

Minutes of the Coordination Committee Meeting held under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Kishwan, Pr.Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu and Kashmir on 21.07.2010 in the meeting Hall of Pollution Control Board, Srinagar.

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A meeting of the Coordination Committee was held on 21.07.2010, under the Chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Kishwan, Pr.Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu and Kashmir in the meeting Hall of Pollution Control Board, Silk Factory, Rajbagh, Srinagar. Following officers participated in the meeting:-

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| 1. | R.D. Tiwari, IFS | : | Director, SFRI |
| 2. | P.C. Kapoor, IFS | : | Chief Wildlife Warden |
| 3. | Molvi Shafat Ahmed, IFS | : | Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir |
| 4. | Lal Chand, IFS | : | Chairman, Pollution Control Board |
| 5. | A.K. Singh, IFS | : | Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) |
| 6. | Shamim Ahmed Khan, IFS | : | Director, Social Forestry Department |
| 7. | Abhai Kumar, IFS | : | Director, Soil Conservation Department |
| 8. | Abdul Razak Khan, IFS | : | Chief Conservator of Forests (WPR & Training) |
| 9. | Deepak Khanna, IFS | : | Chief Conservator of Forests (Eco-Tourism) |
| 10. | Ravi Kumar Kesar, IFS | : | Dir. Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing, |
| 11. | Suresh Chguh, IFS | : | Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA) & Nodal Officer |
| 12. | S.P. Sharma, IFS | : | Chief Conservator of Forests (S & D) |
| 13. | O.P. Sharma, IFS | : | Conservator of Forests, Working Plan |
| 14. | Mohit Gera, IFS | : | Member Secretary, PCB |
| 15. | S.K. Gupta, IFS | : | Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle |

In his opening remarks, the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests said that the Coordination Committee is the appropriate forum for resolving inter-departmental issues among the various wings of the Forest Department. He encouraged use of this forum to sort out internal and general problems of the department in a cordial atmosphere. This was followed by the discussion on the action taken report of the last meeting held on 08.01.2010 at SFRI, Jammu. Further deliberations and decisions taken on various issues on the action taken report are as follows:-

1. Construction of Van Bhawan Forest Complex at Srinagar/Jammu:

The Nodal point designated for assessing accommodation of different wings of the department, Shri Shafat Ahmed, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, informed that some pending information was still required from some wings of the Department to have a realistic view of the space required by them. It was decided that at least foundation stone for these buildings be laid at both the places latest by end of August 2010. It was also agreed that the wings of the Forest Department that had their own offices should not give up their existing buildings, as only heads of

these wings were to be accommodated in the proposed Van Bhawan at Srinagar/Jammu. It was decided that the requirements of space for all the wings of the department be given to the Nodal Point, i.e., CCF (Kashmir) by 31st July 2010.

It was also agreed that financial, technical and administrative matters relating to construction of the two Van Bhawans needed to be kept out of the ambit of the coordination committee.

2. Transfer of Forest Areas to Wildlife Protection Department:

The CCF (Kashmir) informed that he had already issued directions in this regard, however, at ground level, the handing over and taking over was yet to be completed. The Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu and Kashmir Government informed that he was not aware of the decisions taken in the last Coordination Committee meeting and he had not even received the copy of minutes of the meeting but he agreed to take over the wildlife areas in a gradual manner. It was decided that in Kashmir Valley, all Wildlife areas that are still with Forest Department be transferred alongwith the staff and assets to Wildlife Protection Department latest by 31st August 2010. Similarly, in case of Jammu Province the exercise should be completed by 30 September 2010. The Chief Wildlife Warden raised the issue of man-animal conflict and sought coordination of various wings of the Department for protection of wildlife outside the protected areas. He said that Wildlife Protection Department had constituted Coordination Committees at District level which needed to be made functional. It was decided that these coordination committees under the Conservator of Forests (Territorial) shall meet at least once in a month, and monthly report of the meeting be submitted to the Office of the Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests. In the meanwhile, the Chief Wildlife Warden was also requested to convene a meeting of the Conservator of Forests (Territorial) by 16th August 2010, in order to make these committees functional.

3. Preparation of Forest Policy:

The House was informed that the public consultations in this regard are going on, and that one State Level Consultation was held at Jammu on 30th March 2010 and similar consultation was being planned in Kashmir shortly.

4. Mandate of Department of Environment and Remote Sensing Department.

A copy of the revised mandate of the Department of Environment and Remote Sensing was circulated in the meeting by the Director, Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing Department. The mandate was prepared by the Core Group constituted for the purpose. The revised mandate was approved by the Coordination

Committee unanimously, and the Director was advised to formally place it before the government.

5. Srinagar recommendations on climate change:

The Director, Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing Department was made the nodal point for taking action on climate change issues. The Director, SFRI informed that the proceedings of the Workshop on climate change that was held in Kashmir in October 2009 were being published by TERI, and follow-up action as appropriate will be initiated thereafter.

6. Reducing the number of Committees in forest sector:

It was informed that a large number of committees have been constituted under various wings of the Department/Schemes and there was need to converge these into a minimum workable number so as to ensure effective functioning of these committees. It was decided to expand the committee constituted earlier for the purpose as under:-

Shri R.D. Tiwari, IFS	:	Director, SFRI- Chairman	} Members
Abhai Kumar, IFS	:	Director, Soil Conservation Department	
Shri Deepak Khanna, IFS	:	Chief Wildlife Warden	
Shri S.P. Sharma, IFS	:	CCF (Settlement and Demarcation)	
	:	DCF (C&E) Social Forestry Deptt.	
Shri L.A. Ddar	:	Joint Director, FPF-Kashmir.	

The committee will submit its report by 30 September 2010.

7. Budget Preparation in terms of the Jammu and Kashmir Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2006 (FRBM Act):

It was informed that the information in respect of Forest (Territorial) upto 3rd Qtr had been received from CCF (Jammu) and CCF (Kashmir) and the same for the 4th Qtr was under preparation, which would be submitted to the Administrative Department by ending of 31st July 2010. Other wings were requested to compile and furnish the information early.

8. Issues concerning the State Forest Corporation:

The PCCF expressed his concern regarding delay in timber supply to various TSDs in Kashmir and Ladakh. He said that the matter came up for discussion in various board meetings and the scarcity was being felt everywhere. He reiterated that this was the time when the supplies to Leh and Kargil could be taken up in full swing. The MD SFC, complained about the delay in releases at certain places and solicited cooperation from the territorial forest divisions. He was assured that there would be no problem on this front. The MD SFC also circulated a list of the surplus

staff with the SFC that could be utilized in other wings of the Forest Department. The PCCF requested all the wings of the department to give their requirement to the SFC so that the scarcity of staff in these wings could be met from SFC surplus staff. SFC will move the consolidated proposal for deployment of this surplus staff in various wings on receipt of proposals from all wings.

After discussion on the action taken report. The regular agenda was taken up for discussion and the decisions taken are as follows:-

I. Selection Committee meeting for induction of SFS Officers into IFS in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 26.02.2007:

The Pr.Chief Conservator of Forests informed that the execution of orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court had been undertaken to streamline the induction of SFS Officers into IFS. He appreciated the efforts made by the Chief Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir State, Administrative Secretary (Forests) Members of UPSC and officials of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOI for undertaking this stupendous task. He said that although all efforts had been made to complete this elaborate exercise with due diligence, but still there could be some points of dissatisfaction which needed to be addressed in a positive manner and also that in case of any grievance, the officer could make representation to the government which would be looked into and redressed as per rules. He requested all the officers to co-operate in the matter and allow this exercise to be completed in the right earnest.

II. Issues raised by the Social Forestry Department regarding service matters of their employees:-

The issue of the employees of Social Forestry Department was discussed in detail with the Director, State Forest Research Institute (SFRI) and Director, Social Forestry Department (SFD). The Director, SFD informed that he was looking into all the issues and for the time being there was no problem except for non-availability of funds under wages. He was assured by the PCCF that all efforts would be made at the highest level to make available requisite funds to the Deptt. In order to redress Inter-departmental issues, it was agreed to have an Inter-Departmental Grievance Forum (IDGF) with Shri R.K. Kesar, IFS, Director, Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing Department as Chairman, and Shri Farooq Ahmed Geelani, Regional Director, PCB as Member and Personnel Officer in the office of Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests as Member Secretary. The IDGF could co-opt any other member if

required. This forum would look into all such intra and inter-departmental grievances that required a coordinated approach and solution.

III. Proposal for regularization of Casual labourers, Daily Wagers and Adhoc/Contractual appointees in pursuance to Government orders for having common and coordinate strategy for processing of the proposal for different wings of the Forest Department for consideration by the Administrative Department and Finance Department:

It was informed that various wings of the Forest Department were sending details regarding regularization of casual labourers/daily wagers, who have completed seven (7) years continuous service, individually and in piecemeal. It was decided that Shri A.K. Singh, IFS Chief Conservator of Forests (Central) would act as Nodal point for collecting the said information from all wings of the Department so that a consolidated proposal could be projected before the government. The Pr.CC Forests added that some of the wings of the Department might have already sent the proposals to Government and such departments may provide a copy of the same, to the Nodal point.

IV. Issue of legal matters:

It was informed that the Legal Counsel for the Forest Department was the Advocate General, who was a very busy authority, and it was not possible to take every small legal issue to him which took lot of time. It was decided that the Forest (T) should hire some practicing lawyer(s) to deal with forest cases of routine nature.

V. Issues pertaining to State Forest Research Institute (SFRI):

1. Transfer of buildings:

a) Transfer of two room building in Saktachak near Ujh Bridge:

It was decided that the building would be handed over to the SFRI by 16th August 2010, if it is not being used by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu. In case it was being used by the CCF (Jammu), the Director, SFRI would identify an alternative piece of forest land for construction of building near that site which would be made available to him by CCF (Jammu).

b) Urban Forestry Hut in Sonawar:

It was decided that Shri R.D. Tiwari, IFS Director, SFRI and Shri Shafat Ahmed, IFS, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir would visit the complex and

decide about the transfer of building at Sonwar. Whatever be the decision it would be implemented.

2. Transfer of field staff especially Forest Guards and Helpers from other Wings of the departments having Research aptitude:

A list of surplus staff was circulated among the participants by the Managing Director, SFC. All the wings of the department were requested to give their requirement for staff to the Managing Director, State Forest Corporation.

3. Availability of Plants with State Forest Research Institute (SFRI):

The Director, SFRI informed that quality planting material of about 19 lakh plants was available with the SFRI. All the wings of the Department were requested to lift plants from SFRI for afforestation as first preference and for next year Departments should indicate requirement of plants to SFRI and allocate the requisite budget to SFRI for the purpose. Although other wings of the department were also raising plants and were having their own nurseries, it was decided that the gap in the availability and requirement of plants by the Wings should be filled through SFRI.

4. Problem of seniority of SFRI Staff:

The PCCF informed that various discrepancies had arisen in the past in determining the seniority at various levels, which were being looked into and the cases that had been referred by SFRI form part of the process and the seniority of such staff would be finalized shortly.

5. Re-designation of Helpers:

Director, SFRI was informed that an exercise needed to be undertaken by SFRI in this regard and a proposal for re-designation of Helpers as per posts occupied by them, was required to be submitted to the government for consideration.

6. Release of funds under CAMPA to the SFRI for infrastructure development in Kashmir and Jammu:

It was decided that the Director, SFRI would send a proposal to the tune of Rs. 50.00 lakh per year for five years for funding under CAMPA, which should reach the CF (CAMPA) by 16 August 2010 for consideration of the Executive Committee, CAMPA.

VI. Any other item/issue with the permission of the Chair:

a) **Requisition for vehicles made by State Motor Garages:**

The State Motor Garages had been requisitioning vehicles from various wings of the Department off and on, which was hampering the normal working of the Department. It was decided to send a DO letter from Pr.CCF Office to the head of State Motor Garages on the of lines, as had been sent to the Election Commissioner. Shri S.K. Gupta, IFS Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle was asked to do the needful.

b) **Revision of Policy for Minor Forest Produce:**

The Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Circle informed that the government had imposed ban on extraction of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) items from the demarcated forests vide G.O. No.290-FST of 2004 dated 14.07.2004 for a period of five years with effect from 14.7.2004 to 14.7.2009. However, Anardana, Guchhies and coniferous seeds were exempted from the purview of the ban. Subsequently, in the year 2005-06, extraction of Anardana was decontrolled. He said that there was need to review the said policy, as to whether the ban should continue or it be lifted. It was decided to constitute a Committee for the purpose, comprising following officers to give its report on the matter within two months by 30th September 2010:-

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| 1. Chief Conservator of Forests,
Kashmir. | Chairman |
| 2. Conservator of Forests,
Working Plan Circle. | Convener |
| 3. Conservator of Forests,
Chenab Circle, Doda | Member |
| 4. Divisional Forest Officer,
Seed Division, Srinagar. | Member |

c) **Information regarding afforestation activities:**

It was informed that various wings of the Department were undertaking afforestation activities and there was no consolidated information available with regard to total area covered, fencing erected, DRSM works completed and number of

plants planted etc. It was decided that all the wings of the Department will send information on monthly basis on forest/non-forest area afforestation done in accordance with the prescribed proforma to be provided by the Chief Conservator of Forests (Projects and Planning), who will act as Nodal Point for the purpose.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Sd/-
Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Central)

No: PCCF/Meeting/Minutes/Coordination/3/2010/_____

dated: ____/7/2010

Copy for information and necessary action to the:-

1. Commissioner/Secretary to Government Forest Department, Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.
2. Director, State Forest Research Institute, Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar.
3. Director, Forest Protection Force, Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar.
4. Chief Wildlife Warden, Jammu and Kashmir, Govt. Srinagar.
5. Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir/Jammu
6. Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Srinagar.
7. Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), Srinagar.
8. Director, Social Forestry Department, Srinagar.
9. Director, Soil Conservation Department, Srinagar.
10. Chief Conservator of Forests (Eco-Tourism), Srinagar.
11. Chief Conservator of Forests (W.P.R & Trainings), Srinagar.
12. Director, Environment, Ecology and Remote Sensing, Srinagar.
13. Chief Conservator of Forests (FCA), Srinagar.
14. Chief Conservator of Forests, (Settlement & Demarcation), Srinagar.
15. Conservator of Forests, Working Plan, Srinagar.
16. Member Secretary, Pollution Control Board, Srinagar.
17. Conservator of Forests, Chenab Circle, Doda.

Sd/-
(A.K. Singh) IFS
Chief Conservator of Forests,
(Central)