

## CHAPTER – VII PAST SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT

### GENERAL

Prior to the enforcement of the Bihar Land Reforms Act, all the forests of this division were under Private ownership. The management of the forests belonging to the Ramgarh Estate was, however, transferred to the Forest Department under section 38 of the Indian Forest Act in 1924 and 1943. The management of the remaining forest area was assumed by the State under the Bihar Private Forest area Act in 1947. The agreement under section 38 of the Indian Forest Act with the Ramgarh Estate was determined in 1947 and the forests belonging to the Estate were constituted as Private Protected Forest under the Bihar Private Forest Act, 1947. On the enforcement of the land Reforms Act, the ownership of all the forests in this division vested in the State. They were, therefore, notified as Protected Forests under section 29(3) of the Indian Forest Act. A list of the notifications is given in Appendix III.

### ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The forests of the Ramgarh estate, whose management had been taken over by the State, were looked after by the Private Estates Forest Officer attached to the Direction Division till 1943. The Hazaribagh Forest Division was created on 01.11.1943 for managing the forests in the districts of Hazaribagh and Ranchi vide notification no. 4754-VIF-40-43R, dated 14<sup>th</sup> October, 1942. After the enforcement of the Bihar Private Forests Act in 1947 a Forest Sub-division called the Chatra Forest sub-division under the Hazaribagh Division, was created vide Revenue Department notification no. 2017-VIF-306/49R dated 11<sup>th</sup> May 1949 which embraced Chauparan P.S., Simaria P.S., Chatra P.S., Gidhour P.s., Hunterganj P.S. and Pratappur P.S. This Forest sub-division was converted into a full fledged Forest Division called the Chatra Forest Division from 1.6.52 vide Revenue Department notification no. C/PF-7011/52-2223CR, dated 29.05.1952. The Chauparan Range of the Chatra Division was transferred to the newly created Koderma Division from March 1957 vide notification No. C/F-7014/56-2348 dated 6<sup>th</sup> October, 1956. The Chatra Division was further spited into two divisions namely Chatra South & Chatra North Forest Division from 01.04.1962 vide Government notification no. C/F-1(A) 044/62-502R, dated 29<sup>th</sup> March 1962. The Chatra North South Division was constituted of the forests of Simaria P.S., Gidhour P.s. (Itkhorri Part II) and Chatra P.S.

## PAST SYSTEM OF MANAGEMENT AND THEIR RESULTS

The first working scheme for the former Ramgarh reserves was prepared by Mr. W.G.C. Breaky. The scheme prescribed coppice system with a rotation of 40 years. Mr. Breaky's working scheme was revised by Gibson, who prescribed the following circles:-

- (i) Coppice Working Circle
- (ii) Selection Working Circle
- (iii) Bamboo Working Circle
- (iv) Khair Working Circle

Gibson's plan was revised by Shri B.N. Prasad. In this plan only three working circles were constituted and the selection working circle was dropped. It may be stated that the out-come of the prescriptions under the various plans has been generally quite good and these forests continue to be best in the locality though there have been unauthorized deviations in the laying out of the coupes.

In the rest of the forests there was no scientific working before their management was taken over by the Forest Department in 1943 under the Bihar Private Forest Act. Before that the owners and the right holders treated the forests as they liked. The result was that the forest area went on shrinking every day and forests, specially near habitations, deteriorated. In most of these forests there is a market paucity of good sized poles and some of the forests have been reduced to the scrub stage. In the interiors also large sized poles and some of the forests have been reduced to the scrub stage. In the interiors also large sized trees have generally been cut away. In major portions of these forests shifting cultivation has been practiced some times and in such area where the crop is generally uniform.

## COPPICE WORKING

The Forest Department assumed management of these forests in 1948 and a skeleton working scheme was introduced. Bamboo working was started on a cutting cycle of 3-4 years and some Khair marking was done to feed the market, Coppice working with rotations of 10-40 years was taken up after constituting proper felling series by grouping forests from neighbouring villages. At first a system of sale through fixed value tickets sold by ticket vendors was introduced. This was soon given up. The forests were than divided into surplus and deficit and the surplus forests were constituted into 185 felling series. The

annual coupe was opened to the right holders at first instance and the surplus, if any was sold in the succeeding year by auction. In the deficit forests, where the demand of the right holders exceeded the forests, produce available in the annual coupe, felling series were constituted in each village.

The first working plan for this division was prepared by Shri B. N. Prasad for the period 1957-58 to 1966-67.

- (i) Coppice Working Circle
  - (a) With rotation of 20 years
  - (b) With rotation of 40 years
- (ii) Protection Working Circle
- (iii) Afforestation Working Circle
- (iv) Bamboo over-lapping Working Circle
- (v) Khair over-lapping Working Circle

In this plan felling series were constituted by grouping forests. Quite often the forest in the same village was allotted to more than one felling series. This created a lot of complications in a right conscious area like Chatra where whole villages have been admitted to rights.

This plan was never brought into proper operation as about this time Government order for laying out village-wise coupes was enforced in this division. An attempt was however, made in 1961-62 to enforce this plan in selected area of this division. The result was that while in part of the division coupes were being laid out village-wise in some parts they were laid out felling series-wise. A fair amount of confusion was created due to the introduction and subsequent suspension of the various schemes and plans.

Another serious error in the past working was to include large areas of scrub forests and blanks in the coppice working circle. Annual coupes were laid out after taking into account the area of scrub forest and blanks also. This obviously resulted in over cutting. In many of the felling series no standards were retained, while in others the number of standard retained was few and inadequate.

The quality of coppicing has generally been satisfactory in the last few years in the coupes worked by coupe purchasers. Stumps left are of the correct height and coppice shoots have come up very well. This unfortunately is not true of the right holders

coupes. There the felling are still very unsatisfactory and numerous high stumps are visible in every coupe. Cultural operations, climber cutting, cleaning and thinning have generally been neglected and it is difficult to assess the damage done to the forests on this account. Particularly in the better quality forests. The forests could not be afforded protection against fire and grazing. The concession permitting removal of dry fire-wood by head load was abused causing a fair amount of damage to the forests.

#### BAMBOO WORKING

Bamboo working under the prescriptions of Prasad's plan has yielded excellent results. Not only have congested clumps been cleaned and brought into healthy state, but the revenue from bamboo also has shown phenomenal rise. There is scope for some readjustment in the bamboo felling series but many of the felling series under long lease and the readjustment would have to wait for expiry of the lease.

#### KHAIR WORKING

There is very keen demand for khair in the locality because there are number of old khair contractors in Chatra Khair has been regularly exploited, still there is adequate number of khair trees of exploited table girth for sale.

Katha from khair is manufactured here by the Bhandra system and past experience is that a khair lot which has less than 1000 to 1500 exploitable khair trees is vulnerable to illicit felling.

#### SALAI WORKING

Selection marking salai was done in the past in Chatra Range. It failed to attract any purchasers and was, therefore, dropped. Since, then salai has been felled along with other species, in coppice coupes.

#### SPECIAL WORKS OF IMPROVEMENT

The works of improvement taken up in the area since 1947, constitute a major achievement. Many inaccessible areas have been opened up thereby making it possible to tap locked up resources. Quarters have been constructed for the majority of the subordinate staff of the division.

SHRI RAVINDRAR PRASAD WORKING PLAN  
(1967-68 TO 1976-77)

Following working circles were prescribed.

1. Coppice with Reserve Working Circle.
2. Coppice with Standard Working Circle.
3. Salai Working Circle.
4. Plantation Working Circle.
5. Rehabilitation Working Circle.
6. Bamboo (Overlapping) Working Circle.
7. Khair (Overlapping) Working Circle.
8. Match Wood (Overlapping) Working Circle.

## RESULT

The rules prescribed for harvesting were very important technically but the selection of coupes was not done properly. Most of the coupes became barren after felling illicit felling & Grazing caused further deterioration Bushes have come up in these areas.

Rehabilitation of forests could not be done in a planned way.

Rampat illicit felling caused great depletion of these forests. Katha was made illicitly and smuggled. Hence the number of khair trees declined.

The match wood factory at Koderma was closed and so harvesting in the match wood (overlapping) Working Circle could not be done as prescribed.

## SHRI CHITRANJAN SAHAY WORKING PLAN

Following Working Circles were proposed.

1. Coppice Selection Working Circle.
2. Plantation Working Circle.
3. Rehabilitation cum Plantation Working Circle.
4. Bamboo (overlapping) Working Circle.
5. Khair (overlapping) Working Circle.
6. Protection Working Circle.

### 1. Coppice Selection Working Circle

- Forest area with density more than 0.3 were kept under this category.
- Felling cycle was 20 years.
- It was prescribed that permanent gaps should not appear after felling.
- Categories for felling as prescribed.
  - a) Semal, Salai, Bija sal, Kaj, Karam having diameter 30 cm or more at breast height are to be cut.
  - b) Sal & other miscellaneous species having 20 cm and above will be harvested.
- The panchayat will distribute the forest's produce to right holders.
- Excess produce will be harvested by the State Trading wing of the department.
- Silvicultural operations like bush cutting, climber cutting and soil conservation works, fire protection works were prescribed.

### Rehabilitation – cum – Plantation Working Circle

Those areas which were degraded due to uncontrolled grazing, felling and fire and are now full of bushes only were kept under this working circle.

These forests had root stocks in abundance and could be saved throughout protection.

- Rehabilitation period was 10 years.
- It was prescribed that the area will be fenced.

- Malformed and diseased plants will be uprooted.
- The produce after felling will be distributed freely to the right holders.
- Blank area will be protected from grazing, cutting & fire.

#### Bamboo Overlapping Working Circle

- Only those area were taken where harvestable bamboo was present.
- Felling cycle was of 4 years.
- 1/5 of the coupes having rights will be distributed to the right holders through the panchayat.

#### Khair Overlapping Working Circle

Area having harvestable khair were taken under this Working Circle.

- Trees with dbh 1.37 (15cm or more) will be marked and filled.
- Felling cycle is 20 years.
- 4 felling series were constituted.

#### Protection Working Circle

Area which were highly degraded due to soil erosion specially steep slopes were taken under this Working Circle.

- No felling was prescribed.
- Area to be protected from grazing and fire.
- Soil conservation works were prescribed.

#### Plantation Working Circle

Area already planted area were taken under this working circle and not the blank areas.

- Harvesting of planted sites were prescribed for harvesting, Minimum dbh was 10 cm.
- Felling series were constituted.
- All the planted and natural trees except Semal, Khair, Bamboo, were to be harvested.

PART - II  
CHAPTER – I  
BASIS OF PROPOSALS

GENERAL OBJECTS OF MANAGEMENT

The general objects of management are :

- (i) Management of environmental stability through preservation and where necessary, restoration of the ecological balance that has been adversely disturbed by serious depletion of the forests.
- (ii) Conserving the natural heritage of the division by preserving the remaining natural forests with the vast variety of flora and fauna, which represent the remarkable biological diversity and genetic resources of the division?
- (iii) Rehabilitation of degraded forest areas.
- (iv) Checking soil erosion and denudation in ecologically fragile areas and the catchment areas of rivers, streams etc. in the interest of soil and water conservation. Water is the limiting factor in these areas.
- (v) Increasing the forest cover in the division through massive afforestation programme.
- (vi) Increasing the productivities of forests to meet essential local needs population for small timber, fuel wood, fodder and non-timber forest produce.
- (vii) Creating a massive people's movement in protection and scientific management of the forest and promoting a sense of community ownership.
- (viii) To constitute VFMPs' in all the forests.
- (ix) To increase extension forestry.

GENERAL METHODS OF TREATMENT

The forests of Chatra North Division are heavily right burdened. The forests have traditionally been managed to produce small timber, poles and firewood for the consumption of local people. However the regulatory forest management practices have led to the alienation of the local people and hence to the most of its forest being degraded by the early 1980s. However, by mid and late eighties, villagers had started protecting forests in

their vicinity. Such grass roots initiatives gained momentum now due to growing concern over the rapid rate of deforestation. With the passing of JFM resolution by Bihar & Jharkhand Govt. the protections of forests by villagers have gained momentum and VFMPs have been formed which are protecting many forests. Many of these VFMPs consist of officially recognized self-initiated forests protection groups. In addition, there are a considerable number of village protecting groups which are yet to be formally recognized. Peoples participations in protection, rehabilitation and management will help in conservation of the forests of this division. Sufficient root stocks and stems, though of low quality are available in most of the forests will help in conservation of the forests of the division. With easy coppice regeneration, the degraded areas start spoling back to tree growth. The methods of treatment therefore will be:-

1. Protection, improvement and management of degraded forests will be undertaken by adoption of joint forests management (JFM) as per Govt. guidelines on the priority basis.
2. Management of better socked forests will be undertaken to increase the productivity of such forests.
3. Blank forest areas where no natural regeneration is possible will be planted with suitable species to suit local conditions and for increasing the flow of forests products particularly of NTFPs to the local people.
4. Special vegetative and mechanical soil and moisture conservation schemes will be implemented in the all the areas.

## CONSTITUTION OF WORKING CIRCLES

To attain the above objects of management , the forests have been divided into following working circle according to the composition and density of vegetation, the local site conditions, silvicultural needs of the forest and requirements of the local people.

1. Improvement Working Circle
2. Rehabilitation Working Circle
3. Plantation Working Circle
4. Bamboo Working Circle (Overlapping)

## IMPROVEMENT WORKING CIRCLE

This working circle comprise all the forest which were earlier managed under Coppice Working Circle. The crop in this working circle is almost uniform, young varying in age between 10 to 15 years. Due to protection given by VFMPs the crop is congested. The area under this working circle is 44274.65 hectare.

## REHABILITATION WORKING CIRCLE

This working circle comprises all the areas in which root, stock is available. The includes area of Sal and miscellaneous rooted waste where the forests have been mostly deteriorated by irregular cutting, grazing, fire and soil erosion. The total area allotted to this working circle is 5806.65 hectare.

## PLANTATION WORKING CIRCLE

Plantation working circle embraces all the existing plantations, and area fit for plantation which embraces blank area also. The total area allotted to this working circle is 43602.62 ha.

## AREA STATEMENT

## STOCK MAPS

Stock maps have been prepared by the staff of the Chatra North Territorial Division. Allotment of area under different Working Circles and the prescriptions are based on these stock maps.