conditions prevailed, Government granted the concessions of free extraction of fuel and grass by headloads and free removal of fruits, edible roots and tubers. This indirect assistance is estimated to be worth Rs. 23,572. In addition,

forest works, *e.g.*, construction of new roads and special repairs to existing roads and departmental fellings and thinnings were organized to provide relief in the affected areas.

5. A further measure of economy carried out during the year was the abolition of the Melghat Division and distribution of its ranges between the Amraoti and Betul Divisions. In other respects also economy was observed wherever possible. It is reported that the inadequate grants during the last few years have resulted in considerable deterioration of the condition of roads, the wear and tear on which has been increased by throwing them open to all traffic. An improvement in the housing conditions of the staff in the department, especially the subordinate staff, is long over due. The need of suitable housing accommodation for the contentment and health of the staff is evident.

6. Forest offences showed a considerable increase during the year but Government is pleased to note that the number of assaults on the staff has halved, though it included one fatal assault. A good deal of criticism has been levelled in the Legislative Assembly and elsewhere on the procedure of compounding forest offences. This question was under the examination of Government during the year.

7. In furtherance of the scheme of education in forest villages nine more schools were opened during the year and some of the schools had to be provided with an additional teacher. Government regrets that more could not be done in this respect owing to financial stringency.

8. Mr. Cox, the Chief Conservator of Forests, proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement in the month of October. Government wishes to place on record its appreciation of his loyal and devoted service and of the extremely helpful manner in which he approached problems of forest administration. Government's thanks are also due to all members of the staff who contributed to a successful year's working.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Chief Conservator of Forests and to the Conservators of Forests, Central, Eastern and Western Circles, for information and guidance; also that it be published in Part I of the *Central Provinces and Berar Gazette*.

By order of the Governor, C. P. & Berar,

K. B. L. SETH,
Secy. to Govt., C. P. & Berar,
Forest Department.

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