PART – I

CHAPTER – II

THE FOREST

1.2.1 Constitution and condition of the crop

In Pakur Damin Range on the plains and lower slopes sal occurs in patches as pure crop. The general quality is III –IV or standard coppice quality B. The whole area was coppiced at one time or the other. Coppice regeneration is good. Sal forms about 90% of the crops its usual associates being bija, asan, dhaura, gamhar, karam, kendu, char, aonla etc. About 40% area of the “Old Reserve” consists of mixed forest with little or no sal. The miscellaneous forest is chiefly restricted to narrow strips on ridges and tops of the hills in the Rajmahal Damin Range. The miscellaneous forests have also deteriorated very much. Most of the places have been converted to rooted wastes. The miscellaneous crops mostly contain saplings. The crop density is 0.3 or even less. The percentage of dry species such as salai, dhaw, gardenia etc. increases with sheet erosion and continuous dryness till almost pure dhaw on totally exposed soil. The presence of xerophytic species like bantulsi depends solely on biotic tactors such as kuraon practice. Consequent upon the washing away of the forest soil the underlying rock formation have been exposed.

The sal forests of the “Division are continuously struggling with the adverse biotic factors. Repeated cutting burning etc. are not allowing this species to grow to exploitable sal and miscellaneous forests to rooted waste and then finally to almost complete blanks. Where ever sal is found it is mostly in sapling to pole stage.

1.2.2 Forest types

Based on the revised survey of the forest types of India by Champion & Seth, the following main types occur in this Division:-

i) Tropical dry peninsular sal Forests 5B/CIC (i)

ii) Northern Tropical Dry Mixed Deciduous forests 5B/C2 (vii)

iii) Tropical Dry Deciduous Scrub forest 5B/DSI (ii).

1.2.2.1 Tropical Dry Peninsular Sal

This type occurs on the northern aspect of hills where the slope is moderate to steep. Sal forms 80 to 90% of the crop together with a few dry miscellaneous species. The soil being shallow the trees are mostly stunted and malformed and are on an average 10.0 to 15.0 metre quality “B” while Hill Sal is of infusion quality. The low quality of Hill Sal is due to exposure, desiccation and lessor soil depth on steeper gradients. The crop in general is in pole to mid mature stage with few mature tree scattered here and there. The density of the crop varies from 0.4 to 0.6. Coppice regeneration of sal is good.

The common associates in the top canopy are terminalia tomentosa, Terminalia belerica, Adina cordifolia, Anogeissus latifolia. Legerstromia parviflora etc. The undergrowth consists of zizyphus xylopyra, wedlandia spc, : Woodfordia fruiticpsa. Gandenia sp. Wrightia tomentosa, Caesaria species croton oblong fiolius, Embilica officinalis etc, Amongst the climbers are Butea superb, Spatholobus roxburghii, Smilax sp., Bauhinia vahlii, Milletia auticulata, auticulata, combretum decaqndrum and acacia sp. are common.

Retrogession of such forest is going on due to biotic factors viz. fire, grazing, over exploitation etc. A further degeneration in the site quality would result in a change of the type of vegetation replacing it with more xerophytic species.

1.2.2.2 Northern Tropical Dry Mixed Deciduous Forests

This forest type occurs both on plains as well as hills where the soil is shallow and degraded. On the plains this type is obviously replacing the sal forest. The usual miscellaneous species occurring are Anogeisus, Mitragyana, Terminalia, Hymenodictyon, Shiechera oleosa, Legerstromia, Pterocarpus, Diospyra, Aegle marmelos, Briddelia, Adina cordifolia, Buchnania lanzan, Boswellia serrata, Madhuca latifolia, Holarrhena antidysenterica, Randia dumetorum, Helicteres isora, Alangium salvifolium st_beblus asper. Bauhinia vahlii, acacia canescens, combretum decondrum etc.

1.2.2.3 Tropical Dry deciduous scrub forests

Area adjacent to hills of simra range bear such type of forests. In these thorny species such as flacouria indica, Carissa spinarum, Randia species, Euphorbia species, Acacia species, zyzyphus species, Mimosa species, Boswellia, Anogeissus, Aegle marmelos, Butea monosperma, Odiospyros, Madhuca, Nyctanthes, Woodfordia etc are of common occurrence. The tree species are mostly malformed and have stunted growth.

1.2.2.4 Injuries to which the crop is liable

Natural causes

No record is available to show the extent of damage to these forests from natural causes such as drought and wind, but damage from drought must be considerable in drier areas of southern portion of the old reserve.

Artificial causes

Men and domestic animal play the major role in causing injury to the crop. Heavy grazing, reckless cutting and intentional fires accentuate the damage done by drought and erosion. Excessive irregular interests has increased manifold with time. The most damaging thing is by kuraon practice. The Paharias have gone much beyond the specified jurisdictions for kuraon practice. Illegal kuraon practice is now going on in all the Ranges. This is the main reason why forests of hill tops have been destroyed.

Fire

Fires coupled with reckless hacking constituted by for the most single factor causing incomprehensible loss to these forests. Most of the fires are set deliberately by the people of the surrounding villages in order to get new grasses and fodder for their cattle, get wood ash as manure for their field and to facilitate the collection of Mahua flowers etc. As a result the surface becomes hard and roots cannot penetrate, seeds and seedlings are burnt away and there is an increase in the rapidity of run-off.

Climbers, Insects, weeds:-

Climber incidence is not very heavy. They do not much harm as villagers use them for rope making, Damage due to climbers is, however, serious to the young coppice shoots insect damage is very negligible. Loranthus is fairly common in the worked over coupes. Not much data is available regarding the damage done by insects.

1.2.2.5 Fauna of Sahebganj Division

In the past when the forests were thick Sambr, Wild boars etc. were commonly found. In the historical account of the District of Santhal parganas. The Rajmahal ranges was full of elephants. Due to overfelling, illicit cutting, fire, kuraon etc. The launa started disappearing. Indiscriminate shooting and tribal shikars also played major role in the destruction of the fauna. Still occasional sighting of leopard, Hyena, Jackals, Rabbits, Bear and Other small games has been reported in Pakur Damin Range.

1.3.1 Agricultural customs

Agriculture is the main occupation of the district. For agricultural implements they depend on the nearby the forests. As there are no other means of livelihood except agriculture, the villagers have the natural tendency of bringing forests produce during non harvesting seasons from the forests and sell them in the local hats.

1.3.2 Wants of the population

The people's requirements besides firewood are chiefly sal poles of 1'/3' girth, bamboos and thatch grasses, for building their houses. They used other species such as piar (Buchnoia latigolia). Gamhar (gmelina arborea), Asan (Terminalia tomentosa), Jamun (syzigium cumini) etc. for the above purpose and also require Asan trees for cultivation of tasar cocoons Kusum (Schleichora cleosa) and ber (zyzyphus mauritina) for propagation of lac and pasture land to graze their cattle some fruits, roots and leaves are also collected by the paharias and santhalis for their food and medicine. The turis require green bamboos for basket making).

The following is a list of wooden articles in regular use and the species of wood preferred for each :-

1.3.3 Markets

There are three types of marketing presently going on in the forest areas:-

a) The produce from the coupes were transported to the depots where it was auctioned by the State Trading Divisions. But no coupes are being used for the last several years.

b) Minor Forest produce like kendu leaves are collected and disposed of departmentally.

c) Recently the State Trading Corporation of the department has opened depots where the timbers of Pahariyas from their raiyati land is being purchased, thus providing the local Pahariyas as good rate for their produce. In addition there are certain prescribed hats in

which the Damin tenants are permitted to sell M.F.P. in several transactions pertaining to forest produce Government realizes certain royalty from the buyer and the right to collect such fees is auctioned annually for each hat. Sahebganj, the headquarters of the Division is well connected by rail.

The different marketable products are logs, poles, firewoods, kendu leaves, sal seeds, silk cocoons, lacs mahua, sabai grass etc.

1.3.4 Lines of Export

There is a network of cart, murrum and tarred toads in this districts. The railways crosses through the districts. All the railway stations are linked by tarred roads. A list of forest roads are given in the appendix.

1.3.5 Methods of Exploitation

All the exploitation of forest produce are done departmentally now. Regarding timber exploitation the rates are given in the appendix. The M.F.Ps are collected and marketed by the Forest Development Corporation. The present market prices of various forest produce are shown in the appendix.

PART-I
CHAPATER-IV

1.4 STAFF AND LABOUR SUPPLY

1.4.1. The following is the sanctioned strength of establishment for Sahebganj forest Division.

Divisional Forests Officer	-	1
Asstt. Conservator of Forests	-	1
Range officer of Forests	-	4
Beat officer	-	16
Sub-beat officers	-	62
Driver	-	2
Bunglow Chowkidar Office establishment	-	1
Head Clerk	-	1
Assistants	-	10
Steno	-	1
Orderly Peon	-	7
Chowkidar	-	1
Dakwala	-	1
Sweeper	-	1

1.4.2. Executive Charge:-

There are four Ranges in the division:-

Name of the Range	Headquarters
1. Pakur Damin Range	Hiranpur
2. Mandro Range	Mandro

3. Barharwa Range Barharwa

4. Rajmahal Damin Range Sahebganj

1.4.2. Executive charge:-

There are four Ranges in the Division:-

Name of the Range		Headquarters
1.	Pakur Damin Range	Hiranpur
2.	Mandro Range	Mandro
3.	Barharwa Range	Barharwa
4.	Rajmahal Damin Range	Sahebganj

There are all total 9 territoriol beats in the above four ranges.

Sl. No.	Name of beat	Headquarters	No. of sub-beats
Rajmahal Damin Range			
1.	Banjhi	Banjhi	2
2.	Borio	Borhait	2
3.	Barhait	Tauhan	4
4.	TAljhari	Taljhari	3
5.	Sakarugarh	Saharugarh	1
Pakur Damin Range			
6.	Hiranpur	Hiranpur	4
7.	Dharampur	Dharmpur	3
8.	Littipara	Littipar	4
9.	Amrapur	Amrapura	5

Labour:

The local population supplies all the labour required for forests Work During Cultivation and harvest period availability of labour is a bit difficult. During Bandhana festival all the Santhala Stop Working as labour is plentiful. The surplus labourers labourers migrate to Assam and West Bengal to work in the tea gardens.

The labouers are recruited through the village headman who under the record of rights are bond to supply labour required for govt. works. It is also the characteristic of the local

people that they will not come out for govt work without the knowledge of the village headman so that they can represent through him any grievances they may have as regards payment etc.

Generally the local labour is suitable for most of the forest works. Having worked for a number of years the villagers have a fairly good idea of the minor silvicultural works such as cleanings, creeper cuttings, thinnings, coupe working etc. The paharias are more skilful than the Santhals.

The majority of the villagers possess their own carts and earn their livelihood when they are not busty in cultivation by playing their carts for hire or by carting timber to distant places for sale.

There are fairly large number of artisans in the villages who are capable of doing ordinary works. But where a superior quality of work is required necessitating employment of masons and carpenter they have to be obtained from the towns.