

**REVISIED WORKING PLAN FOR THE FORESTS OF THE
LATEHAR FOREST DIVISION.**

FROM 1971 to 1995-1996

SUMMARY OF FACTS ON WHICH THE PROPOSAL ARE BASED.

CHAPTER-I

THE TRACT DEALT WITH

The forests dealt with in this working plan comprise of all the Reserved. Forests, Khalsa Reserved forests and protected forest lying mostly within the civil sub-division of latehar in Lohardaga district and one Khalsa Reserved forest of Daltonganj sub-division . Those forests lie between latitude north 23.35 and longitude East 84.55 The forests are more or less in compact. Blocks except a few isolated blocks in the north and north-eastern portion. The total area of the forest is 1303.64 sq.K.m.

All these forests are situated within the territorial limits of the following police stations and development blocks.

A.PALAMAU DISTRICT;

- (a) Latehar (b) Balumath
- (c) manika (d) chandwa
- (e) Garu (f) Barwadih
- (g) Daltongang

B. LOHARDAGA DISTRICT;

- (a) Kisko.

And are covered by Latehar, Balumath, Lohardaga and Mahuadanr Revenue . Thanas these forests were formed into separate forest division in 1955 Known as the Latehar Forest Division. It was modified in 1961.

The present form of the Division is the result of further transfer of 5941.72 acres or 2,404,47 hectares of five forests of chandwa Range to Ranchi west division and additions of one forests of Daltongang North Division to it in 1971-72.

CONFIGURATION OF THE GROUND:

The vast majority of the forests lie on the hilla with the exception of a part of Chandwa, Balumath and latehar Ranges where they occur on plains and undulating grounds. The important hills with their heights from mean sea-level are Kumandih (Budeha Pahar) 1035m. Saidapahar 1067m. Bulbul 1021m. Dhajeda pahar 1013m. Birjanga pahar 1000m. Bari, Rampur pahar 1011m. Several high hills of Gonwana origin also occur all through the division. The slopes of the hills are moderate to steep with various aspects which influence the composition of the crop significantly. The hills are generally found deprived of soil on account of fire and grazing. The hill slopes are subject to erosion and at most of the places the top soil has been washed exposing the sub-soil parent rocks.

The forests occurring on the plains and undulating grounds are not better. On account of the same factors as mentioned above the forest floor is riddled with gullies which are advancing fast. For want of adequate ground cover, sheet and gully erosion has become a continuous process even in apparently well-stocked forests.

The configuration of the ground, coupled with intensive grazing, fire and inadequate vegetative cover lead to high degree of run-off which often turns into high flood. The forest is, on this account, deprived of the benefit of rain-water which otherwise would have increased the moisture status and aided significantly in maintaining somewhat better forest crop and luxuriant ground flora.

The area drains into two principal rivers, namely, the North-Koel and the Damodar or Deonad. The most forests of Chandwa range and Eastern and Southern part of Balumath range are drained by the Damodar and forms the upper catchments of the Damodar basin. The rest of the area drains into the North-Koel through its main tributaries the Amanat, the Auranga and the Chowpat. The northern western forests of Balumath range drain into the Amanat which almost which girdles this Division on the north forming the boundary between the districts of Palamau and Hazaribagh. The forests of Manika and Latehar ranges are drained by the Auranga which flows from south-east to north-west and bisects the forests of these two ranges almost in two equal halves. While only a small South-Western part of this division drains directly in the North-Koel the bulk of Sarju area is drained through the river Chowpat which ultimately joins the North-Koel.

The principal rivers and their main tributaries are (a) Auranga (b) Deonad (c) Sukrib (d) Chaupat (e) Amant (f) Ghaghari (g) Gala (h) Karkat (i) Patam (j) Dhardhari and others. The river beds are generally rocky in most parts. They carry large volumes of silt-laden water in rains but during dry months the flow thins down to trickle and sometimes they completely dry up.

AURANGA: The Auranga river rises near Pakhar F.R.H. in Lohardaga District. Leading down from Chhotanagpur Plateau, it pursues a winding course in a north-westerly direction until its junction with the North-Koel. The river bed is generally rocky. Like the main river North-Koel. The river bed carries a large.

MINERAL DEPOSITS:

Occurrence of coal, Limestone iron-ore, lead, fireclay and bauxite are known in the Latehar forest Division, In the Auranga coalfield several coal seams occur, some are however, very disturbed due to faulting In the North Karanpura coalfield a large number of coal seams are known to occur. coal seams are found in both Barakar and Ranigang measures.

SUKRI: The river Sukri rises from Semarsot and Auranga in Deobhar Forests this is an important tributary of Auranga. With rocky bed it also gets almost dried up during summer.

AMANT: Originating from Hazaribagh district and draining northern part of the Division, It finally meets North Koel near Daltongang. A big dam is under construction on this river also

None of the aforesaid rivers flows entirely through the forest areas. In the past large area of forest has been ruthlessly destroyed and cleared for cultivation. This sort of irresponsible removal of forest cover has caused serious denudation, resulting in all small rivers and riverlets become increasingly liable to flash flood.

Latehar is the south-eastern sub-division of Palamau district. This region forms a part of the Chhotanagpur plateau comprising granitic rocks associated with large areas of sedimentary rocks. The elevation of the area around Latehar varies from 375m. to 550m. above mean sea level. Besides a number of important rivers. The area drained by important rivers like Amanat, Auranga Koel, Saphi, Sukri etc.

REGIONAL GEOLOGY:

The major part of the Latehar sub-division is occupied by the granitic rocks of Archaean rocks are known from the phyllites and schists of varying dimensions in the granite mass. The inclusions are disposed along the gneissic foliation the granite gneiss of this area is a part of the enormous intrusive mass known as Chhotanagpur Granite- Gneiss. It shows the usual wide variations from massive to highly gneissic foliation changing from N.N.W to N.N.E. and the again N.N.W. Rapid changes in the strike suggesting local applications or crumpling are the common in the gneissic types. Shearing and faulting on a large scale occur at places. Among the various modifications of this rock the porphyritic types with varying coarseness and shape of the phenocrysts. It has been observed that the more massive types the rocks constitute the ridges and plateaus, whereas gneissic rocks are mostly exposed in the intervening valleys. This feature is due to their comparative resistance to weathering.

Three principal basins of the Gondwana rocks are distributed in an east-west belt in the central part of the area the disposition of the Gondwana rocks is more or less parallel to the general structural trend of the Archaean. The different Gondwana coalfields and North Karanpura coalfield. Divisions are Auranga coalfield and North Karanpura coalfield.

MINERAL DEPOSITS:

Occurrence of coal limestone iron- ore lead fireclay bauxite are known in the Latehar forest Division. In the Auranga coalfield several the coal seams occur some of them upto the 12m. in thickness. The seams are, however, very disturbed due to faulting, In the north Karanpura coalfield a large number of coal seams are known to occur coal seams are found in both Barakar and Ranigang Measures.

A complex series of highly calcareous gneissos Schists with impure granular crystalline limestone lentils and nodules of iron-ore are present in the present in the Auranga coalfield, but these are not now mined as a normal source of iron-ore.

Weathered fragments of galena on the surface are recorded near Bariokhapa. A location plan prepared by the Indian Bureau of Mines, Ranchi showing mineral mines in Latehar forest division is reproduced in the annexed map no. 1 on a scale of 4"=1 mile.

FOREST AND PARENT ROCK: The parent rock affects the distribution of species in a forest. The dependence of dependence of dominant forest corp on lunderlying rock and soil is summarized as below.

19. SOEL :

Fairly vast areas under forest particularly on hills a hills –slopes do any description, On account of severity of erosion, most of it is completely lost, exposing rocks and boulders all over vegetation and tree growth are the a sustained by soil available in pockets and crevices soil is often . soil is often found mixed with boulders and pebbles. Often strata of merrum are the found beneath lthe top soil. Soil is loam, sandy-loam clayey loam and at places the top clay, On the account of high incidence of grazing and fire lit is compact having low infiltration capacity . This causes high run- offl Leadin to the formation of ravines and gullies with the highly impoverished soil. Mineral contents and water holding capacity are miserably poor In brief it may be said that the soil in forest of latehar Divisions is highly refractory and lunsustainable for better tree growth.

20. CLIMATE:

Perusal of the data in table no. II and III the climate of the area according to Lang's factors(56) is sub-humid is characterized by three distinct climatic seasons namely summer, rainy and winter with mean annual temperature or 25.6 and with the mean annual rainfall or 1433mm. The hottest months are may and june and the coolest months are December and January.

FIG:-

21. (Ombrothermic diagram) :

Show the dry and wet months in each year of the palamau (Daltongang) district; It is evident from the graphs that dry period of the district begins from February and continues upto may and there after from November to December the wet period maximum and minimum temperature of each year the area are given in the graph.

SEASONS:

22. There are the usual three climatic season, viz the cold weather, the hot weather and the rains, the weather sets in November and lasts till march or the following years severe effects of cold weather are noticed at times in valleys and along river banks with the

occurrence of 'frost' and 'fog' The hot months are hot months are April to June. The blistering '100' of Palamau district, next only to Gaya, is notorious throughout the state . The rainy season is there fore most welcome after the hot '100'. It starts raining from about the end there is a short period of rainfall during the month of January as well which is very which is very bebeficial lto the rabbi crop from heaqlth point of view latehar division is quite congenial throughout the year except the '100' seasons.

RAINFALL:

23. The rainfall varies greatly according to the locality and some times from year to year. It is heavier in Huly and and August. Occasional showers continue till September – October. There is a little rain in Hanuary also though sometimes there is absolutely no winter rains. Erratic and fluctuating rains, as would appears from the table, often cause drought in the district of Palamau. The district has now been declared a chronic drought affected area and special measures are being taken under centrally sponsored schemes of D.P.A.P. to improve the situation.

TEMPERATURE:

24. The temperature also varies greatly according to locality. The table no. III statement shows the mean daily maximum and minimum temperature and recorded at Daltonganj and furnished by the Director ,Regional Meteorological centre,Calcutta.

WIND:-

25. Winds of high velocity are unusual but minor cyclones and accasional thunder storms do occur during may and June and sometimes in February and March. During the hot weather high dry westerly wing known as 'Lohar' causes dessication of soil and proves a great impediment to the success of plantations . The severe' 100 ' from the wwest blows during 9 A.M. to 5p.m. High winds laden with dust and fine sands are a common features during the summer.

WATER SUPPLY:-

26. The Division is only moderately supplied with perennial rivers and springs. The forest areas are strictly speaking deficient in water supply beyond the rainy seasons. Generally, all the streams and rivers begin to dry up shortly after the rainy months. During April & May, even the big rivers like the Auranga and Deonad look more or less like sands of desert rather than courses of water. Drinking water generally gets scarce during summer months and when there is a prolonged hot spell, real misery about drinking water is experienced over most of the places.

NATURAL CALAMITIES:-

27. Serious natural calamities are not common. Damage by flood is unknown in the area. Storms are local and do not cause any appreciable damage.

DISTRIBUTION OF AREA:-

28. Out of the total land area of 2698.86 sq. K.M. of the Latehar Forest Division only about 1309.64sq K.M. are occupied by forests constituting only about 48.41 percentage of the land surface. The forests are more or less compact.

29. The forests of Latehar Division comprise the Reserved forests, Khasmahal Reserved or Khalsa Reserved forests, old protected forests and the (new) protected forests as indicated below:-

LAND ACQUISITION:-

30. A total land of 118.64 acres or 48.03 hectares has been acquired in the division in 55 Villages for various purposes. This land added to the total forest land of 3,23,611.96 acres or 1,30,963.96 hectares makes the total land area of the division as 3,23,730.60 acres or 1,31,011.99 hectares. Acquired land in Latehar Division is given in the table overleaf.

31. The forests are more compact in the southern, northern and western portions of the divisions as compared to the eastern portion where these are very much scattered, dissected and bifurcated by both small and big villages. The forest vegetation as a consequence gets inferior and thinner and less in value. The quality of forests is better in south of the Daltonganj Ranchi Road.

32. The protected forests excluding those notified prior to the introduction of the B.P.F. Act were demarcated by the forest Department on the eve of and prior to their taking over by the forest department during 1948 to 1950 and were shown on 16"=1 mile cadastral sheets, the entire(vested) protected forests of this division covers and are of 2,69,283.83 acres 1,08,977.64hectares with forms nearly 83% of the total forest area of the division and is distributed in Range as in the table below, the details of which are given in the appendix-I ,II and III.

OLD FROTECTED FORESTS:-

33. There are only five old protected forests which were notified as such prior to the instruction of the B.P.F. Act and lie within the jurisdiction of the Latehar and Manika Ranges.

The distribution of old Peotected forest is as below:-

34. The Khalsa reserved forests or the Khasmhal Reserved forests are these forests which have been transferred from the civil Department to the forests Department. They are confined to only two ranges of this division, namely Latehar and Manika.

All these K.R.F. forests are demarcated and the boundary lines shown on 16"=1 mile cadastral maps. In all there are 57K.R.Fs.out of which 41 K.R.Fs. were notified and constituted as reserve forests , the remaining 16 were also constituted as Reserve forests vide notification no. S . O. 100 dated 10.1.78. the details of the K.R.Fs. are given in Appendix-II.

35. The Reserved forests of Latehar Division are compact and very value. They are confined to only three ranges having a total forests area of 29,922.33 acres of 12,109.40 hectares only. While their details have been included in Appendix-III, an abstract of their distribution in different Range is indicated in the table below:-

36. The range wise distribution of forests under different legal classification is given in the table below:-

The analysis of the above forests shows that reserved forests are concentrated in Manika, Latehar and Richughuta Range only .Old PFs. And K.R.Fs. are only in Latehar and Manika ranges Chandwa and Balumath ranges have only new protected forests . As all K.R.Fs. has been notified as R.Fs, and the world Khalsa has only historical importance. Boundaries of RFs. And P.Fs. are generally in straight lines lwhile of K.R.Fs. and P.Fs have Zigzag Construction . From the above figure the percentage of various legal types of forests in Latehar is as below:-

SURVEY:-

37. The Reserved forests of Kumandih, Piri, Rol ,Oreya Pailapathal,Deobar ,A and Deobar B, and the protected forests of Jalta , Amwatikar, Sheocharantola, Jer and Bhatko were contour surveyed on a scale of 2''=1 mile in 1926-27. The K.R.Fs. and all the vested protected forests have been surveyed on cadastral village sheets on a scale of 16''=1 mile. The forests of Ranchi district which form a part of this forest Divisions were contour surveyed during 1953 by the survey of India on a scale 1:25,000. In 1975-76, the whole division has been contour surveyed on the scale of 1:50,000. The number of topo sheets are 73/1,5,6,9,10,13,14 and 72d/12,16. ;the settlement officer has done revision survey of some villages on 16''=1 mile.

Scale and not final maps have been published recently. Survey work of the rest villages is under progress.

STATE OF THE BOUNDARIES:-

38. A special feature of the original demarcation of the Reserved and old protected forests , prior to the Bihar Private forests Act is that the boundaries are not very zig-zag and that reclaimed lands were excluded and did not form a pocket inside the forest limits. In most cases , however forests in varying extent were left out. Such forests were subsequently taken over under the Bihar private Forests Act. Subsequent upon the introduction of Land reforms Act.1952,these forests were constituted as . Protected forests, the forests thus taken over for management under the B.P.F. Act were very hurriedly demarcated with the result that serious mistakes did occur which were subsequently rectifies for forest-land ,however , has been released from time to time

under the instructions from Government which led to the instability of the boundary lines before 1980. Now the process has been stopped with the introduction of the Forests (Conservation) Act 1980.

MAINTENANCE OF BOUNDARIES:-

40. Boundary pillars are neither checked for maintained any regular way elsewhere. As a result they are in unsatisfactory condition wherever there is pressure for 1 and particular in the vicinity of highly populated villages. Agave has , however , been planted along the boundary lines and around the boundary pillars in many cases, At least annually pillars must be checked and maintained to the delete. The system of terms fencing in plantations has left practically much of the Zig-Zag area out of forests to be encroached. The revisional survey has brought the extent of encroachment to light and around 2% of the total forests area is under illegal occupations.

LEGAL POSITION:-

41. The majority of the Reserved forests were constituted in 1877 under the I.F. Act of 1865 but they were re-notified in 11879 under section 34 of the I.F. Act, 1878. The remaining Reserved forests were gazetted subsequently under section 19 of the 1878 Act of section20 Indian forests Act 1927. Some of the these forests were Government owned while others belonged to the Zamindars which were taken over U/S 38 of the I.F. Act,1927.

42. The protected forests were constituted under section 28 of I.F. Act, 1878. The legal positions of the old protected forests is some what irregular as no detailed enquiry was ever made into rights as laid down in sections 28 of the above Act.

43. In pursuance of the decision, notification under sections 4 of the I.F. Act XVI of 1927 to constitute most of the Khalsa forests as Reserved forests was published by Government vide no.2903-VIF -22 dated the 23rd may 1942, 1942-VIF -60/46 dated the 4th March, 1946 and 7779-VIF – 130/47R dated the 4th sept.1947. After finalization of

necessary enquiries and demarcation a final notification was issued under section 20 of the I.F. Act, 1927.

44. With the vesting of the Zamindaris under the L.R. Act all the Private Protected forests were declared Protected forests under the Provisions of the Indian forests Act,1927.The details of forests constituted as Reserved forests, Protected forests and Khalsa Reserved forests are also dealt with under Chapter-V. Details of notifications issued from time to time are given in Appendix- IV.

RIGHTS AND CONCESSIONS:

RESERVED FORESTS:-

45. The Reserved forests constituted prior to 1923 were gazette free of rights. Some privilage and concessions which were granted to the Villages are detailed below:-

(a) The tenants of the Villages living in Reserved forests are allowed to graze their cattle except sheep and goats free of charge subject to the restriction may be closed to grazing by the Divisional forests officer for such period as he deems necessary.

(b) To remove free of charge brush wood , grass and edible fruits from reserved areas.

(c) Mahua Flowers may be collection without burning the leaves and grass under the trees and bamboo may be taken on application free of cost for building houses and covering old roofs.

KALASA R.F AND OLD PROTECTED FORESTS :-

46. The old protected forests and Kalasa Reserved forest are burdened with the general right prevailing in protected forest of Chotanagpur districts, subject to the limitations the no right generally exists in respect of reserved trees over 3ft. and under 18”in girth. The forest settlement officers passed orders in the year 1946, allowing clearly the extent and nature of right and concessions to the tenants of different Khasmahal Villages . The villagers of these forests were allowed rights over Ivarious categories of forest produce

with minor variations. They were allowed to take (a) timber, poles and repairs of house and poles bonafide agriculture implements.

(b) take fencing materials (c) collect Mahua flowers edible fruits and roots, (d) take firewood and pole for domestic use and for marriage and cremation purpose (e) X rear lac and tassar cocoons for commercial purpose on payment of royalty.

NEW PROTECTED FORESTS(VESTED) UNDER L. R. ACT.

47. In respect of the protected forests (vested under L.R. Act) the rules government the exercise of rights and concessions are more or less the same for every village though the nature and number of rights allowed from village to village. The entries in Khatian Part-II recorded at the last revisional settlement have been adopted on the basis for ascertaining the extent and type of rights.

In the record of rights in Khatian Part-II, the following rights in general have been admitted:-

- (a) Right to (a) take timber for the construction and repair of houses, cow-sheds etc. and for agricultural implements.
- (b) Take wood for fuel.
- (c) Take dead and dry fallen trees.
- (d) Graze cattle.
- (e) Collect Mahua and other fruits and flowers.
- (f) Take chope.
- (g) Rear lac, and
- (h) Take any other forest produce viz . bamboo etc.

(48) CUSTOMARY RIGHTS:

The nature of rights and concessions including the customary

- (a) Right to (a) take Jhuri, Jhanti, Ghoran and headload of dry and fallen trees.
- (b) Take wood for cremation purposes, and
- (c) Right of way to a place of worship, a water point or through a cart track ,
whenever such demand arises.

REGULATION OF RIGHTS:

49 In J.N. Sinha' Plan coupes were separately prescribe for right holders and it was expected that the local people will satisfy their genuine needs from them J.P. Sinha's plan amalgamated both right holder's and commercial coupes and for meeting the timber, fuel wood etc. a certain portion of the advance coupe was prescribed to be ppened to the local people under the guidance of the Mukhia, Bamboo was to be given to them from 1/5th of the bamboo coupe set apart or from leased area by the lessees at the actual cutting cost.

50 No assessment was made of the requirement of the right holders or non-right holders and turries the regulatory approach to right holders from advance coupes has not succeeded It has been the tendency of the sub- ordinates to give inferior part of the coupe to the villagers. Also unapproachable or distant and unproductive Coupes generated least interest in the as they were taking forest produce without any hinderence from any where they wanted. After the introduction of State trading and irregularity of fund for laying out Coupes the Coupes transfer has stopped almost totally. Coupes, are laid late and transferred to State Trading Division under hurry.

51. Before the introduction of the State Trading it was and mandatory for the Coupes purchaser to supply local people of their demand from the Coupe at fixed prices as assessed by the Divisional Forests Officer. This system was also abolished and Consumer depots were introuducedat certain places. The less supply and high price at Consumer depots encouraged local people to take forest produce illegally from forest. This has been a severe set back to the regulatory approach to the right holders.

