



**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA**

---

---

**OUTLINE  
OF  
ACTIVITIES**

**For 1978-79**

**REVENUE AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT  
(FOREST WING)**

---

---

E R R A T A.

Outline of Activities : Revenue and Forests Department : ( Forests wing ) 1977-78 and 1978-79.

Sr. No.	Chapt-er No.	Page No.	Details of Errata.
1.	Front cover page.	-	Insert on the front cover page the figures " 1977-78" after the word ' For ' and before the figures '1978-79'.
2.	Introduction.	2	In item No. 1 column No. 2 for the word 'Plnatation ' read the word 'Plantation ' after the word 'and'.
3.	XIII.	10.	In line No. 9 insert oblique i.e. " / " after the word 'incurred' and before the word 'sanctioned'.
4.	XV.	10	In line No. 5 from the bottom insert the word " an " and - delete the words ' a statutory ' before the word ' autohomous '.

**OUTLINE**  
**OF**  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**For 1977-78 and 1978-79**  
**REVENUE AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT**  
**(FOREST WING)**

## CONTENTS

SUBJECTS	PAGE
I. Introduction .. .. .	1
PART A	
<i>Plan Activities</i>	
II. Forestry Research and Survey Demarcation .. .. .	2
(1) Forest Research .. .. .	
(2) Survey and demarcation of forest. .. .. .	
(3) Survey and demarcation of private forest. .. .. .	
(4) Forest resources survey. .. .. .	
III. Soil Conservation .. .. .	3
(1) Centrally sponsored scheme for river valley project. .. .. .	
(2) Soil Conservation—Osmanabad—Special Scheme. .. .. .	
(3) Protective measures for soil conservation in watersheds of State River Valley Projects. .. .. .	
(4) Afforestation for soil conservation. .. .. .	
(5) Special Scheme for Parbhani District. .. .. .	
IV. Housing—Residential and Administrative buildings .. .. .	5
V. Minor Forest Produce .. .. .	5
(1) Departmental collection of gum and other minor forest produce for the benefit of tribals. .. .. .	
(2) Development of minor forest produce. .. .. .	
VI. Social Forestry .. .. .	5
(1) Farm Forestry—Creation of wood-lots. .. .. .	
(2) Extension of forestry—trees along the Highways and Canal Banks. .. .. .	
(3) Mixed Plantation on community lands, Government lands and Village Panchayat lands. .. .. .	
VII. Nurseries .. .. .	6
(1) Establishment of central nurseries. .. .. .	
(2) Extension programme of nurseries for tribals. .. .. .	
VIII. Plantation and Afforestations .. .. .	7
(1) General Utility Timber species. .. .. .	
(2) Quick growing species. .. .. .	
(3) Reforestation of Degraded Forests. .. .. .	
(4) Stabilisation of banks of Chandrabhaga river. .. .. .	
IX. Development of Fodder Resources .. .. .	8
X. Forest Protection .. .. .	8

## CONTENTS

	SUBJECTS	PAGE
XI.	Forest Exploitation .. .. .	9
XII.	Forest Communication—roads and bridges .. .. .	9
XIII.	Forest Labour Welfare .. .. .	9
XIV.	Wild Life and Nature Conservation .. .. .	10
	(1) Wild Life Organisation.	
	(2) Wild Life and Nature Conservation Scheme.	
XV.	Forest Development Corporation .. .. .	10
XVI.	Drought Prone Areas—Scheme of the Planning Department .. .. .	11
XVII.	Integrated Development of Western Ghats .. .. .	12
XVIII.	Employment Guarantee Scheme .. .. .	13
XIX.	Tourism .. .. .	14
<b>PART B</b>		
<i>Non-Plan Activities</i>		
I.	Minor Forest Produce other than Tendu and Apta Leaves .. .. .	14
II.	Trade in Tendu and Apta Leaves .. .. .	15
III.	Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies .. .. .	15

## **FOREWORD**

Forests have multiple role and multiple utility, performing three vital functions simultaneously viz., protective, productive and social (bio-aesthetic), which are intimately connected with the three important biological links, viz., Forests and Food, Forests and Wood and Forests and People. The multifarious activities of the Forest Department are closely linked with the lives of the people in general, and backward classes, especially the tribals, in particular. Another important aspect of the forestry is that forestry operations are basically labour-intensive and, therefore, development programmes for the interior forest areas, in particular, greatly enhance the employment potential of these regions, and thereby contribute substantially to the welfare of the Adiwasis and the people residing in the forest areas.

In this booklet, an attempt has been made to deal with some of the more important schemes of the Forest Department; it does not pretend to cover all the activities of the Forest Department.

Bombay :  
Dated the 19th June 1978.

**NASIKRAO TIRPUDE**

## I. Introduction

Although the practice of scientific forestry is over a century old, the forest management until recently has been more conservational than developmental in approach. Considering the multiple role and utility of forests viz. productive, protective and social including catering to socio-economic needs, it is imperative that developmental planning in forestry covers to all the three aspects in a closely integrated manner. The development of forests has, therefore, to be planned not only to take care of the growing demands for fuel, fodder, timber and other forest produce, as essential requirements of the people but also to provide for the essential raw material requirement of wood-based industries such as newsprint, paper, rayon etc. It has also to ensure that adequate forest cover is maintained, particularly in the river valley catchments and other vulnerable areas, for the protection of fertile agricultural lands as well as water reservoirs. Besides, forestry operations, being highly labour intensive, contribute significantly to generate employment opportunities in the backward rural areas, where other sources of generating employment potential are limited, especially in the remote areas inhabited by 40 million tribals and other weaker sections of the society, a large number of whom are landless labourers.

2. The total forest area in Maharashtra State under Forest Administration extends over 56,191 square kilo meters, which is about 18.29 per cent of the total geographical area of the State. Further, the forests are neither uniformly distributed nor uniformly stocked all over the State, with the result that not only does their productivity vary from region to region, but also the quality of produce and services provided by them.

3. An integrated plan of forest development has been formulated, keeping in view diverse aspects of forestry, including development of Forest Communications, so as to open up remote areas and to maximise marketing of the production by economic exploitation of all utilizable material within the shortest period. Introduction of improved logging methods, plantation of economic species required for wood-based industries, afforestation of denuded slopes and barren lands, development of pastures, preservation of wildlife etc. are also envisaged. At the time, the amelioration in the social and economic conditions of the forest dwellers and the forest labourers is also aimed at through implementation of the scheme of Forest Labour Welfare.

4. The table below indicates the progress of expenditure under various groups of schemes for development of forests and the programme proposed for the 1978-79 :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Serial No.	Group of the Scheme	Fourth plan expenditure	Actual Expenditure				Outlay
			1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Afforestation and Plnatation	180.46	48.89	34.39	81.36	64.31	90.00
2	Forest Exploitation and Protection.	112.85	38.66	30.12	54.08	41.31	75.36
3	Working Plans, Survey and Research.	70.96	5.72	4.39	5.67	5.37	8.48
4	Other Schemes	68.31	13.79	16.67	40.08	71.97	71.55
5	Forest Development Corporation.	467.75	166.39	132.00	132.00	141.00	52.04
Total ..		900.33	273.45	217.57	313.19	323.96	297.43

## PART A

### PLAN ACTIVITIES

#### II. Forestry Research and Suvey Demarcation

(1) *Forest research.*—Research works such as evolving proper plantation and nursery techniques, selection of proper species for afforestating barren areas, evolving more congenial and effective methods of replacement of existing crop by more valuable species are undertaken. It also includes works such as laying of seed orchards, laying of sample and experimental plots, performing experimental trials of new species and underrtaking field experiments.

(2) *Survey and demarcation of forest.*—Proper Survey and Demarcation of Forest areas is a pre-requisite for its scientific management and preparation of work plans. Effective protection also depends upon the demacration of the boundaries. Settlement of large exproprietary forests is in progress in Brahmपुरi tahsil in Chandrapur District, Sawantwadi tahsil of Ratnagiri District, Bhor tahsil in Pune District, Nanded and Parbhani Districts and Bhandara tahsil in Bhandara District. Till 1977-78, survey and demarcation work has been completed over 1470 km. linear length in the Fifth Plan, in addition to 1800 km. length covered till end of the Fourth Plan. It is intended to take up the work of survey and demarcation over 45 km. length in 1978-79 at an estimated cost of Rs. 5.00 lakhs.



(3) *Survey and demarcation of private forest.*—The Government of Maharashtra had enforced the Maharashtra Private Forests. (Acquisition) Act, 1975 for acquisition of private forests in the State. During the years 1977-78 an expenditure of Rs. 1.30 lakhs has been incurred and the following works have been carried out :—

(a) Survey and demarcation	...	...	115 km.
(b) Survey and alignment	...	...	100 km.
(c) Clearance of boundary	...	...	15.95 km.
(d) Election of cairns	...	...	2780 Nos.

This work will be continued during 1978-79.

(4) *Forest resources survey.*—The forests in the State constitute a valuable National resource, which plays an effective role in socio-economic development of the State. Considerable investments are made in the development of forests and forest-based industries. Considering the large investments being made, it is more expedient to ensure that the investments are made on the basis of technically sound and fool-proof data. Such data can only be collected by organising well planned sample surveys. With this objective, the scheme in force envisages collection by 12 field parties of such technical data in Kolhapur and Chandrapur Circles of this State.

### III. Soil Conservation

(1) *Centrally Sponsored Scheme for River Valley Projects.*—The main object of the scheme is to arrest soil erosion in the catchment areas of the River Valley Projects, viz. Pochampad, Ukai, Nizamsagar, Nagarjunsagar, Ghod and Damanganga by prescribing various afforestation and soil conservation measures after undertaking rapid reconnaissance survey of the watersheds in the catchment areas. It is envisaged that after implementation of the measures suggested the flood hazards would be minimised silt deposition in the reservoirs of the River Valley Projects would be reduced to the minimum and thereby sustained benefits would be derived for benefit of the local populace. The scheme is under implementation since 1970 and so far nearly 22 work-plans for 22 mini-watersheds have been prepared. The scheme is financially supported by the Government of India in the form of 50 per cent. loan and 50 per cent. grant. In the year 1977-78 the Government of India accorded approval for creation of an independent Watersheds Management Planning Division for undertaking the work of formation of work-plans in respect of catchment areas of Damanganga River Valley Project. For the year 1977-78. Government of India had allocated Rs. 49.57 lakhs for execution of the works under the scheme and it is anticipated that this scheme would be continued in the year 1978-79.

(2) *Soil Conservation Usmanabad Special Scheme.*—The main object of the scheme in operation in Usmanabad district is to arrest soil erosion and run off on hill slopes and on areas which have become denuded due to adverse biotic factors, by undertaking soil conservation measures supplemented by afforestation works. The inherent benefit in the scheme is that the works being purely labour-oriented, there will be considerable

generation of employment potential and therefore the local people would find employment available. The Scheme is being implemented since 1974-75. Till end of 1977-78, 190 hectares of area has been planted up with suitable afforestation species.

(3) *Protective measures for soil conservation in Watersheds of State River Valley Projects.*—The main object of the scheme is to arrest soil erosion in the catchment areas of State River Valley Projects by taking up various soil conservation measures such as bunding in agricultural lands, construction of check dams, sediment storage basins, etc., afforestation works, development/establishment of grazing and cutting kurans and pastures etc. The scheme was conceived as it was observed that due to the depleted vegetal cover and in the absence of adequate engineering measures in the catchment areas of the State River Valley Projects the rate of erosion was accelerated, thereby increasing rate of siltation with the result that the water impounding capacity of the reservoirs was reducing at an alarming rate. With this threat the very utility of the River Valley Projects was negated and therefore it was thought expedient to arrest the rate of siltation by undertaking adequate measures. In order to bring about co-ordinated efforts the entire catchment areas of the River Valley Projects were surveyed and on basis of the land capability classification, certain measures were suggested by formulating work plans. Under the scheme it is envisaged to implement the measures suggested in totality to achieve the desired results. The scheme is in operation since 1976-77. The achievements made during 1977-78 are plantation over 878 hectares at a cost of Rs. 3-00 lakhs. During 1978-79, a provision of Rs. 2-75 lakhs has been made for undertaking plantation over 85 hectares.

(4) *Afforestation for Soil Conservation.*—The scheme envisages arresting soil erosion by undertaking various soil and moisture conservation measures including afforestation for recoupmnt of the areas. It is also intended under the scheme to protect the fertile agricultural lands from being washed off in the heavy torrents of water by preventing flood hazards. The scheme is under implementation from the first Five Year Plan and upto end of the year 1977-78, 67,502 hectares have been planted with suitable afforestation species. It is proposed to undertake premonsoon works over 2,056 hectares and plantation works over 2,811 hectares during 1978-79 for which a provision of Rs. 19-84 lakhs is made.

(5) *Special Scheme for Parbhani District.*—The scheme is under implementation from the year 1976-77. The implementation of the scheme was considered necessary as the forest areas available in Parbhani District are hardly 3 per cent. of the total area of the District and these too in highly degraded and denuded condition due to constant backing frequent fires and illicit cutting. These areas need immediate attention and therefore it has been proposed under the scheme to tackle these areas with soil and moisture conservation measures and afforestation works in a planned manner. So far 915 hectares of area has been planted with suitable species. During the year 1978-79, it is proposed to undertake plantation over 404 hectares, for which a provision of Rs. 0-81 lakh is made.

#### IV. Housing—Residential and Administrative Buildings

There is an urgent need for construction of residential quarters for executive staff of the Department residing in remote areas. During the year 1977-78 provision of Rs. 12.00 lakhs had been sanctioned for construction of quarters and offices, preference being given to newly created offices either for management of acquired private forests or consequent to re-organisation of new administrative charges. During the year 1977-78, a provision of Rs. 3.70 lakhs has been made for completion of buildings undertaken during 1976-77 and additional provision of Rs. 8.30 lakhs is made for construction of new residential and administrative buildings, during 1978-79.

#### V. Minor Forest Produce

(1) *Departmental collection of gum and other Minor Forest Produce for the benefit of tribals.*—Hitherto the gum and other minor forest produce from the forest area was exploited through the agency of contractors by sale of annual leases for collection of the produce. Amongst the various minor forest produce, gum is important forest produce. It is used in various industries such as textile, confectionery, chemical etc. It was observed that the tribals who dwell in interior forest areas of Dhule, Melghat in Amravati, and Sironcha, Gadchiroli and Rajura tracts of Chandrapur District used to collect gum and sell/barter it to contractor's agents. In this process the tribals were often swindled by the contractor's agents and they did not receive adequate returns for the hard work put in by them. It has therefore been proposed under the scheme to undertake collection of gum and other minor forest produce departmentally and to arrange for its sale at important market centres where the produce would fetch handsome prices. With the departmental collection, the tribals would get assured wages and as such their economic condition would improve.

(2) *Development of Minor Forest Produce.*—The scheme aims at development of minor forest produce such as Agave, Rosha, Tendu, Hirda, Kokam, Rubber and Oil-bearing seed species etc. so that the resources are built-up to serve as a base for cottage industries and rural development. The scheme is under implementation since 1969-70 and so far i.e. till 1977-78, 3,447 hectares and 1,39 hectares of area have been planted with Agave and Rosha species respectively. During the year 1978-79, it is proposed to undertake plantation over 958 hectares for which a provision of Rs. 6.97 lakhs has been made.

#### VI. Social Forestry

(1) *Farm Forestry—Creation of wood-lots.*—The scheme envisages creation of small wood-lots on community lands through the agency of the Forest Department. The scheme aims at creation of adequate small timber, fuel and fodder reserves in the proximity of villages to satisfy the domestic requirements of the local populace. It is also envisaged in the scheme that wherever Village Panchayats would offer 20 hectares areas of land under their charge to the Forest Department for raising the

plantation, the department would undertake responsibility of raising plantation over these areas and would hand over the areas, fully stocked with tree growth to the Village Panchayats for further maintenance and management. It is needless to mention that the success of the scheme would entirely depend upon the people's participation in the programme. The scheme is under implementation since 1966-67. An area of 5,892 hectares has been covered till the year 1977-78 under the scheme. During the year 1978-79, it is proposed to undertake plantation over 555 hectares for which a provision of Rs. 3.17 lakhs has been made.

(2) *Extension Forestry—Trees along Highways and Canal Banks.*—The scheme envisages planting of trees along the National Highways, State Highways, Canal Banks etc. so as to add aesthetic dimension to the bounties of nature and also to cater to the domestic requirements of the local people as regards fuel, small timber and fodder. Another object underlying the scheme is to increase the forest cover over the available area along road-sides, canal banks, etc. Till the year 1974-75 the scheme was fully executed by the Forest Department. However, after the experience gained it was decided to modify the implementation of the scheme as it was observed that the protection of the trees planted on the road sides and canal banks was not adequately ensured. As such, it was decided that the Forest Department should only supply seedlings to the respective departments and then render necessary technical guidance as regards plantation and post-plantation operations. The scheme is being implemented from the year 1966-67 and till the year 1976-77, 1,527 km. length was planted with avenue tree species, by the Forest Department. Thereafter the activity is carried on by the Public Works and Housing Department and Irrigation Department.

(3) *Mixed Plantations on Community Lands, Government Lands, Village Panchayat Lands etc.*—The requirement of fuel wood, small timber, grass, fodder etc. of the rural populace is mostly met from the vegetal cover available on waste lands, Panchayat lands and from the Government forests if they are situated nearby. Now, such areas have become totally bereft of any vegetal cover as the local people did not make any efforts to reclothe such areas by undertaking plantation works. As such the scheme envisages reclothing of such barren waste lands and Panchayat lands with suitable afforestation measures. It is proposed to raised plantations of timber yielding species, firewood yielding species and fodder species on the village lands so as to satisfy the demands of rural people adequately. During the year 1978-79, it is proposed to undertake plantation over 1,388 hectares for which a provision of Rs. 11.20 lakhs has been made.

## VII. Nurseries

(1) *Establishment of Central Nurseries.*—For successful implementation of any plantation programme, availability of the fully grown planting stock is a pre-requisite. With the present increase in awareness of values of forests, considerable enthusiasm has been generated for tree planting programme undertaken by individuals, institutions, Public bodies,

Government Departments etc. With this ever-expending tempo for tree planting, demand for suitable seedlings of various types from all the above agencies is unending. To meet the growing demand from the public as well as to supplement the requirement of the planting stock of the Forest Department, the scheme of establishment of Central Nurseries has been conceived. The scheme is under implementation since 1966-67 and is being continued from one Plan period to another. Since the inception of the scheme 160 nurseries of one hectare in extent and 63 nurseries of 4 hectares in extent have been established upto the year 1977-78. In addition to the maintenance of existing nurseries, it is proposed to establish 6 nurseries of 4 hectares each for which a provision of Rs. 14.43 lakhs has been made.

(2) *Extension Programme of Nurseries for tribals.*—In addition to the scheme of Central Nurseries mentioned, above, a separate scheme "Extension Programme—Raising of nursery seedlings for supply to tribals" is in operation since 1977-78 with a view to raise seedlings of utility to the tribal population. Under the said scheme, it is intended to raise seedlings of horticultural species such as sitafal, orange, lemon, papaya, mango, ber, char, tendu etc. in addition to routine species. It is envisaged to supply the above horticultural seedlings to tribals free of cost for planting around their dwellings and holdings, so as to augment their income."

#### VIII. Plantation and Afforestation

*General Utility Timber Species.*—With the rapid establishment of numerous wood-based industries in the State as well as due to the substantial increase in the building activities, the demand for general utility timbers has increased manifold. The present production of general utility timbers from the existing natural forest reserves is unable to cope with the demand. It is also anticipated that the demand for general utility timbers may substantially increase in the years to come and therefore to satisfy the projected demand in full the scheme for general utility timbers has been conceived. Under the scheme it is envisaged to plant suitable tree species like teak, khair, haldu, kalam, shisham etc. and bamboo. The scheme is in implementation since the Third Five Year Plan. Upto the year 1977-78, 68,436 hectares of area has been planted up under the scheme. During the year 1978-79, it is proposed to undertake plantation over 5,225 hectares for which a provision of Rs. 35.60 lakhs has been made.

(2) *Quick Growing Species.*—The scheme envisages planting of quick growing species like bamboo, shivan, haldu, etc., with a view to augment the raw material requirement of the industries such as paper-pulp, rayon etc. The scheme is being continued from the year 1969-70. Upto the year 1977-78, 36,154 hectares area has been planted with fast growing species under the scheme. During the year 1978-79, it is proposed to tackle the area of 2,150 hectares for which a provision of Rs. 15.98 lakhs has been made.

(3) *Reforestation of Degraded Forests.*—This is a Centrally sponsored scheme with 50 per cent Central assistance from the Government of India and 50 per cent matching contribution by the State Government. The scheme envisages undertaking soil conservation measures such as

nala-bunding, trenching, formation of urlies, digging of pits and erection of trench-cum-mound fencing supplemented with planting of suitable species. The scheme was conceived with the idea of dealing with the problem of forest areas which being situated in the proximity of villages were subjected to ruthless hacking, cutting, frequent fires and uncontrolled grazing with the result that the vegetal cover disappeared fast and the forests were reduced to almost blanks. It was therefore thought necessary to reclothe such barren and degraded forests areas by afforestation measures. The scheme is under implementation since 1976-77 and is being continued. So far i.e. upto end of 1977-78, 2,811 hectares of area has been tackled with suitable reforestation and allied measures under the scheme. In the year 1977-78 initially the programme suggested under the scheme was with the financial implication of Rs. 21.38 lakhs. However, the Government of India expanded the programme almost treble raising the financial outlay of Rs. 58.00 lakhs. However, the 50 per cent. matching contribution which is to be provided by the State Government i.e. to the extent of Rs. 29.00 lakhs could not be made as the respective District Planning and Development Councils did not make adequate provision. As such, the expanded programme was not undertaken. During the year 1978-79, it is proposed to undertake plantation over 3,000 hectares for which a provision of Rs. 23.94 lakhs has been made.

(4) *Stabilization of Banks of Chandrabhaga River.*—Under the scheme it is proposed to undertake soil and moisture conservation work in the Government lands situated along the banks of the river Chandrabhaga by planting agave and bamboo in 13 meter wide strips and in further 40 meter wide strips, it is intended to plant useful fodder and fuel tree species. With such measures it is felt that the banks of the river Chandrabhaga would be protected from collapsing when the river is in spate and thereby the neighbouring agricultural areas would also receive protection from the devastating floods. It is also intended to demonstrate the measures to the agriculturists in the neighbourhood so that they would be induced to take up identical measures in their areas. The scheme is under implementation since 1975-76. The scheme in respect of 230 hectares of area is being dealt with.

#### IX. Development of Fodder Resources

The scheme envisages increasing production of fodder by undertaking improvement of existing pastures and development of new pastures. Vast tracts of forest areas in the State are in degraded and unproductive condition and require immediate soil and moisture conservation measures so as to convert such areas into pasture lands. The scheme was started in 1966-67. Upto the end of 1977-78, 15,366 hectares have been treated with raising palatable and nutritious varieties of fodder grasses and legumes. During the year 1978-79, it is proposed to tackle the area of 958 hectares for which a provision of Rs. 6.97 lakhs has been made.

#### X. Forest Protection

The vast treasures of forests are subject to encroachments, illicit fellings, fire hazards, damage by illicit grazing etc. In order to protect these

valuable treasures, it is essential to check these hazards by intensifying forest protection measures. With this end in view, till end of 1977-78, 35 mobile squad units have been established in the State, to exercise vigilant check over the nafarious activities. In order to protect forest areas from hazards of fire, besides appointment of fire watchmen, wireless communications have also been established in the Melghat forest areas. In order to check forest offences in transit, several check nakas at strategic points have also been established. The scheme is under implementation since 1966-67. During the year 1978-79 it is proposed to establish additional 4 mobile squads.

#### **XI. Forest Exploitation**

The object of the scheme is to adopt improved logging techniques and practices by introducing modern logging equipments and tools to avoid wastage in conversion and extraction of timber and thereby attain increase in production and revenue. Improved logging tools such as cross-cut Raker saws, bow saws, power chain saws etc. are used for felling and conversion. The work of dragging of timber which was conventionally carried out with the help of bullocks and he-buffalos is being carried out with the help of tractors and elephants. For speedy transport of timber from the jungle depots to sale depots, trucks are being pressed into service. The contractors agency is being eliminated. The scheme is in operation since 1962-63, 16 trucks, 12 tractors and 2 jeeps have been purchased under the scheme so far. The additional advantage of the scheme is that hitherto inaccessible forest areas would be opened up by departmental exploitation and this would result in increase in revenue.

#### **XII. Forest Communication : Roads and Bridges**

With the advent of exploitation operation in inaccessible forest areas, the facility of communications was found to be grossly inadequate. The old cart tracks were the only available means of communication in the remote forest areas and this proved to be a major handicap in exploitation of forest areas. Most of the forest areas remain inaccessible during six months of the year as either the intervening streams, nallas and rivulets get flooded and for want of any bridges across them the area remains practically cut-off from the outside world. As such, under the scheme the work of construction of new roads and improvement of existing ones in the forest areas is undertaken. The scheme is in operation from the First Five Year Plan and is being continued from year to year. So far i.e. upto the end of 1977-78, 2482 km. length of road has been constructed/improved upon. Besides, several bridges, Irish dips have also been constructed under the Scheme. During the year 1978-79 it is proposed to improve 85 km. road length and to construct 18 culverts for which a provision of Rs. 37.75 lakhs has been made.

#### **XIII. Forest Labour Welfare**

The scheme is being implemented with a view to provide basic amenities such as primary schools, dispensaries, drinking water, approach roads, labour-sheds etc., to the large number of forest labourers engaged on

various forestry works. The scheme is under implementation since Second Five Year Plan and is being continued thereafter with the exception of the Third Five Year Plan. Construction of 145 wells, 2 tubes wells, 26 anicuts, 7 tanks, 72 labour-sheds, 3 km. approach roads, 11 community halls and establishment of 4 dispensaries has been completed under this Scheme till 1977-78.

Subsequent maintenance of the developmental activities and provision for purchase of medicines and running of dispensaries is done as non-plan activity. The expenditure incurred sanctioned during the last 4 years under the non-plan activity is as under :—

<u>1974-75</u>	<u>1955-56</u>	<u>1976-77</u>	Sanctioned for <u>1977-78</u>
1,74,315	1,66,598	1,96,129	3,05,633

#### XIV. Wildlife and Nature Conservation

(1) *Wildlife Organisation.*—Consequent to promulgation of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which aims at exercising stricter control over hunting of wild life, trading in wild life and wild life products, the work of exercising vigilant checks at every stage is involved. In order to effect meaningful conservation and management of wild life in the State a special organisation has been created with the chief wild life warden as its head. It provides technical guidance to the subordinate staff on the implementation of the Act frequently. This organisation also shoulders responsibility for scientific and intensive development of National Parks and Game Sanctuaries which are widely dispersed in the State.

(2) *Wildlife and Nature conservation scheme.*—Due to the present awareness developed to give to rightful place to wildlife preservation, the scheme has been conceived to undertake efficient preservation and multiplication of wildlife in its natural habit at by adopting scientific wildlife management practices. It is also intended under the scheme to enforce more vigorous and vigilant checks over indiscreet hunting poaching and other allied nefarious activities. With the promulgation of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 which seeks to enforce stricter control over hunting of wildlife and trading in wildlife products, the necessity to intensify the checks has further increased. This, besides ensuring protection and preservation of wild life, it is also envisaged under the scheme to create congenial environmental surroundings by establishment of National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries for multiplication of the existing wildlife. The scheme is under implementation since 1974-75 and is being continued thereafter.

#### XV. Forest Development Corporation

The Forest Development Board which was established in the State during the Fourth Plan with the object of accelerating and rationalising utilisation of the Forest resources in the State has now been converted into a statutory autonomous Corporation in order to facilitate the flow of institutional finance for its developmental activities. Share capital of Rs. 499 lakhs has been subscribed upto 1977-78 to the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. by Government. It is, proposed to provide further share



capital amounting to Rs. 52 lakhs during 1978-79. Many of the departmental activities like preplantation works, plantation works and post-plantation works and marketing of the forest produce from the forest areas assigned to the Corporation for working have been transferred to the Corporation. Large tract of forests in this State are mainly comprised of miscellaneous species with little or no economic value. The development strategy of the Corporation will be to clear-fell the areas entrusted to it and raise plantations of economically important species which would increase the value of forest produce manifold. The Corporation covered 4,254 hectares during 1975-76, 8700 hectares during 1976-77 and 11368 hectares during 1977-78. The target for 1978-79 is 13,550 hectares. The teak plantation programme of the Corporation will not only upgrade and develop the forest area but also generate the much needed employment potential on extensive scale for the benefit of the tribal population.

#### **XVI. Drought Prone Area Programme : Scheme of the Planning Department**

Consequent to the findings of Fact Finding Committee headed by Shri Sukhtankar, certain areas in the following Districts of Maharashtra State were identified as Drought Prone areas :—

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (1) Ahmednagar. | (2) Solapur.   |
| (3) Pune.       | (4) Satara.    |
| (5) Sangli.     | (6) Nashik.    |
| (7) Aurangabad. | (8) Beed.      |
| (9) Osmanabad.  | (10) Jalgaon.  |
| (11) Dhule and  | (12) Buldhana. |

The significance of forest in ecology and its role in prevention of soil erosion, recharge of ground water, amelioration of socio-economic conditions of the forest inhabitants, improvement in climatic conditions was acknowledged by the Committee and therefore it was decided to draft a strategy for integrated development of the area by associating various Departments in the implementation of the programme. Out of the above 12 Districts, the developmental programme is being implemented with the assistance of the World Bank in respect of Ahmednagar and Solapur Districts whereas the developmental programme is being implemented with the Central Government assistance in the form of 50 per cent grant and 50 per cent loan in Pune, Satara, Sangli and Nashik Districts. The developmental programme in the remaining 6 districts is being implemented entirely with the State Government's financial resources.

Under the programme as far as the Forest Department is concerned the following schemes are under implementations :—

#### **(A) Social Forestry :**

- (1) Tree planting in conjunction with pasture development in the upper catchments.
- (2) Small plantations on Government lands.
- (3) Establishment of wood lots on village common land.
- (4) Planting of wind breaks along roads, railway lines and canals.
- (5) Establishment of Central nurseries.

(B) *Pasture Development Schemes :*

- (1) Pasture development in public lands.
- (2) Pasture development in village common lands.
- (3) Pasture development in private lands.

(C) *Establishment of grass seed multiplication farms.*

The implementation of the above schemes started from the year 1974-75 in the Districts of Ahmednagar and Solapur and in the remaining 10 districts it started from the year 1975-76. The details as regards the area covered under various schemes and the expenditure thereon are as under :—

Serial No.	Year	Physical achievements (In hectares)	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)	
1	1974-75	.. Premonsoon work ..	1,244 Ha. 163 Km.	15.09
2	1975-76	.. Plantation ..	1,364 Ha. 163 Km.	59.07
		.. Premonsoon work ..	6,015 Ha. 398 Km.	
3	1976-77	.. Plantation ..	6,182 Ha. 414 Km.	80.30
4	1977-78	.. Plantation ..	7,404 Ha.	99.49

The D. P. A. P. works in Ahmadnagar and Solapur districts which are assisted by the World Bank have been appreciated by the World Bank experts who visited these works.

**XVII. Integrated Development of Western Ghats**

Consequent to the adoption by the National Development Council of area approach for accelerated development of important regions in the country to bring them on par with adjoining developed regions, the Western Ghat region falling in Maharashtra State has been identified as a region to be taken up for accelerated integrated development. Under the programme, various Government Departments have been associated for implementation of various developmental schemes to bring about an integrated development of the region in a planned manner. The Forest Department has undertaken under the programme a scheme to induce small farmers in the region to adopt short rotation farm forestry crops instead of resorting to conventional practice of shifting cultivation. It has therefore been envisaged to raise demonstration plots by the Forest Department and also to organise extension services to popularise the practice of raising farm forestry crops amongst the local people and to bring about improvement in the socio-economic conditions. Accordingly, it has been envisaged to tackle 1500 hectares of area in a period of five years out of which 500 hectares of area would be planted by the Forest Department in the forest areas or in the

areas taken over from the Revenue Department or in privately owned *varkas* lands taken on long lease of say 99 years. For the remaining 1000 hectares the private owners of *varkas* lands would be induced to cultivate farm forestry crops of short rotation. The scheme is being implemented in Kolhapur, Ratnagiri, Pune and Thane District. However, it was observed that the response by the farmers in cultivating farm forestry crops on *varkas* lands was not encouraging. The scheme is in implementation since 1974-75. Till end of 1977-78 plantation works have been carried out in 196 hectares and agave plantations have been carried out over 65 kms. of length. During the year 1978-79 it is proposed to undertake plantation over 275 hectares and also to construct anicuts and deepen wells, for which a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made.

### XVIII. Employment Guarantee Scheme

Considering the object of the Employment Guarantee Scheme to provide gainful employment in manual work to all able-bodied persons in rural areas who are in need and are desirous of finding work, the Forest Department explored the availability of manpower and the availability of financial resources in the best possible manner to accelerate the rate of implementation of various developmental schemes. Various approved plans and schemes which were not provided for adequately by the District Planning and Development Councils while formulating the District Plans, were undertaken under the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Schemes which are implemented under the Employment Guarantee Schemes are as under :—

- (1) Supply of ballies and bamboos for construction of huts for landless.
- (2) Construction of huts for landless.
- (3) Preparation of compost manure pits.
- (4) Uprooting of stumps from agricultural lands released to Adivasis.
- (5) Demarcation of Reserved Forests by trench-cum-mound fencing.
- (6) Development of Forest Nurseries.
- (7) Development of Fodder Resources.
- (8) Arboriculture and Roadside plantations.
- (9) Development of Minor Forest Produce Plantations.
- (10) Plantation of General Utility Timber Species.
- (11) Afforestation for soil conservation. (Plantation and Premonsoon works):
- (12) (a) Nala bunding.
- (b) Gully plugging.
- (c) Construction of Check dams.
- (d) Repairs to tanks.
- (13) Reboisement of degraded forests.
- (14) Reboisement of acquired private forests.
- (15) Forest Communications (Roads and Bridges).
  - (a) Construction of new roads.
  - (b) Improvement of existing roads.
  - (c) Other works.

- (16) Exploitation—Felling of trees, conversion of timber, thinning, extraction of fuel, extraction of poles etc.  
 (17) Plantation of sandalwood.  
 (18) Demonstration plantation.  
 (19) Development of areas around Ajantha caves etc.

The expenditure incurred so far during the last three years is as under :—

Serial No.	Year	Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)
1	1975-76	94.00
2	1976-77	238.96
3	1977-78	157.39

### XIX. Tourism

The State is rich in a variety of flora and fauna. Man has always been attracted towards natural bounties of forest with its plentiful flora and fauna. National Parks and Forest Parks are created for preservation of flora and fauna, geological, historical and archaeological land marks in an unimpaired state for use of future generations. During the year 1977-78 an expenditure of Rs. 0.90 lakhs has been incurred (upto December 1977) on development works on Toranmal Plateau. It is proposed to continue these works further during 1978-79 for which a provision of Rs. 1.75 lakhs has been made.

## PART B

### NON-PLAN ACTIVITIES

#### I. Minor Forest Produce other than Tendu and Apta Leaves

Minor Forest Produce in this State is generally disposed of by selling the right of collection by open auction. However, wherever the collection of Minor Forest Produce is a privilege of the local populace it is reserved for them; generally, edible fruits and flowers are covered under privileges and the villagers collect them free of charge. There are also other concessions and privileges enjoyed by local people which vary from district to district as per B. F. M. VOL. III. When Minor Forest Produce farm is required by Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies or Tribal Development Corporation, Industrial Co-operative Society, it is allotted to them on upset price. Gum units from Yeotmal District were allotted to the Tribal Development Corporation for last three years. Whenever difficulties are encountered by the tribals and other backward class communities the department takes measures to remove these difficulties by supplying such raw material at concessional rates, e.g. Hirda fruits are collected departmentally and supplied to the local charmakars at concessional rates. The nistar felling series of bamboos are exploited departmentally and the exploited bamboo is supplied to the Burads at convenient depots.

## II. Trade in Tendu and Apta Leaves

The trade in Tendu and Apta leaves has been nationalised and this has resulted in saving the tribal populace from exploitation by the contractors as the tribal populace earn assured and fair rates for collection as the purchase price of leaves is sanctioned by Government on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. From 1978 season one representative of the adivasis has been appointed as a member on each Advisory Committee for Tendu and Apta leaves, so as to ensure that the wages payable to the Adivasi labourers are fixed at reasonable rates.

After nationalisation the production of the Tendu leaves increased upto 5.87 in standard bags, gross revenue to Rs. 532.16 lakhs and net revenue upto Rs. 295.39 lakhs, during the year 1977.

Notes.—1 standard bag is equivalent to 1000 pudas each of about 70 Tendu leaves).

## III. Forest Labourers Co-operative Societies

Exploitation of forest coupes by the Forest Department is done basically in the following four ways :—

- (a) Departmental exploitation.
- (b) Exploitation through contractors.
- (c) Exploitation through Forest Labourers Co-operative Societies working on Revised Formula.
- (d) Exploitation through Forest Labourers Co-operative Societies working on Logging Formula.

The policy of Government is to gradually eliminate exploitation through agency of contractors and encourage exploitation by Department or Co-operatives of forest labourers. Where however, neither is feasible, the coupes are given on contract. Departmental exploitation is necessary not merely because it is profitable to Government but also because it gives reliable costing data.

As a part of comprehensive programme for improvement of the economic conditions of the Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies allotment of coupes and entrusting of other Forest works to Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies were introduced in 1947. Initially, 11 Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies were organised. As a result of steady development, the number of Forest Labourers' Co-operative Society has increased to 422 and 610 coupes were allotted to 302 Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies in 1977-78, in the State. It is expected that about 625 coupes will be allotted to Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies during 1978-79.

Coupes are allotted to Forest Labourers Co-operative Societies on Revised Formula if the Societies have secured 'A' and 'B' Class in audit and on Logging Formula if they have secured 'C' and 'D' Class in audit. Most of the Societies in the State belong to 'A' or 'B' Class. The system

of Revised Formula is in force since 1959-60 as laid down initially under Government Resolution, Agriculture and Forest Department No. FLC. 1058/111123-E(II), dated 3rd December 1959, and modified from time to time. Under this system, a coupe is allotted to the Society without taking security deposit or surety and without consideration of upset price. It is worked entirely by the Society and the produce is sold by it under the supervision of the Forest Department. Expenditure incurred by the Society on various admissible items is paid to the Society and in addition, it is paid profit at 20 per cent of the net realisation of sale. There are in all 32 admissible items of expenditure under this system.

Under Logging System, coupe is allotted to the Society without taking security deposit, surety or upset price. The Society is responsible only for felling, extraction, conversion and delivery of coupe materials either at coupe depot site or sale depot site. Sales are conducted by the Forest Department and the Society has no share either in gross or net realisation. The society is paid at fixed Logging rates for felling, extraction etc, and 10 per cent of such operational expenditure is admitted as profit. There are in all 22 items of expenditure held admissible as expenses and for calculation of 10 per cent profit.

The Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited, was established in 1974. Certain areas of Forests have been transferred to it for exploitation on agency basis, on behalf of Government. Till 1975, clear felling was undertaken by the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra, Limited, departmentally. Neither contractors nor societies were involved. In 1975 a decision was taken by Government to extend Revised Logging Formula to the existing Co-operative Societies in the areas of the Corporation. According to this Revised Logging Formula the percentage of profit given to the Societies is fixed at 20 per cent of the operational cost on certain admissible items and in addition to this, an amount equal to 5 per cent of the operational cost is given to the Societies, as incentives where Societies complete the work satisfactorily.

---

---

GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS, BOMBAY

---

---

**PRINTED AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTRAL PRESS, BOMBAY**