

PART-II
FUTURE MANAGEMENT DISCUSSED AND PRESCRIBED.

CHAPTER-I
BASIS OF PORPOSALS.

GENERAL OBJECT OF THE MANAGEMENT:

519. The general objects of management are :-

(i) Maintenance, protection and amelioration of the forest cover and the Environment.

(ii) Conservation of Soil, Soil efficient harvest of water and regulate its supply.

(iii) Meeting the bonafide requirements of the right-holders and Turies and making available required

forest produce at reasonable prices to local non-right-holders.

(ii) Afforestation of blanks, failed and exploited plantation areas.

(iii) Rehabilitation of the degraded forest areas by natural species.

(iv) Confinement of local cattle in fringe and isolated areas.

(v) Improvement in the population of wild animal and their habitat.

(vi) Effective fire control and

(vii) Consistent with the above the surplus, left if any, to feed the traditional markets and the industries.

520. The basis of the treatment will be people participation on share basis. To assess the real requirement of the local people, the total number of houses in every village and the corresponding population has been obtained for 1971, 1981 and 1991 Census for each village and the demand has been projected for 2001(Paragraphas 508-518). Survey of Khasmahal department done in 1931, though old but for a comparative study has also taken into account. The minimum annual requirement of the population of Latehar Division has been estimated to meet on priotity basis in legal ways to reduce unscientific exploitation of the forests.

521. The achievement of the above objectives, the following Working Circles have been created.

(a) Selection Working Circle.

- (b) Surplus Working Circle.
- (c) Deficit Working Circle with community participation.
- (d) Range Management Working Circle.
- (e) Khair Overlapping Working Circle.
- (f) Bamboo Overlapping Working circle.
- (g) Rehabilitation Cum Soil Conservation Overlapping W.C.
- (h) Plantation Working Circle.
 - (i) Central Scheme Working Circle.
 - (ii) Sisal Forestry Working Circle.
 - (iii) Sisal Working Circle.
- (i) Protection Working Circle.
- (j) Miscellaneous regulations.

522. The are sunder varder various Working Circle are as below:

TABLE NO: CXVIII

	Working Circle.	Acre	Hectare
1.	Selection W.C.	1,257.00	508.70
2.	Surplus W.C.	7,260.47	28,838.73
3.	Deficit W.C. With Commuity Participation.	1,16,229.48	47,037.43
4.	Range Management W.C.	77,461.43	31,348.21
5.	Khair Overlapping W.C.	67,825.06	27,448.43
6.	Bamboo Over lapping W.C.	55,574.47	22,448.43
7.	Reh.- Cum-Affn. Overlapping W.C.	39,666.84	16,052.95
8.	Plantation W.C.	66,535.11	26,926.39
	(i) Central Scheme plan. W.C.	12,278.21	4,968.92
	(ii) social forestry pln. W.C.	11, 231.84	4,545.46

	(iii) Sisal Pla. W.C.	2, 125.75	860.28
9.	Protection W.C.	2,764.05	1,118.60
10	Miscellaneous regulations.	2,131.50	862.61

SILVICULTURAL SSTEMS.:

523. For Selection, Khair Overlapping and Bamboo Overlapping Working Circles, the Silvicultural sytem is Selection-Cum-Improvement. For Surplus Working Circle and deficit Working Circle with Community Management the system is Coppice with Circle with standard with different rotations. For Central scheme and Social Forestry Working Circle, the system is simple Coppice.

524. Except Range Management Working Circle and Deficit Working Circle with divisions in one way or other and need no elaboration. In the divisions in one way or other and need no elaboration. The plantation Working Circle has been subdivided into three parts depending upon the objects of Plantation and their achievement. The Wild Life in Misc. Reg. has been prescribed to obtain the National Forest Policy 1988 and the Wild Life Protection. (Ammendment) Act, 1991. Acra treated by the Sone Soil Conservation Division and areas above 1000m height, steep slopes and along the nalas have been kept out of the reach of axe under Protection Working Circle to conserve the Soil, regulate the water supply and flood Control, and other important aspects of management and protection have been discussed and prescribed.

COMMUNITY PARTINSIRATION.

525. Popular participation in forest management is an innovation that a growing number of foresters all the third World are striving to achieve. To comprehend the issues arising from participatory forest management in the State of Bihar, the existing forestry context need be appreciated. Current National forest Policy and strategies have been shaped by several concerns. Foresters are increasingly alarmed by the progressive denudation of tree cover, both within and outside the forest to meet the growing demands of household and industrial consumers, and by the adverse impact of forest loss on the Environment. As a result, foresters are questioning the wisdom of continuing forest management through the imposition of a regime of institutional isolation from the people who live around forests and suffer form the people who live around forests and suffer form the loss of forests. Planners and field level staff now realize that the

state's disappearing forests can only be saved through a system of participatory resource management, in which local people are meaningfully involve.

526. Like many political and social movements, this concern for forest loss has emerged out of a crisis. The crises are two fold firstly, the crisis of eroding resources and its larger socio-ecological implications. The second is the crisis of confidence, and the ever- widening gap between the professional forester and the people.

527. Public awareness and concern about forestry, ecology and the environment has grown rapidly during the last decade in fact, form an obscure branch of natural science, these issues have captured the public's attention. There is a maturing social consciousness about forest loss and all that is a maturing social consciousness about forest loss and all that it implies. Yet, such concerns tend to focus on the Problems of deforestation, while failing to search for solutions.

528. What is needed is a total change in the attitude and concept of forest management. There should be a conscious attempt in all forestry projects and programmers to ensure that the benefits from such activities go to the people, not as a philanthropic gesture from a benevolent donor, but as a responsible and honorable partner in forest management and related activities. Forests can survive only if the victime, as well as the agents of forest destruction are involved in participatory management.

529. The forest department of Bihar was established over 100 years ago during the colonial period. In those days population pressure on the forests was of light weight. Consequently all our silvicultural regimes, management practices and priorities were developed in a situation of plenty. Today after a centure, the situation has chabged dramatically and our traditional forestry attitudes and concepts have mush less relevance.

530. Over the last decade, large-scale social forestry projects were launched in India often with massive assistance form international donors. The State of Bihar also jumped on to the Social Forestry Bandwagon in 1985. Expectedly, when the task of ensuring community participation was assigned to professional foresters, with their resource cop syndrome and state revenue earning orientation, they had some difficulties. Traditionally, foresters learned to keep people and forests separate and also to treat agriculture and forestry separately. Therefore, there was some hesitation in implementing those new programmes.

531. While the growing and tending of tree is well-know to professional foresters. In encouraging popular participation, they are handicapped. In this aspect all their expertise, their

training, their tradition and their background have never encouraged community participation. The major problem faced by the professional foresters now is to develop the capacity institutionally and individually to promote and formulate realistic programmes to manage forests in a way which is meaningful to the people who live near the forests and suffer the problems of forest loss.

532. Recognizing the concept of participatory forestry is little more than three decades old compared to 15 decades of conventional forest management in Latehar. It will take time for this new approach to forest management to be integrated into professional and administrative circles. While there was doubtlessly some success in physical achievements in the 1958 experiment it was approached in the implementation largely through the traditional knowledge of silviculture and with an imperfect and mundane knowledge of the needs of forest communities. To many of the foresters, the concept people participation is obscure. It means merely to give some low-priced forest product as a fringe benefit. By achieving this it was presumed that/had fully secured and ensured popular participation. The index of success was invariably assessed in terms of the traditional input-output framework whereas success is always to be assessed in terms of resources invested and resources created. For example, if a target was to raise 100ha. Of farm forestry plantation, a forester reaching this figure of 100ha. Would be deemed to have achieved 100% success. The issue of who benefited from this 10ha. Was given little or no importance. Similarly the case was with the right holders coupe which was badly neglected.

533. The initial success of J.N. Sinha's scheme 1958, notwithstanding the concept of participatory resource management was not fully understood at that time. The job was hard indeed. And needed extensive support from within and outside at that time as there was large chunk of forest available. Developing an effective institution for such participation was not an easy task that no one clearly comprehends its fully implications. as a result, one often approaches the issue with a "I do, you participate" attitude. In such circumstances the Forest Department prepared a plan, implemented it by offering some unskilled or semi-skilled jobs to the local people and they were then expected to participate in job programmed. Such lip service could not achieve lasting results. Another approach to participation is what is known as Money Back Model where monetary incentives are offered to the people to seek their involvement and participation.

The type of intimate or intensive popular participation where local people act as equal partners with forest Department can hardly be achieved through these approaches. In Latehar though the History is old but the level of popular participation is nil-and and ideal institutional arrangement for seeking popular participation is needed much. The tree-community nexus is well known to the people, especially those living in the peripheries of the forest communities benefit from an increasing flow of forest produces which enable them to earn a subsistence living. It is needed that villagers organize the village community to understand that if the trees survive they will be primarily for their benefit.

534. A clear cut policy decision by the State Government (Letter No. 5044 Dated 8.11.90 annexure XXI) regarding the sharing of benefits from these resuscitated forests has also helped to prescribe the now system to narrow the credibility gap that exists between the forestry department and the people at large. This favourable about its uses and success. A letter was circulated among all forest Officers about the deteriorated condition of the forests of Latehar and its possible remedy. A few responses that came were also on the same line. The consortium for community forestry Ranchi was also approached for it.

535. This approach of people's participation has attracted attention from forest administrators and planners at national and international levels also. Social forestry in this State is fast emerging as a major land use option, with the potential to play a significant role in resolving problems of rural poverty and land degradation. Yet. It must be fully appreciated by foresters that a completely new orientation in management Practices and perceptions are necessary to guide this programme to a fruitful end. This approach requires forests to deal with new factors, new locations, products and new economies of scale. The poor forest dwelling communities are awaiting to attain a more dignified existence with better living conditions through sustainable utilization of forest resources placed under their care.

536. It is generally assumed that it is difficult to develop awareness among rural people towards rational

use of forest resources because they have traditionally considered forests to be an inexhaustible resource but now an exhaustible resource due to continuous hacking. Mr. R.N.Kapoor (1963) has expressed in his findings of "J.N.Sinha experienced" in Latehar and Ranchi in the same light. It was further believed that it is even more difficult to help forest communities to apply appropriate management systems to common property resources like forests which are often

vast, sprawling and open to abuses by impoverished rural people and their famished cattle. The Gram Van Raksha samiti (Forest Villate Protection Committee) can show communities identifying strongly with the aims and objectives of the programme and the rapid regeneration of the region's regenerative natural forests and grazed or failed plantations recover by the spontaneous response from them. The resurrection of tree consciousness among rural communities can be sustained. Such efforts can only be successful through constant endeavors to improve the technical performance as well as executer's capability to work with the people. It is now recognized that these efforts will be in vain, if the slogan of participatory resource management is muffled by indifference and inaction as has been in past. Much of the programme's dynamism could die out eroding the effectiveness of village management institutions, unless one is cautious about lapses in programme and policy attention. To maintain the momentum to be generated in improving forest management, the process of fundamental change in the beliefsystems, values and assumptions of forest communities will have to be accelerated. In alleviating the anguish of the poor through viable programmes the forest are not merely to fulfil their professional responsibilities but also their fundamental obligations as civilized men to the less privileged brothers and sisters of the forests.

RANGE MANAGEMENT:

537. Grazing in the forest for cattle owned by the local population is one of their prime needs. Indeed the Palamau agriculturist lives or dies by his cattle. Around 20% of their livelihood comes form cattle population. Stall feeding or growing of fodder crops is almost unknown. Not only are cattle maintained for the plough, the cart, the gohar and in some measure for milk, quite a number are kept partly, sometimes exclusively, for the dungmanure, since the niggardly land will otherwise refuse even its little.

538. At the same time the maintenance of the forest is of wqual vital importance. Even if the indirect benefits of soil conservation and rainfall be discounted the village community living in or next to the forest cannot do without firewood and fencing. His entire economy is bound up with his forest. It is known however that unrestricted grazing con destrou whole forests in course of time. The stark eroded hills and undulating wastes of Palamau are mainly due to heavy and unregulated grazing. The middle of the road course i.e. regulated or rotational grazing has also failed due to the large number of the cattle scattered in all village and next too impossible to control grazing on the unfenced regeneration areas.

539. The past prescriptions to close against grazing the annual coupes for 5 to 6 years after felling and to allow unrestricted grazing elsewhere remained on paper only. All the areas were perpetually trampled by cattle. This reduced the surface of soil to a state unsuitable for germination of seed and subsequent growth of seedlings. Forests having poles and trees, but no regeneration on the ground are its examples. Some forests have good crop of Sal poles but the ground is hard and baked, clean as if freshly swept. The basic principle of forest conservation is replacement though new plants of the old stock as fast as, if not faster than, it is cut away. But if the seed will not germinate, natural regeneration cannot be achieved. The existing crop is bound in time to disappear, either by cutting or decay, leaving a bare floor. The only alternative, if the land is not to be left to be eroded and ravined, will then be to artificially reforest, the cost of which over extensive tracts will be prohibitive and also there is no guarantee that afforested area will remain out of bonds even for a year. The result is the failure of most of the plantation due to grazing.

540. Two factors in this connection have to be reckoned with:-

- (a) Intensity of grazing, that is to say, number of head of cattle grazing per acre,
- (b) Duration- whether the grazing is continual or intermittent.

541. Investigations have shown that while grazing does contribute to the result the principal cause of damage is the continuity of grazing. Intermittent grazing is far less harmful than continual grazing. And when the Soil conditions are rendered unsuitable for germination of tree seeds and establishment of seedlings there conditions are equally unsuitable for the growth of valuable fodder grass. It is therefore just as much in the interest of the village community who require good grazing for their cattle as for the future tree crop that grazing be regulated in such manner grazing should be confined to certain area which can be developed into good pasture land this introduces the subject of Range Management.

COUPE TRANSFER AND RETURN:

542. All Selection, Surplus, Khair and Bamboo Coupes will be transferred to State Trading Division before September of the Working year starting from 16th September to June. The felling in the State Trading parts will start from 3rd week of September and will be finished by 31st March. No felling of Khair and Bamboo will be done after 31st March. In exceptional cases felling in Coppice area can be done upto 30th April after obtaining consent of the Divisional

forest Officer, Latehar and the Working Plans Officer. In no case, the felling will continue after 30th April.

543. All felled materials will be removed from the Coupe by 30th June and Coupes will be returned to the Divisional Forest Officer, Latehar upto 31th July with the Certificate “TheCoupe No of Forest Management Series has been exploited and no felled forest produce has been in the Coupe. The yield of the Coupe is as below :.....” only then the next coupe will be handed over to the State Trading.

FULFILLMENT OF THE LOCAL DEMAND.:

DEMAND OF FUELWOOD, POLE, TIMBER AND BAMBOO:

544. As discussed in paragraphs-516, there is a gap of 1,79,952.36m. in 1991 in the demand and production of the fuelwood by the State Trading Divisions. This creates a heavy pressure for unscientific over exploitation of forests for fuelwood. Also much fuelwood is left in difficult Coupes by the State Trading due to the faulty system of Collection and transportation. Also much innerwood (Called bone) of Bamboo is left in bamboo forests by Turees. Also fallen trees and left over parts of the illicit felled trees are not removed. These Create an unhealthy climate for the forests and spread fire wildly. The rightholder and non-right- holders are users of the fuelwood on the same level. The demand of fuelwood will be met on the following line:-

- (i) No fuelwood will be exported out side the division boundary.
- (ii) Right holders will be allowed to collect the fuelwood from the State Trading Coupes for their requirements.
- (iii) Local non -rightholder will be encouraged to purchase the fuelwood from forest Coupes at royalty and collection charge.
- (iv) Local urban Centres will be supplied all the fuelwoods Commeted from remote Coupes at a reasonable price with the policy of no profit no loss.
- (v) Collection of fuelwood from fallen trees and illicitly felled trees will be done and supplied to local population at reasonable rate.
- (vi) All thinned and cleaned materials will be made available to local right and non-right holder. Materials from the surplus forests will be made available to local consumers at reasonable prices.

- (vii) Right-holder parts in surplus forests will be made available to the local village committee or Mukhia on priority basis and will not be given to the state trading for exploitation without the written consent of the Working Plans Officer.
- (viii) 50% of the total poles exploited will be supplied through Consumer depots and coupw depots to the local non-right holders and dconsumers at reasonable prices.
- (ix) Timber and other forests produce will be made available to the local consumers at reasonable price at priority basis.
- (x) Bamboo will be made available to local consumers from the coupe and consumer depots at reasonable prices. The inner wood of bamboo will be encouraged to be collected and used as fuelwood and in roofing.
- (xi) Right holder part of the Bamboo overlapping. Coupe will not be transferred to and worked. Ny the state trading without the written consent of the working Plans Officer.

545. Fulfilment of the local requirement will. Be the first charge on the forests. It has been emphasized for Corresponding reduction in illegal removal of forest produce by local village for their own use and sale. The divisional fordest officer will personally take interest in exercise of rights. Local population must be taught the be fits of the Coupe system.

