

CHAPTER 36

Outturn and Disposal of Forest Product

1. Forest produce: -

- 1.1 It has the same meaning as described in the Rajasthan Forest Act 1953. These can be classified under two broad categories, namely:-
 - 1.1.1 Major Forest Produce such as Fuel wood, Timber and Charcoal etc.
 - 1.1.2 Minor Forest Produce non-timber forest produce such as leaves, Grass & fodder, Honey & Wax, Mahua flowers and fruits, Gum, Resin, Lac, medicinal plant products etc.
- 1.2 In addition, the stones, minerals, wild animals and animal products also fall under the definition of Forest Produce.
- 1.3 The extraction of minerals and stones etc. are governed by Mines and Mineral Act and rule thereunder. It is also subject to Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and rules thereof. No mine lease can be granted in any forest area without the prior permission of Union Government.
- 1.4 In case of Wild Animals and animal products, the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972 and relevant rules have to be followed. This act also governs the extraction of flora from protected areas.

2. The harvesting and disposal of major and minor forest produce

2.1 Major Forest Produce: -

- 2.1.1 Prior to 1968, the harvesting of Timber, Fuel wood, Charcoal, Kattha etc. was done by open auction of coupes to the contractors. Due to unscientific harvesting practices adopted by the contractors, totally guided by maximization of profits, the forest areas were degraded

alarmingly. The Government abolished this practice in 1968 to check the deterioration. Subsequently, in order to ensure scientific harvesting of forests and recoup the loss in revenue due to abolition of contractor system, a scheme for departmental working and trading in timber was sanctioned¹ by the Govt. It aimed specifically at protecting the forest areas from irregular and unscientific felling by the contractors, adopting better silvicultural practices for ensuring sustained yields, saving the laborers from exploitation of contractors as well as providing fuel and timber etc to the general public and stabilizing the prices of forest products.

- 2.1.2 The working of departmental operations scheme is governed by an Accounts Code approved² by the Finance department. The sale of forest produce harvested is governed by the powers delegated to the competent committees as per Govt. Orders³ issued from time to time.

2.1.3 **Harvesting of Natural Forests: -**

- 2.1.3.1 The departmental operation divisions harvested Fuel wood, Charcoal, Timber and Kattha in the past, but gradually with the increase in biotic pressure on the natural forests causing irreparable damage to these areas, only Bamboo is being harvested from Udaipur division as per Working Plan. No harvesting of products like Fuel wood, Timber and Kattha is prescribed in any of the Working Plans and consequently, the harvesting of all these products has been discontinued since early nineties.

- 2.1.3.2 Under this scheme, the coupes earmarked for harvesting in the working plan are handed over by the concerned territorial division to the respective Departmental Operations Divisions after marking the coupe boundary in case of natural forests. The production and work estimate is prepared after the inspection of the area by the concerned departmental operation unit. The harvesting starts after the sanction of estimate by the competent authority.

- 2.1.3.3 **Bamboo:-** The Bamboo is collected at coupe depots by numbers in various lengths at the labour rates fixed by the

1. G.O. No. F.7(159)Rev/A/68 dated 24/12/68

2. G.O. No F.2(1)FD/CA&I/75 dated 9/11/78

3. G.O. No. No. F.13(61)FD/A&I/G.F.A.R./68 dated 18-1-69 & 22-6-70 as amended vide G.O. No. F.2(6)(26) Rev./8/74 dated 16-1-76 and G.O.No.F7(27)Forest/95 dated 25/7/97 and 30/04/2009.

competent committee. The collected material is transported by engaging contractors on the basis of open tenders to the sale depots. The material is stacked in separate chattas consisting fixed number of bamboos of same length as shown below: -

Size	Number
22 Feet	1600
18 Feet	2500
15 Feet	4000
12 Feet	6000
10 Feet	8000
Patti	6000

- 2.1.3.4 Disposal:** - Bamboo is sold by open auction on pre-notified dates every month. A security amount of 25 % of total bid is required to be deposited immediately after the auction and the remaining 75% amount is to be deposited at the time of lifting of material. No interest is charged if the material is lifted within one month. An interest is chargeable as per rules if the period exceeds this time limit along with the chatta rent.
- 2.1.3.5 Fuel wood:** - In case of fuel wood, the material, cut in proper sizes, is collected at the coupe depot by weight and the labour is paid on piece rate basis, on the total wood deposited by the gang at the coupe depot, as entered in 'Shramik Karya Receipt' issued to the Gang Mukhia. The fuel wood is transported to the sale depot and divided in various chattas, usually weighing 400 Quintals, of different species if available in large quantities and as 'panchmel' otherwise. The chatta for dry and green wood is made separately.
- 2.1.3.6 Timber:** - The timber is received from the laborers on the basis of weight in the coupe, but the size and volume of various logs are also entered simultaneously while describing the chatta. The timber is transported separately and not with the fuel wood. The logs of different species are also transported separately as far as possible. At the Sale Depot chattas are formed separately for each species. There is no fixed norm for the size of chattas but it is aimed

that each chatta must consist of timber of similar quality and it may not be too large to result in reduced competition whereas it should also not be too small to make number of chatta being auctioned on a particular date too large.

- 2.1.3.7 Disposal:** - Although, timber may be sold by sealed tenders as per existing rules, it is usually sold by open auction only. The fuel wood is sold either by retail or by open auction on pre notified dates. In case of retail sale, the rates are approved by the committee consisting of CCF Departmental Operations, CCF (Territorial), DCF-DOD and senior most accounts personnel of departmental operations circle. In case of auction, the Range Officer of the depot submits an upset price based on prevailing market rates to the auction-committee constituted as per government orders of 25/7/97 before the start of auction. The highest bidder has to deposit 25 % of bid amount immediately after the auction and the remaining 75 % at the time of lifting of material as in case of Bamboo.

2.1.4. Harvesting of Man Made Plantations: -

- 2.2.4.1 In case of man-made plantations, areas such as IGNP Stage-I, the coupes, as per the approved Working Plan of the area, are marked i.e. the dimensions like GBH and height of each tree is measured and the serial no. of the tree is painted on the tree trunk by the territorial division and the area is handed over to the D.O. Division along with a complete marking list duly signed by range officers of both divisions. The area is handed back to the territorial division after the completion of harvesting for undertaking replanting operations.
- 2.2.4.2 Before the start of harvesting, an estimate for production is prepared using the volume tables appended in the Working Plan and quarter girth formula for species, whose volume tables are not available. It has been directed by PCCF, WPFS, Rajasthan that production estimates should be prepared for each lot of 2000 trees and the actual production be compared concurrently with the estimated quantity as the work progresses for avoiding any leakage. Temporary Check posts manned by territorial staff are also to be set up on the sites being harvested.

2.2.4.3 Mechanized weighbridges usually do the weighing of the harvested material and this figure only is entered in the stock and chatta registers. The wood having mid girth greater than 60 cm (o.b.) is classified as timber in case of Shisham, Safeda, Babool, Siras and Neem. The wood of sizes lower than these for species mentioned hereinbefore and of all sizes in case of other species is classified as fuel wood.

2.2.4.4 **Disposal:** - The timber is sold by open auction, whereas the fuelwood is sold either by retail rates or by open auction. Appropriate driage losses are admissible in case of retail sale. The conditions regarding deposition of security and the remaining amount are same as in case of natural forest.

2.1.5. **Production & Disposal of Wood from Dead, Drying & Fallen Trees: -**

2.2.5.1 When large number of such trees is available, the nearest departmental operations division should be requested to undertake harvesting and disposal of wood produce from these. For cases where relatively small numbers of dead drying and diseased trees are to be removed, the concerned territorial divisions are to cut and collect the fuel wood and timber at their own level. The divisions are delegated powers for petty sale of such produce as per the G.O. of 25/7/97 but in case large quantities are available for disposal, the departmental operations division nearest to the concerned division must be requested to arrange auction of the produce by the competent committee. In such a case, the expenditure incurred on cutting and collection of produce is reimbursable to the territorial division by concerned Departmental Operations Division against the bills of works. The revenue earned will be adjusted in the accounts of the concerned Departmental Operations Division.

2.2.5.2 Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed in TN Godavarnan case that any working in Forest areas will have to be according to a Working Plan duly approved by Govt. of India and for plantations on non forest lands a management plan duly approved has to be followed. Thus,

all areas bearing green cover definable as forest as per the Hon'ble court's order can only be harvested in accordance with an approved scheme.

2.2 Minor Forest Produce: -

2.2.1 Tendu Leaves: -

2.2.1.1 The harvesting and disposal of tendu leaves is governed by the Rajasthan Tendu Leaves (Regulation of Trade) Act, 1974 and Rules made thereunder. The areas are divided into various Tendu Patta units and they are disposed of by open auction by the committee of C.C.F. Departmental Operations, C.C.F. (Territorial) and the DCF of concerned division constituted by the Government of Rajasthan for this purpose. The rates at which the Tendu patta is to be bought from the labourers by the contractors is also approved by the Government on the advice of the Advisory Committee constituted for the purpose as provided for in the Tendu Patta Act. Special provisions for engaging cooperative societies of tribals in collection operations have also been introduced.

2.2.2 Other Minor Forest Products: -

2.2.2.1 These are collected through Rajas Sangh in the tribal areas of the state. In other areas, contracts for collection of Honey & Wax, Paan Chhila, Pani Poola, Loong Patdi and grasses and grazing in 'birs' are given by open auction subject to policy decision by the State government. These contracts are governed by 'Theka Janglat' Rules approved by the Government. In areas where plantations have been raised by involving VFPMCs, the collection and disposal of MFP is granted to these societies, the proceeds of which are deposited in the bank accounts of the societies.

3. Grazing

- 3.1 The Grazing year will be from 1st July to 30th June each year.
- 3.2 No cattle will be allowed inside a forest unless covered by grazing permit.
- 3.3 Grazing permit will be issued only on payment in cash.
- 3.4 All felled coupes, plantations and areas under regeneration will remain closed for a period of 8 to 10 years. Grass cutting may; however, be allowed after the first year.
- 3.5 Grazing will be allowed on rotational basis under which each grazing unit will be divided into two blocks, one block being opened alternately each year.
- 3.6 Grass birs, Jors and other grass reserves meant for grass cutting will remain closed to grazing every year until the grass has been cut.
- 3.7 To prevent leakage of grazing revenue surprise checking should be carried out as frequently as possible.