

Name and Situation

This working Plan covers almost half of the forests of Charta Sub-Division in the district of Hazaribagh. These forests once formed part of Chatra Forests Division. The forests of the Chatra South Division fall within the jurisdiction of Simaria, Chatra and Itkhori part II (Old Gidhour P.S.) Police stations. In addition to the protected forests this plan also covers the Ex-Reserved forests of Ramgarh Estate, taken over by they Govt. with the and reforms act.

The forests occur in fairly large compact blocks adjoining that of Hazaribagh West, Gaya, Latehar and Daltonganj North Division.

The forests areas lies between $23^{\circ} 57'$ and $24^{\circ}.20'$ North latitudes and $84^{\circ}.25$ to $85^{\circ}.15$ East longitudes.

The Chatra South Forest Division has 6475.40 ha. of Ex. R.F. and 95417.13 ha. of R.F., the total area being 101192.53 ha. or 1018.925 sq. kms.

Configuration of the ground:-

The tract is the eastern extremity of the Vindhyan Hill Range and contains plains undulating uplands and hill ranges. Parts of the Chatra, Simaria and Piri Ranges are on plain and undulating ground with an elevation of 1300 to 1400 feet above mean sea level. The balance of the area is hilly though the hills are not of any considerable height. The important hills are Korambay (2516 feet), Chama (2282') near Meral and Chandram (2227 feet) .

River System:-

This division has the origin of the following two well known rivers of the State Viz, (i) Amanat and (ii) Lilajan Besides the above two a number of river drain the forests of this division, most important of them being Chako, Mohane and Bulbul.

Amanat :- The Amanat river takes its rise from a very small nallah form the southern most part of the division in Simaria Range and drains into Plamau district.

Lilajan:- This river originates from a small pond about 3 miles north of Simaria Range Office and flows through a deep and rocky channel until it reaches the neighbour-hood of village Jori. There the hills begin to recede and the stream flows sluggishly over a wide sand bed. Six miles north of Gaya it unites with the river Mohane to form the river Phalgu (Extract from the Gazeeter- of Hazaribagh)

Geology rock and soil :-

The geology of the areas can be grouped into two main divisions (i) the archaeans and (ii) The Gondwanas.

The Archaeans:-

The Archaeans comprises of two rock groups (a) Metamorphic rocks associated with extrusive lavas and basic igneous rocks and (b) Granites.

In the northern portion of the division, there is a belt of mica-schists with quartzschists and horn blende schists permeated by numerous granite intrusions leading sometimes to the formation of composite gneisses. These schists include Quartzites, Crystalline lime stones with wollastonite, Chondrodite and tourmaline, banded garnetiferous and hornblendic granitic rocks with epidote and allanite; serpentines and altered beds of basic ash. The hornblende-schists, epidiorites and granulites probably represent lava flows, intrusive sheets or even laccolithic intrusive Metamorphosed and partly metamorphosed basic igneous rocks like dolerites and meta-dolerite respectively, are also of frequent occurrence. Garnets are common in all the rock types of the area. The trend of foliation of the schist is parallel to the strike of rocks. Bands of siliceous fault-breccia are recorded in places

Intrusive granite in most cases, has been rendered gneissose (including the so called "domegneiss") or schistose. It varies from biotite/granite to hornblende/granite and is to coarse grained coarse porphyritic type are also found.

The dome/gneiss is a gneiss of biotite-alkali granite or granulite, and give rise to domeshaped hummocks due to spheroidal weathering. The rock is some times porphyritic. It consists of quartz and microcline with smaller quantities of oligoclases, biotite, hornblende and accessory sphene, apatite and zircon. The prevailing colour is that of feldspar-pink to purple. The dome/gneiss occurs as large tent like circular bosses or in thin sheets as intrusive into the schists.

Veins of pegmatite are associated with granite and where these pegmatites have penetrated into mica-schists, they contact places large blocks of workable mica.

The pegmatites contain other interesting minerals such as apatite, amazonstone, moonstone, muscovite, lepidolite, automolite, tourmaline (red, blue, green, and black), indicolite, fluorite, garnet, leucopyrite, cassiterite, epidote, beryl and columbite.

The soil varies from deep sandy loam to shallow infertile coarse sand and murum at many places along with occasional outcrops of gravel and rocks. In localized patches the soil changes from clayey loam to clay. Heavy showers of rain carry away the finest particles or soil from steep areas as also from areas where the forest cover has been partly or wholly destroyed."

Sheet erosion is a very common feature all over the forests. It is serious in number of places and is more conspicuous where the forests are heavily grazed and therefore, the ground cover is absent for most of the year, and where the land adjoins steep slopes beyond 15° to 20°. Erosion has been aggravated by frequent fires, unrestricted grazing and hilly topography the exterior faces of hills, particularly all the

easily accessible ones, have suffered most where even the parent rocks are exposed. Gully erosion on in particular, can be seen at the foot hills and at the heads of rivers and big rivulets or nallahs. Since no steps to control gully erosion has been taken as yet, their depth goes on increasing from year to year with very little hope of natural recovery. The afforestation Divisions are doing some works but their ant erosion work remains confined to the year of planting only.

The climate is of the monsoon type. For the greater part of the year the weather remains nearly dry and humidity is experienced only during the rains. The hot season lasts from the begining of March to the middle of June. The temperature raises upto 115⁰ in the hot weather. During this period a desiccation and hot westerly wind termed as "Loo" blows over the area and frequently causes " Sun stroke but in the forests the nights are pleasant. From the middle of April upto the break of monsoon. i.e. the 2nd week of June the heat is oppressive.

The monsoon breaks during the middle of June and continues till the end of September. the rain fall is derived mainly from the bay current of the monsoon.

The cold weather sets in during November and continues till February. During November and part of December the cold season is pleasant built become severe during the latter part of December and whole of January when occasional forests occur in pockets. The forest in year 88-89 was particularly severe and it badly attacked Sal & young plantations are Simaria Range. During February, the nights are cold but the day become progressively warmer.

The main sources of water supply are rain water shallow tanks and wells, the forest have many rivulets and Mallahs but dry up during the summer.

Maps:- The forest areas of the division are covered by the following 1" = 1mile. Survey of India topographical sheets.

72D/10, 72D/15, 72D/16, 72H/3, 72H/3, 72H/4, 72H/8, 73A/9, 73A/13, and 73 E/1 .

Legal Position:-

The former Ramgarh reserves were constituted R.F.S. under section 20 of the Indian Forest Act on application by the court of wards on behalf of the proprietor of Ramgarh Estate under section 38 of the Act.

The agreement dated the 18th September 1941 was determined for non-fulfillment of the terms and consequently the forests were denotified as reserved forests under section 27 of the Indian Forests Act vide notification .

No. 11967 VIF-293/47R dated the 18th December, 1947.

No. 12221-VIF-293/47-R dated the 20th December, 1947.

No. 12222-VIF-298/47-R dated the 28th December, 1947.

The forests were simultaneously notified as private protected forests under the B.P.F. Act of 1947.

Consequent upon the enforcement of the Land Reforms Act. 1950, these forests have been notified as protected forests under section 29 (3) of the Indian Forests Act.

The control of the erstwhile private forests was taken over under the B.P.F. Act 1947. After the land reforms Act came into operation, these forests also were notified under section 29 (3) of the Indian Forest Act. appendix III given the list of relevant notifications.

Forest Settlement:- Forest Settlement operations in have been completed for the village of this forest division and the files have been sent to the record room. The office of the Divisional Forests Officer should have a copy of F.S.O's Judgment.

Rights & Concessions:- The former Ramgarh reserves are completely right-free, as against all the other protected forests which are heavily right burdened the rights and concessions as recorded in khatian part II, are being allowed freely, and very liberally quite often people have rights in the forests of other villages also. With the passage of years, since the time rights were allowed and admitted in Khatain Part II, the number of right-holders has multiplied on the one hand and the area and density of the forest have considerably decreased on the other. The demands of the individual right holders have also increased. The result is that the forests are required to support an increasing burden of rights which is affecting them very adversely.

The existing rights generally entitle the right holders and villagers to free grazing and free timber and firewood. some villages have customary rights also under which the people are entitled to take the requirements after payment of a nominal annual fee. The right holders are not permitted to sell or barter any forest produce removed in the course of exercise of rights and concessions but the prohibition is very difficult to enforce.

In spite of the best efforts of the forest Department and very generous and liberal treatment, the right holders do not care to do proper cutting in the coupes and leave high stumps and pollards. They hardly make any efforts to protect the forest from theft or grazing or fire.

In this working plan, the number of right holding houses in every village has been ascertained their various requirements considered and the area of the coupe sufficient for their requirements indicated. The grouping of villages has been done in such a manner that the right holders may not have to go more than 3 miles distance for their requirements.