

## **CHAPTER - 7**

### **FOREST DEPARTMENT**

7.1 Rajasthan has the distinction of having largest population of cattle, sheep and camels. The livestock constitute an important component of State's economy, particularly in its western parts, where nearly two third of the population is engaged in animal husbandry and allied activities. The ratio of livestock to human population in the state is approximately 1:1 as against the national average of 1:2. This indicates the excessive biotic pressure on the limited forest resources of the state and is also a threat to the agriculture.

7.2 During Eleventh Plan period, the objective for Forestry are

- As per Forest Policy, Government of India's aim is to achieve 33% tree cover. Accordingly Government of Rajasthan under State Forestry Action Plan (1996-2016) has targeted to achieve 20% area under tree cover by 2016.
- For attaining the goal of 20% target of forest & tree covers, state has to raise trees on atleast 47000 Sq Km additional areas of forest and non forest lands.
- To check desertification and to restore the ecological status of the Aravallis by intensive reforestation and in- situ soil and moisture conservation thereby improving water hydrology (infiltration).
- To conserve gene-pool and improve the bio-diversity of flora and fauna.
- To augment the availability of fuel wood, leaf, fodder, grass, timber, fruit and minor forest products in the state.
- To elicit people's participation for Institutionalisation of Joint Forest Management.(JFM)
- Check soil erosion and thereby improve infiltration of water and hydrological balance.
- To strengthen forest land records and demarcation and settlement.
- To create network of centralised scientifically managed nurseries so that quality planting material is available for distribution.
- Institutional strengthening and development of departmental infrastructures for forestry and wild life management.
- Mass awarness for raising in general public about value of forests and wild life and need for conservation.
- To ensure livelihood security of people living around forests including the tribal community by employment generation.

7.3 For Eleventh Plan, an amount of Rs. 19700.04 lakhs is proposed. The likely expenditure to be incurred during 2007-08 is Rs. 6865.52 lakhs and amount proposed for 2008-09 is Rs. 2800.01 lakhs. The details are as under:-

Table No. 7.1

(Rs. In lakhs)

S.No.	Scheme	Proposed Outlay for Eleventh Plan	Anticipated Expenditure 2007-2008	Proposed Outlay for 2008-09
1	Forestry	6400.00	900.00	1300.00
2	Forestry under TFC	1500.02	500.00	500.00
3	Raj. Forestry Bio-diversity project (EAP)	11800.02	5465.52	1000.00
4	Raj. Forestry Bio-diversity project Phase -II	-	-	0.01
	Total	19700.04	6865.52	2800.01

7.4 Scheme wise details are as under :-

**Forest Protection and Biodiversity Conservation including Eco-tourism activities**

7.5 The focus of Biodiversity conservation is for protection of species and ecosystem both within the Protected Area Network (PAN) and outside as well as undertaking in-situ and ex-situ conservation measures to sustain a viable population of threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna. Awards are also given to people and organizations engaged in protection and conservation activities. Forest Protection and Biodiversity Conservation are very important components of forestry. Amount proposed for Eleventh Plan for the scheme is Rs. 560.00 lakhs .During 2007-08, likely expenditure to be incurred is Rs.24.53 lakhs and amount proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs. 24.50 lakhs for wireless maintenance, prize distribution and treatment of problematic sites.

**Consolidation, Demarcation & Settlement**

7.6 Consolidation, Demarcation & Settlement is an important component in forestry as it demarcates the forest boundaries and enables the custodians of the forests to know the land under their possession. The possibility of encroachments on forest lands and boundary disputes can be reduced by effective demarcation. Amount proposed for Eleventh Plan for the scheme is Rs. 530.00 lakhs. Likely expenditure during 2007-08 is

Rs. 20.64 lakhs and amount proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs.2.04 lakhs.

### **Reforestation of Degraded Forests**

7.7 Under Reforestation of degraded forests, degraded areas are enclosed and in-situ soil & moisture conservation structure are made to give a boost to natural regeneration. Amount proposed for Eleventh Plan for the scheme is Rs. 190.00 lakhs. Likely expenditure during 2007-08 is Rs. 6.20 lakhs and amount proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs.4.74 lakhs.

### **World Food Programme**

7.8 A programme for welfare of rural poor through Afforestation with World Food Programme assistance is under implementation in four tribal dominated districts namely Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Banswara and Sirohi of the state. Under this programme, the labourers, who are mostly poor & work on forestry works, are provided with foodstuff wheat and pulses at a concessional rate. The State Government has to bear the inland transport, supervision and distribution cost of this food to the labourers. Amount proposed for Eleventh Plan for the scheme is Rs. 50.00 lakhs During 2007-08, likely expenditure to be incurred is Rs.9.75 lakhs and amount proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs. 4.50 lakhs for transportation of food materials under this schemes.

### **Environmental & Urban Forestry**

7.9 This scheme has been started with the main object to develop and afforest the public places so that the people of cities and towns may develop inclination and awareness towards Environmental Conservation. Green belts developed and created in cities not only act as their lungs but act as avenues for recreation of urbanite. Amount proposed for Eleventh Plan for the scheme is Rs. 1391.00 lakhs. During 2007-08, likely expenditure to be incurred is Rs.292.15 lakhs and amount proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs. 130.25 lakhs for upkeep of plantations.

### **Preservation of Wild Life**

7.10 Rajasthan has very rich flora and fauna. The State Govt. gives due priority to Wild life Conservation in the State. The maintenance activities in various sanctuaries and zoos of the State like maintenance of anicuts, building's, wire-less systems & census operations of wild animals are being done. Fire fighting and publication of posters, stickers, booklets etc for creating awareness in the public at large, holding of function during Wild Life Week and giving away prizes for wild life conservation etc. are taken up under this scheme. Amount proposed for Eleventh Plan for the scheme is Rs. 1585.00 lakhs .During 2007-08, likely expenditure to be incurred is Rs.331.54 lakhs and amount proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs. 240.60 lakhs for wild life preservation activities.

### **Farm Forestry**

7.11 Under this scheme, seedlings are raised in departmental nurseries for distribution to farmers, schools, panchayats, urban people, institutions and government departments for planting by them on their land. Seedlings are being distributed in this scheme during the plan period. An amount of Rs.859.00 lakhs is proposed for farm forestry for Eleventh Plan. For Annual Plan 2008-09, a provision of Rs. 22.61 lakhs has been proposed for maintenance of plants in the departmental nurseries and Rs. 16.00 lakhs has been kept for upkeep of plants in the Panchayat Raj nurseries against likely expenditure of Rs.112.41 lakhs(Rs. 80.41 lakhs through departmental nurseries and Rs. 32.00 lakhs through Panchayat Raj nurseries) during 2007-08.

### **Research and Training**

7.12 Selection of seed yielding areas, maintenance of research farms, research activities, hi-tech nurseries etc. are the activities taken up under this scheme. Forest Training Institutes at Jaipur, Alwar & Jodhpur are maintained under this scheme. An amount of Rs.405.00 lakhs is proposed for research and training for Eleventh Plan. For Annual Plan 2008-09, a provision of Rs. 27.00 lakhs has been proposed for research and training activities against likely expenditure of Rs. 35.01 lakhs during 2007-08.

### **Development of Saharias Communities:**

7.13 For afforestation activities being under taken in Saharia areas of Baran district, a token provision of Rs. 0.01 lakh has been proposed for maintenance of assets created in 7900 ha of closures under DPIP for 2008-09.

### **Integrated Forest Protection Scheme**

7.14 It is a centrally sponsored scheme for forest protection being implemented by central government and state government on 75:25 matching basis. An amount of Rs. 375.00 lakhs is proposed for Eleventh Plan for integrated forest protection scheme. For Annual Plan 2008-09, a provision of Rs. 74.50 lakhs has been proposed as state share under this scheme against likely expenditure of Rs. 67.75 lakhs during 2007-08.

### **Maintenance of RFBP**

7.15 A project having total cost of Rs 442 crores covering 123967 ha in 5 years with the external aid from Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) was taken up from financial year 2003-04 in 18 districts of the State. A provision of Rs 43300.00 lakhs was kept during X<sup>th</sup> Plan against which Rs. 32120.00 lakhs has been made available during the 10<sup>th</sup> Plan period. Maintenance of activities of RFBP will be carried out under state plan from 2008-09 on wards as per commitment of the State Govt. For Annual Plan 2008-09 an amount of Rs. 753.24

lakhs has been proposed for up keeping of plantations and assets under this scheme.

### **Twelfth Finance Commission**

7.16 Construction of boundary pillars and pacca boundary walls is being under taken from grant received as per recommendation of TFC. Infrastructure development and e- governance is also under taken under TFC. Amount proposed for Eleventh Plan is Rs. 1500.02 lakhs against which likely expenditure during 2007-08 is Rs. 500.00 lakhs and amount proposed for 2008-09 is also Rs.500.00 lakhs .

### **Externally Aided Project**

#### (a) Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project

7.17 The ongoing Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project was to be completed by 2007-08. Construction activities of Biological parks have delayed due to late permission from National Wild Life Board. Against Eleventh Plan provision of Rs. 11800.02 lakhs, likely expenditure during 2007-08 is Rs. 5465.52 lakhs and amount proposed for Annual Plan 2008-09 is Rs.1000.00 lakhs for biological parks and other activities of this project.

#### (b) Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project (phase II).

7.18 The ongoing Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project is likely to be completed by 2007-08. Second phase of the project has been formulated and posed through MoEF, GOI for EAP funding to DEA. If the project is accepted and sanctioned, it may start in 2008-09. Hence, a token provision of Rs. 0.01 lakhs has been proposed for this project for the year 2008-09.