

PAST SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT

GENERAL HISTORY OF FOREST:- Prior to enforcement of Land Reforms Act in the year 1950, the major portion of Forests of this division was under private ownership. The forests covered most the land surface. At the time unscientific cutting and clearance were laudatory and no body cared what happened to these forests. As the population grew more exploitation took place and went on without any hindrance. This continued progressively and the forests eventually reached a state of denudation that caused concern. Owing to the result, the Government owned forests in Kodarma and Bengabad thanas were constituted Reserved or Protected and given protection and scientific management. The old reserved forests of Khurchutta were reserved in the year 1893 which is stated in para 119 and it was first administered directly by Hazaribag division. The rest belonged to zamindars and nothing could be done for them. In between 1918 to 1933, when the Ramgarh Estate were under the court of ward, the management of the forests belonging to the Ramgarh Estate was taken over by the state under section 38 of the Indian Forests Act. This was the beginning of scientific management of private owned forests in this division. Efforts has been made in this district as else to come to an agreement with government under the provisions of section 38 of the Indian Forests Act for scientific management of these forests on terms sufficiently advantageous to them. These forests prospered under scientific management but rest of the zamindari forest continued to be the prey of the wanton axe. The crisis reached its maximum during the period second world war. As unlimited demand for timber poles arose and these forests being the most accessible received the full brunt of the fury of cutting. Owing to the irretrievable damage to the national property, in the year 1924, notification was issued and an area of about 62.49 Sq. miles of forests were constituted into reserved forests. Similar transaction took place for the rests of the Government owned forests by 1943. Under such circumstances and in the throes of impending calamity to the forests, the Bihar Private Forests Act of 1946 was born. This Act has wide publicity during its bill stage. People mistakenly understood that their ownership will be vested to the Government and doors of the owners cut and sold, the villagers cut stocked or even in sheer spite or on instigation cut and destroyed. In between 1946 to 1950 until the enforcement of Land Reforms Act, the forests were subject to heavy exploitation, because they wee taken away from the owners but not taken over by the Government. During the time owners opposed, and spread disaffection against Government and Forests Department. Thee was overwhelming tide of psychological and physical opposition both from the owners and the people in general. In this struggle, the management of the forests suffered to a great deal. Ultimately with the advent of the Land Reforms Act in 1950, entire private owned forests were vested in the state. In 1952 all the erstwhile private forest were brought under the Indian Forests Act. For some special reasons, the management of the forests on the Parasnath Hill was taken over by Government as late as 1964. For detailed information about the general history of the Parasnath Hill and the past management of its forests, a reference to the Hazaribag District case titer, 1957 (Pages 293-299) may prove to be enlightening, now the entire forests area in this division is the property of the state and scientific management has been extended to all these forests,

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY:- (a) Khurchutta Range originally formed part of the Hazaribag forests and was forests and was first administered direct by the Direction Division from 1894. It was then taken over for a short time by the Santhal Parganas

division. With the object of reducing the heavy annual of the batter division. In 1919, the Hazaribagh division was created of which this range formed a part until 1931, when the division was abolished. The Khurchutta Range was again amalgamated with the Santhal Parganas division. Since the created of the Giridih Division in 1947, these forests have formed a part of this division.

The Giridih Forest Division was created temporarily with effect from the 27th August 1947, with headquarters at Hazaribag vide Revenue Department notification no. 1548-VIF-185/47-R, dated the 20th February 1948. The headquarters of Giridih division was subsequently transferred to the Hazaribag division from the Giridih Division on the 10th November 1952. The Giridih division was made permanent with effect from the 27th August 1953 vide Revenue Department's. notification no. C/N-7011/53-336R, dated the 29th August 1953.

The Giridih Afforestation Division was created vide Revenue Department's notification no. C/F-7010/56-1957R, dated the 10th May 1956. The territorial charge of the Doranda, Jamua and Dhanwar Ranges were transferred to the Giridh from August 1961 vide Revenue Department notification no. C/F- 1 (A)-089/61-1049R, dated the 1st August 1961 and chief Conservator of Forests, Bihar's office order no. 325, dated the 31st July' 1961.

The management of the forests on the Parasnath Hill has been over by the Government from the 1st April' 1964 vide Revenue Department notification no. C/F-17020/64-1326R, dated the 1st April' 1964.

PAST MANAGEMENT: - (a) Ramgarh Ex-Reserve Forests :- Under provision of section 38 of the Indian Forests Act, 1927 the forests belonging to the Ramgarch Estate were notified as Reserve Forests under section 20 ibid in 1924 and 1943. Due to the breach of the terms of agreement, the same was cancelled in 1947 and the forests were simultaneously notified as P.P.F. under the B.P.F. Act, 1947. On the enforcement of the Land Reforms vested in the state and they were notified as protected forests under section 29 (3) of the Indian Forests Act, 1927.

The firsts working scheme for Ramgarh forests was prepared by Breaky in 1934. It prescribed the coppice system with 40 years rotation. Breaky's scheme was revised by Gibson in 1935-36. Breaky's coppice systems are described by Gibson as "Uniformly good". Breaky in his Improvement fellingg prescribed the freeing of Sal poles from Salai and other miscellaneous species where thinning is required. The result was that the Salai received heavy exploitation. Gibson's working plan prescribed the following working circles:-

- (i) **Coppice Working Circle.**
- (ii) **Selection Working Circle.**
- (iii) **Bamboo and khair overlapping working circles.**

Gibson's plan was revised by Sri. B.N. Prasad in 1953-54 and his plan did away with the selection working of Bibson's plan.

The sivicultural system adopted in Prasad's plan was coppice with standard with special provision fro the utilization of mature salai trees in the advance coupe. Special attention was given to regeneration and providing bigger timber fro agricultural and house hold needs of the local people and also the preservation of Salai. The result of working under the Prasad's plan has been satisfactory.

Khurchutta R.F. and P.F.:- These forests have been managed, since they were taken over, under coppice with standard system. in the old reserve forests, the first regular scheme of coppice with standard was introduced in 1918-1919. Act the time of revision of the scheme in 1927 tow felling series wee constituted. Warren's plan (1938-39 to 1959-60) press-cribed three working circles namely:-

- (i) **Coppice with standard working circle.**
- (ii) **Eroded areas working circle.**
- (iii) **Grazing working circle.**

The last two working circles applied to the new reserves only. The prescriptions of the plan regarding coppice with standard working circle were applied with minor deviations but those regarding eroded areas working circle and grazing working circle could be applied effectively.

In the new reserved forests, no regular scheme was adopted until 1922, when the simple coppice system was introduced. In these forests the selection of the coupes has been done annually by Range Staff. As result the beat areas were selected in order to bring the maximum revenue and supply of the villagers according to their need.

For the demarcated protected forests, plan by Sri B.N. Prasad was in force from 1943-44 to 1957-58. This plan also prescribed three working circle, namely

- (i) **Coppice working circle.**
- (ii) **Eroded working circle.**
- (iii) **Experimental Panchayat Working Circle.**

Here also only the prescription with regard to coppice working circle were given affect to and the prescriptions regarding Erosion working circle and experimental Panchayat Working Circle wee not carryout.

Warren's and Prasad's plans were revised by Shri. P. Mishra,. Mishra's Plan (1960-70) also prescribed three working circles, namely :-

- (i) **Coppice working circle.**
- (ii) **Protection working circle.**
- (iii) **Soil conservation cum plantation working circle.**

The coppice rotation was kept at 40 years for the other forests. Two cleanings were prescribed, one in the year following the main felling and second at the 5th year. Two thinning at the 14th and 27th years in the old reserve and grade thinning at the 20th year in the new reserve and protected forests were prescribed.

The protection working circle aimed at rehabilitating the Sal rooted Waste areas.

The last named working circle was constituted with the object of stopping erosion and run of in eroded areas and to plant up the blanks.

While coupes have been laid out according to the prescriptions of Mishra's plan, the prescriptions regarding 1st and 5th year cleanings have generally not been implemented for want of funds. This has resulted in numerous shoots for each stool. In the old reserve, thinning at the 14th and 27th years are being done.

The plan prescribed for the fencing of the entire external boundary of the old reserve which is 25.60 K.M. (16 miles) in length. This prescription has not been implemented. The plan also laid down that open and blank areas in the annual coupes in the old reserve be planted with teak and bamboo. Teak did not do well in the area and had to be given up. Bamboo planting is being done.

The prescriptions of the plan regarding the protection working circle and soil conservation -cum-plantation working circle have not been carried out some plantation and anti-erosion work have been done in this area both by Giridih territorial and Giridih Afforestation divisions. The work was done by the territorial division according to "a scheme for planting of the interspersed blanks in khurchutta Reserve and contiguous P.F. s", by Shri D. Sinha and by the Afforestation division according to the "Scheme for afforestation in by D.V.C. catchment".

The prescriptions of Mishra's plan regarding coppice working circle have generally worked well.

Erstwhile Private Forests:- These forests, which form the bulk of the area of the division, were under private ownership till 1947. There was absolutely no scientific working and the forests were grossly maltreated. The result is that the forests near stage. Good forests survive only in these area which were hitherto inaccessible.

On the assumption of the control of these forests by the Forests Department in 1948, a working scheme approved by the conservator was introduced which brought in coppice working rotation of 10-40 years.

A working plan for the Giridih forest division for the period 1957-58 to 1966-67 was prepared by Shri B.N. Prasad. This plan prescribed the following working circles.

- (i) **Coppice working circle.**
- (ii) **Bamboo (overlapping) working circle.**
- (iii) **Salai selection working circle.**
- (iv) **Afforestation-cum-Recuperation working circle.**
- (v) **Selection working circle (Parasnath).**

This plan suggested coppice felling series by grouping parts of number of villages in both surplus and deficit forests. More often than not, the forests in one village was split up and allotted to more than two or three felling series. At about this time Government's order to lay out village wise coupes was enforced and so the prescriptions of Prasad's plan with

regard to coppice working circle were not brought into effect efforts were again made from 1961-62 onwards to enforce these in certain areas of the division.

Prescriptions of Prasad's plan were put in abeyance in the Gawan and Satgawan Ranges when a long term lease was given to the Bengal paper mills Ltd., in 1964. "A scheme for the exploitation of salai and non-descript and miscellaneous species of Gawan and Satgawan ranges" By Shri D. Sinha, Divisional Forests Officer, Giridih is in operation in these two ranges since then.

Prasad's plan has constituted only three bamboo felling series. The bamboo felling series of Prasad's plan were reorganised and some new bamboo felling series were constituted by Shri D. Sinha, Divisional Forests Officer, Giridih division in 1964, raising the total number of bamboo felling series in the division to 21. Many of the bamboo felling series constituted by Shri D. Sinha contained very little or very scattered bamboo and failed to attract purchasers. As bamboo forests improve with proper working, Shri Sinha's idea was to bring the maximum bamboo bearing area under working.

The prescriptions of the salai selection working circle and afforestation-cum-Recuperation working circle of Shri Prasad's Plan were not implemented.

In the constitution of coppice felling series no allowance was made for blanks or areas covered by scrub. Areas of annual coupes were calculated without excluding the blanks and the scrub. This has resulted in over felling.

In the revised plan, all such blank and scrub areas would be excluded from the coppice working circle.

Parasnath Hill Forests:- Except a small area of 1855 acres of Phulibagan, the remaining forest on the Parasnath hill was under private management till 1964.

For the Phulibagan area, Shri Prasad's plan prescribed selection-cum-Improvement system with a minimum exploitable girth of 90 cm (36"). The prescribed annual yield was 150 sal trees of the exploitable girth.

On assumption of the management of the remaining forests area of the Parasnath hill, a scheme for its management was drawn up by Shri D. Sinha, Divisional Forests Officer, Giridih. This scheme envisaged coppice felling upto a contour of + 450 m (1500') to 540 m (1800') and selection fillings above that height. Bamboo felling series were also constituted.

Dhanwar Range :- The prescription of Prasad's plan were put in abeyance in the extensive Sal rooted waste areas of Doranda, Jamua and Dhanwar Ranges. A special scheme for the improvement and rehabilitation of these areas was prepared. The scheme prescribed cutting back and fencing of Sal rooted waste area and strict protection of treated areas against fire, grazing and irregular felling. This scheme worked very well.

R. Prasad Plan 69-70 to 78-79 :- Sri r. Prasada , IFS, revised the working plan prepared by Sri. B.N. Prasad for 1969-70 to 1978-79, which was the latest plan for this division.

R. Prasada plan prescribed the following 5 working circles, namely-

1. Coppice Working Circle
2. Rehabilitation Working Circle
3. Plantation Working Circle
4. Bamboo Overlapping Working Circle and
5. Protection Working Circle.

The main object management in this plan was based on principle of annual sustained yield and classifying the forests into two categories namely-community forests and commercial. Felling series were made accordingly and right holders coupe were clearly demarcated near the villages.

To ensure proper protection against fire, grazing and to minimise run off/soil erosion, a new working circle called protection working circle and plantation working circle was constituted.

Coppice Working Circle :- All such commercial forests had been place under this working circle that could provide timber, poles and firewood, It consists of right burden and right free forests. Total area under this working circle was 71,932.88 hac. objcet was to meet the bonafide domestic, agricultural and industrial needs of population and improve quality of forests.

- Silvicultural system adopted was coppice with standard.
- Rotation of 30,40 and 60 years was adopted to various groups of forests.
- 15 trees/acre were to be retained as stand ards with maximum of 20 trees.

Rehabilitation Working Circle: - Total area under this working circle was 48, 305.43 hac. with the following features,

- All such sal forests which had been reduced to bushy state due to excessive biotic pressure were included in this working circle
- The main object management was to protect rooted wast forest with the help of silvicultural work and get the blanks covered by newer plantation of suitable plantation species.
- Anti-Soil erosion work was prescribed.
- Cultural operation like cut back of sal forests were undertaken.

Plantation Working Circle: -

- Total forest area under this working circle was 38, 965.61 Hac.
- This working circle was created for blank and open miscellaneous scrub forests
- Which has become suitable only for plantation.

- The special object of management was to check soil erosion and retain moisture with plantation activities in the blanks.

Bamboo Over Lapping Working Circle:-

- Total forest area 13,863.06 Hac.
- This working circle overlaps those part of coppice working circle where bamboo were commercially viable.
- Only one species of Bamboo called *Dendrocalanus strictest* are found in the division,
- 26 felling series were prescribed.

Protection Working Circle :-

- Total area of working circle was 3,719.38 Hac.
- Forests unfit for coppice working circle and where plantation and rehabilitation could not be done were put to this working circle.
- Included bare hills, highly gullied and eroded area like Gawan, Dumari, Khurnutta & Giridih range.
- No felling was permitted in this zone and special protection against fire and grazing prescribed.