

CHAPTER - 9

FORESTRY

9.1 Rajasthan, being the largest state in the country, has a geographical area of 3.42 lakh sq. kms. which is 11% of country's geographical area. There is marked difference in the physiographic features of the State. The Aravallis, one of the oldest mountain systems, divides the State into two unequal parts. The Aravallis cover over 30% area of the State. A vast expanse of arid and semi-arid tract lies in the west of the Aravallis.

9.2 Rajasthan has the distinction of having the 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 agriculture.

9.3 State Government is committed for sustainable development and will motivate afforestation especially through private sector participation; make efforts to resolve the problems of tribals living in forest area; motivate forest labour cooperative societies for marketing of forest produce, strengthen JFMS; strengthen international fame sanctuaries & parks, promote participatory role of local people and panchayats in Tourism and wild life management; appoint Van Mitras, issue pattas to tribals under Forest Conservation Act etc.

9.4 Against the provision of Rs.197.00 crores for the 11th Five Year Plan, Rs. 54.12 crores were spent during the year 2007-08 and Rs. 65.57 crores are likely to be spent during the year 2008-09. An amount of Rs. 84.30 crores is proposed for the year 2009-10. Scheme wise details are as under.

Biodiversity Conservation including Eco- tourism activities

9.5 The focus on Biodiversity conservation is for protection of species and ecosystem both within the Protected Area Network (PAN) and outside as well as undertaking conservation measures in-situ and ex-situ 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.

9.6 A new scheme of "Van Mitra" will be formulated and introduced in 2009-10; these Van Mitra will be extension workers and will facilitate/motivate the VFPMCs, panchayats and local people regarding Forest & Wildlife Protection and Environmental Conservation, which are

very important components of forestry. An amount of Rs.143.00 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10 for wireless maintenance, prize distribution and treatment of problematic sites.

Consolidation, Demarcation & Settlement

9.7 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 forestlands and boundary disputes can be reduced by effective demarcation. An amount of Rs.1.90 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10.

Reforestation of Degraded Forests

9.8 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. Further maintenance of activities of RFBP is being carried out under state plan from 2008-09 on wards as per commitment of the State Government. An amount of Rs.731.24 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10.

Communication and Building

9.9 For regular upkeep of the buildings of the department and for the construction of new Office and Residences at Jodhpur in place of the old ones handed over to Army, provisions are being proposed under this scheme. An amount of Rs. 106.00 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10.

Environmental Forestry

9.10 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 urban people. An amount of Rs. 10.50 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10 for upkeep of plantations.

Preservation of Wild Life

9.11 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 anicuts, buildings, wireless 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.

9.12 A special effort will be made to developed strengthen the two internationally important Ranthambhore & Keoladeo National Parks and other sanctuaries such as Sariska, Kumbhalgarh, Talchappar etc.

Tourism department will be associated in these protected areas so that sustainable eco-tourism circuits could be developed thus there will be greater involvement of local people and panchayats in protection of wildlife. An amount Rs. 495.13 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10 for wild life preservation activities.

Farm Forestry

9.13 Under this scheme, seedlings are raised in departmental nurseries for distribution to farmers, schools, panchayats and the urban areas, institutions and government departments for planting on their land. A special drive to increase the tree cover with the involvement and participation of panchayats, VFPMCs and private institutions by using the seedlings raised under this scheme will be taken up. An amount of Rs.84.66 lakhs is proposed for farm forestry for Annual Plan 2009-10.

Integrated Forest Protection Scheme

9.14 It is a centrally sponsored scheme for forest protection. Central and state government shares the funds in the ratio of 75:25. An amount of Rs. 58.48 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10 for integrated forest protection scheme.

Bhakra and Gang Canal Plantation

9.15 To replant the felled areas of the Bhakra and Gang Canal by the Irrigation Department, out of the revenue generated by the felling and disposal of the old plantations this work has been taken from 2008-09. An amount of Rs. 220.71 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10.

Twelfth Finance Commission

9.16 Construction of boundary pillars and pacca boundary walls is being undertaken from grant received as per recommendation of TFC. Infrastructure development and e- governance is also under taken under TFC. An amount of Rs.143.89 lakhs is proposed for 2009-10.

CAMPA Fund

9.17 To meet out the payment of NPV for the various government department projects in lieu of forestland under the provisions of Forest Conservation Act. An amount of Rs. 2000.00 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10.

Goverdhan Drain (ACA)

9.18 For providing water for the prestigious Keoladeo National Park, Ghana Bharatpur, Additional Central Assistance was sought from Planning Commission in the year 2008-09 to the tune of Rs.6500.00 lakhs. Planning Commission has already sanctioned Rs.2000.00 lakhs as ACA in the year 2008-09 for which the work is being executed by the water resource department. The rest amount for this project of Rs. 3622.00 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10.

Rajasthan Forestry and Bio-diversity Project (EAP)

9.19 The ongoing Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Project was to be completed by 2007-08 but the same has now been extended till 2009-10. On the approval of the project by JBIC the pending construction activities in 2 Biological parks will be completed. Special effort for strengthening the VFPMCs and SHGs is being taken up so that they are empowered to manage the plantations raised in their areas. An amount of Rs.808.00 lakhs is proposed for Annual Plan 2009-10 for biological parks and other activities of this project.