

CHAPTER II

THE FOREST:

Constitution and condition of the crop.

In Dumka Damin Range on the plains and lower slopes sal occurs almost as pure crop. In Gopikander D.P.F. of Kathikund beat, most of the forests of Khasmahal beat, Patharia, Sugasar of Nonihat beat, Gormala, Shikarpur of Masalia beat etc. contain such type of crop. Fairly good quality sal occurs in the valleys and sheltered pockets of the "Old Reserve" of Dumka Damin Range on the lower slopes sal grows all along the boundary over a strip of 20-24 chains with occasional breaks. 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 central and Southern portions of the old reserve. Previously large quantities of bamboos were mixed up in the miscellaneous forest. But now bamboos occur in very less number. Only old culms are mostly visible. Bamboo crop of one or two years growth are also met with at places. 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 of salai, dhaw, gardenia etc. increases with sheet erosion and continuous dryness till almost pure dhaw on totally exposed soil e.g. on the Mahuagarhi hills; salai on the hills of the Godda Reserves etc. The presence of xerophytic species like bantulsi depends solely on biotic factors such as kuraon practice. Consequent upon the washing away of

the forest soil the underlying rock formations 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 size. Gradually the forests are deteriorating from valuable sal and miscellaneous forests to rooted waste and then finally to almost complete blanks as in most of the hills of Hijia, Godda and Simra Ranges. Wherever 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 forests 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 metre to 15.0 quality 1B' while Hill Sal is of inferior quality. The low quality of Hill sal is due to exposure, desiccation and lesser soil depth on steeper gradients. The crop in general is in pole to mid mature stage with few mature trees 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 tonientosa*, *Terminalia belerica*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Anogeissus latifolia*, *Lagerstromia parviflora* etc. The undergrowth consists of *Zizyphus xylopyra*, *Wedlandia* sp.; *Woodfordia fruticosa*, *Gandenia* sp. *Wrightia tomentosa*, *Caesaria* species, *Croton oblongifolius*, *Eniblica officinalis* etc. Amongst the climbers are *Butea superba*, *Spatholobus roxburghii*, *Smilax* sp., *Bauhinia vahlii*, *Milletia auriculata*, *Combretum decandrum* and *Acacia* sp. are common.

retrogression of forest

Retrogression of such forest is going on due to biotic factors viz, fire, grazing, overexploitation 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 *Anogeissus*, *Nitragyna*, *Terminalia*, *Hymenodictyon*, *Schiechra oleosa*, *Lagerstromia*, *Pterocarpus*, *Diospyras*, *Aegle marmelos*, *Bridelia*, *Adina cordifolia*, *Buchnanian lanzan*, *Boswellia serrata*, *Nadhuca latifolia*, *Holarrhena ntidy-senterica*, *Randia dumetorum*, *Helicteres isora*, *Alangium salvifolium*, *St-reblus asper*, *Bauhinia vahlii*, *Acacia canescens*, *Combretum decondrum* etc.

1.2.2.3 Bamboo:-

Previously bamboo was plentifully available in Amdiha, Makranda, Lathipahar (Nonihat beat of Hizia Range) Amgadhi, Nighor, Hempur, Bansniata (Masalia beat of Hizla Range), Panjanpahari, Baliram, Paharpur, Gidhi Pahari, Tikapara, Lapsapara etc. (Ranibahal beat of Hizia Range). Good quality bamboos were also present in Amgadhi, Panjanpahari, Lapsapara, Gidhipahari. In recent years bamboo crop has suffered a lot. Due to overexploitation and blatant violation of working plan prescriptions combined with illegal felling resulted in total degradation of bamboo. In most of the areas only bamboo culms are visible. At places poor quality bamboos are present.

1.2.2.4 Tropical Dry deciduous scrub Forests;—

Hills of Simra Range (Gandeswari A,B Simra I and II) bear such type of forests. In these thorny species such as Flacourtia indica, Carissa spinaruni, Randia species, Euphorbia species, Acacia species, Zyzyphus species, Mimosa species, Boswellia, Anogeissus, Aegle marmelos, Butea mono-sperma, Diospyros, Madhuca, Nyctanthes, Woodfordia etc are of common occurrence. The tree species are mostly malformed and have stunted growth.

1.2.2.5 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 draught and wind, but damage from draught must be considerable in drier area of Godda Damin Range and Southern portion of the old reserve.

Artificial causes

Men and domestic animals play the major role in causing injury to the crop. Heavy grazing, reckless cutting and intentional fires accentuate the damage done by draught 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, Inse-cts, Weeds

Climber incidence is not very heavy. They do not much harm as villagers use them for rope making. Damage due to dlimbers 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.

1.2.2.6 Fauna of Dumka Division;

In the past when the forests were thick sambar, 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 overtelling, illicit cutting, fire, kuraon etc. the fauna started disappearing. Indiscriminate shooting and tribal shikars also played major role in the destruction of the fauna. Presently peacocks, wildfowls, hares, wild pigs, porcupines are seen in Dumka Division.

CHAPTER III

UTILISATION OF THE PRODUCE

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 forest 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 use other species such as Piar (Buchnaniania latifolia), Gamhadr (Gmelina arborea), Asan (Terminalia tomentosa), Jamun (Syzygium cumini) etc. for the above purpose and also for agricultural implements and carts. They also require Asan trees for cultivation of tasar cocoons Kusum (Schleichora oleosa) and ber (Zyzyphus niauritiania) 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:-

<u>article</u>	<u>species used</u>	<u>Av. size in diameter.</u>	<u>Species preferred</u>
----------------	---------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------

realises certain royalty from the buyer and the right collect such fees is auctioned annually for each hat.

Dumnka, the headquarters of the Division is not connected by rail. The nearest railway stations for the division are Rampur hat, Muraroi, Pakur, Deoghar, Jamtara, Sun, Mandar hill, Pirpainti, Barharwa and Sahebganj.

The different marketable products are logs, poles, firewoods, kenduleaves, salseeds, silk cocoons, lacs, mahua, bauhinia leaves, sabai grass, semal cotton, kahua hark(kahua trees present in mois localities of kathikund, Narganj, Gopikander. The barks are used in tanning of leather), Myrobalans.

1.3.4 Lines of Export:

There is a network of cart, murrum and in this district. The railways terminate at the fringes of the district. 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 Corporations. The present market prices of various forest produce are shown in the appendix.

PAR 1-I
CHAPTER—IV

1.4 STAFF AND LABOUR SUPPLY.

1.4.1 The following is the *sanctioned* strength of establishment for Dumka Forest Division:—

Divisional Forest Officer	— 1
Asstt. Conservator of Forest	— 1
Range Officer of Forests	— 5
Beat Officers	— 20
Sub-beat Officers	— 100
Coupe Overseer	— 1
Driver	— 2
Bungalow Chowkidar	— 2
Orderly Peon	— 4

Office establishment

Head Clerk	— 1
Assistants	— 11
Steno	— 1
Amin inspector	— 1
Amin	— 2
Orderly Peon	— 5
Chowkidar	— 1
Dakbala	— 1
Sweeper	— 1
Driver	— 1

1.4.2 Executive charge:

3. Ranibahal Sadikpur
Ramgarh, Asnabali

Hizla West Range

1. Dumka sadar Dumka, Asna,
Khijoria, Saraihat
Checkpoint-Moharo
&Griaja 6

2. Nolihat Nolihat
Sareiahat, Majhiara 3

3. Masalia Toto, Singro, Masalia,
Kasania, Gormala,
Satchella, Amarpur,
Gumrali Kamdiha 9

4. Basukinath Belgupi & Jeldaha
Special- Bando, Gipi,
Tesna 5

Labour :

The local population supplies all the labour required for forest work. During cultivation and harvest period availability of labour is a bit difficult. During Bandhana festival all the Santhals stop working as labourers. During rest of the period the supply of labour is plentiful. The surplus labourers migrate to Assam and West Bengal to work in the teagardens.

The labourers are recruited through the village headman who under the record of rights are bound 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 gained a fairly good idea of the minor silvicultural works such as cleanings, creeper cuttings, thinnings, coue 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 busy in cultivation by plying 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 carpenters they have to be obtained from the towns.

