

Forest Territorial Revised Estimates of 2011-12 and Budget estimates for 2012-13.

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Back Ground:-

Forests are green gold of a Nation and in fact a treasure for our State. J&K is situated in the laps of mighty Himalayas and is endowed with rich flora and fauna. There is a great bio-diversity in the State starting from the plains bordering Panjab to the temperate hills and valley of Kashmir, stretching across to the trans-Himalayan cold desert plateau of Ladakh.

The schematic breakup of proposed requisition of funds is as follows:-

1. Research Education and Training: -

This scheme aims at providing requisite training to the field staff of Forest Department and provides infrastructural facilities in respect of three training schools viz KFT School Chitternar, SC Training School, Miransahib and Forest guards Training School Doomi. A provision of Rs. 8.00 lakh has been kept for 2011-12 and an outlay of Rs. 8.00 lakh proposed for the year 2012-13.

2. Working Plan and Research.

Activities of five divisions, including three Working Plan Divisions, one Photo interpretation Division and One Resources Survey Division, are covered under this scheme. The main activities of all these divisions are concerned for preparation of Working Plans of the forest areas which indicates overall Forest health of the state. The work plans are useful for researcher's policy planning and forest management. The GIS Lab. established two years back has become functional now. There is therefore a requirement of equipping it with necessary hardware and software for which liberal funding is utmost requirement. However, keeping the approved ceiling in view, only an amount of Rs. 17.00 lakh has been earmarked under this scheme for 2011-12 and proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 10.00 lakh.

3. Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests

This is the major Plan Scheme and aims at rehabilitation of degraded forests in the State. It is estimated that more than 10 lakh hectares of Forest area is degraded in the State. Through this scheme efforts are afoot to rehabilitate the degraded and denuded Forest land on scientific lines by way of plantation, Soil and moisture Conservation measures, construction of check-dams, water harvesting structures and promoting natural regeneration. An amount of Rs. 230.00 lakh has been approved for 2011-12 under state sector and an amount of Rs. 270.25 lakh been approved under District Sector for rehabilitation of Degraded Forests.

4. Consolidation and Demarcation: -

Forest area is being lost due to lack of proper demarcation of its boundaries on ground. To ensure protection of existing forest areas, the department through three demarcation divisions, one in Kashmir and two in Jammu conducts surveys and demarcates the existing forests by putting up the permanent boundary pillars along the fringe lines and prepare records pertaining to forest land by mutation in the revenue records. An amount of Rs. 3.75 lakh has already been utilized from overall Plan resources, accordingly a projection of Rs. 3.75 lakh has been made under revised Plan 2011-12.

5. Planning Coordination and Publicity

Under this head an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakh has been kept during the current financial year 2011-12. And proposed outlay for 2012-13 is Rs. 20.00 lakh.

6. Development of Minor Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants (M.F.P)

It has been felt that timber production has received much attention and development of other Minor Forest produce virtually been neglected so far. Depletion of Minor Forest Produce continued at an alarming rate and the conservation efforts are not apace with it, resulting loss of important species. The forest resources in J&K have a tremendous potential of Minor Forest Produce for becoming an independent industry provided adequate funding is made available. The cultivation of medicinal plants and its conservation is another area

that needs focussed attention. In order to give necessary impetus to the development of Minor Forest Produce including medicinal plants a full-fledged industry can be encouraged with ensured market. A provision of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been approved for 2011-12 for the purpose. Since development of MFP is very important component of work for Forest Department and Herbal gardens of Vanaspati Van has also been taken over from ISM Department and accordingly Rs. 5.00 lakh has been proposed as additionality for the year 2011-12 and proposed outlay form the year 2012-13 is Rs. 60.00 lakh.

7. Eco Task Force

The Eco Task Force Project (E.T.F) is a joint venture of J&K Forest Department and Territorial Army. Initially, it was launched in the year 1988 to rehabilitate the Ruie Catchments in Samba Town of Jammu province. The Territorial Army provides the man power by utilizing the services of ex-Army personnel and the funds for the purpose are provided by Ministry of Environment & Forests. The Forest Department provides the expert guidance's and the planting materials. The project awarded Indira Priyadarshani Vriksha Mitra Award by Government of India in the year 1994 for afforestation programme launched by it. The project was approved for implementation up to 10th plan period viz; 03/2007. However on the insistence of the Army and the locals the extension of the project has been approved till end of 11th Five Year Plan. As per the approved Work Plan 300 Ha of area is required to be treated every year, the estimated cost for afforestation of 1500 Ha is Rs. 465.00 lakh (Every year afforestation of 300 Ha). Since the wage rates have been raised the cost of implementation at present shall be much more than what has been approved earlier. The approved outlay for the year 2011-12 is Rs. 25.00 lakh. The proposed outlay for the 2012-13 is Rs. 30.00 lakh

8. Buildings, Check Posts and Guffed buildings.

Proper infrastructure, in the shape of Rest Houses, Office accommodations, Check posts, staff quarters and guard huts is essential for protection and rehabilitation of forests. Besides that Assets of the Forest Department like Rest Houses, Guard/ Chowkidar Huts, Residential Quarters, Check posts and Office

Buildings have been the soft targets during the militancy period in the State. More than 135 such establishments were reported to have been gutted / damaged out of which only a small number have been restored / being renovated. The reconstruction programme will continue till all gutted structures are reconstructed. The approved outlay for current financial year (2011-12) is Rs. 146.00 lakh. The proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 150.00 lakh.

9. Urban Forestry

The rapid urbanization has witnessed exploitation of natural resources especially the trees and green belts have met on slaughter of various developmental activities, consequently causing environmental Hazards in the cities and towns. Need is being felt to green the urban areas by mass plantation of vacant lands, along Road sides, Highways, residential and commercial establishments and Parks. The plantation of ornamental plants on the private lands, and around residential areas is utmost important. The funds under urban Forestry schemes are therefore, being provided for achieving the desired results especially in two cities of Jammu & Srinagar. An amount of Rs. 15.00 lakh has been earmarked for 2011-12. The Urban Forestry Divisions Jammu / Srinagar have jurisdiction over Jammu and Srinagar City. For maintenance and raising of more green areas in these cities. The proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 20.00 lakh.

10. Pasture and Fodder Development

The shortage of fodder adversely affects livestock population and its productivity, in the state. The vast pastures and grazing lands in the state are under heavy pressure due to increased in cattle population. This problem needs to be addressed at the right earnest by developing pastures across the state to ensure adequate availability of fodder for the livestock. An allocation of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been approved for the year 2011-12. The proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 60.00 lakh.

11. Stabilization of Slip Areas on National Highway (1A)

Srinagar Jammu National Highway 1-A passes through an unstable mountain range and river Chenab flows alongside the Highway from Batote area upto Ramsu. This peculiar situation of the Highway makes it prone to landslides and

natural disintegration. The problem of landslides has become acute in the recent past due to degradation of forest cover.

It is a fact that the work undertaken by the Forest Department in stabilization of slips on the National Highway yielded outstanding dividends and some of the major slips have been stabilized. However there are certain SORE points on National Highway which still need to be treated, so that these may not develop into major slips, if left unattended to. The approved outlay for the current financial year 2011-12 is Rs. 40.00 lakh and proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 50.00 lakh.

12. Development of Conifer Forests

In the state of Jammu & Kashmir, conifer forests crops occupy 31.80 % of the forest area. There are four main species of conifers viz. Deodar (Cedus deodara), Kail (Pinus wallichiana), Fur (Abies pendrow), Chir (Pinus roxburghii). All the four species are economically very important for the state. Deodar, kail and Fir are the principle species and much sought for constructions of Houses and furniture in the state. Chir is important specie and yield resin which is used as raw material for turpentine oil and other large number of by products which are used in number of medicines, cosmetic, perfumery, confectionary and toiletries. Apart from this chir timber is also used in construction work in sub-tropical areas of state where other conifer species are not available. On an average all the conifers species take 100-170 years to mature. Since more than 2/3rd of the total geographical area falls in temperate zone of the state, and are covered with coniferous which meet the requirement of timber, firewood & house hold goods. As a result the coniferous have got degraded over the years. These coniferous forests need focus for up-gradation and development with the help of various silvi-cultural operations, assisted natural regeneration and plantation. For this purpose good quality plantation material are required to be produced. This can be done through high-tech nurseries as it takes long time to produce coniferous seedlings. During the current financial year a modest amount of Rs. 15.00 lakh has been earmarked for taking up of this scheme and proposed outlay for 2012-13 is Rs. 20.00 lakh.

13. CM's Participatory Afforestation Scheme

In order to involve people in the regeneration of degraded forests and increasing the tree coverage on vacant lands, the scheme "**Chief Ministers Participatory Afforestation Programme**" has been launched from the year 2004-05 on pilot basis. The objective of the scheme is to make tree plantation on open forest lands, vacant lands and other Government lands by giving its full benefits to the beneficiaries actively involved in the programme.

The Forest Department provide the infrastructural support viz. planting materials, fencing materials and expert guidance to the beneficiaries. The scheme is being implemented in 42 forest divisions including 12 divisions of Social Forestry Department. An amount of Rs. 4.285 lakh per division is provided to each division for implementation of the scheme.

Besides that an amount of Rs. 17.50 lakh has also been utilized for meeting the expenditure on account of committed liability of Survey of Khair Trees The Accordingly revised outlay of Rs. 197.50 lakh has been projected for current financial year 2011-12. The proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 180.00.

14. Participatory Grazing land Development programme

The pressure of cattle population on the forests is very high due to large number of cattle which is almost equal to the population of the human souls in the state. The nomadic grazers move in winter in the warm areas of Jammu especially in Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur Districts. Maximum pressure is on Jammu and Kathua forests. There is need to regenerate these forests and grazing areas on participatory basis. Similarly, during summer months these grazers move to cooler alpine / sub alpine regions of the state. The Alpine and sub-alpine forests are subjected to heavy grazing during these months. These areas also need similar treatment on the principle of rotational grazing. A provision of Rs.05.00 lakh has been approved during current fiscal year 2011-12. And proposed outlay for 2012-13 is Rs. 20.00 lakh.

15. Monitoring & Evaluation.

Since there is a need to establish a mechanism to monitor the progress of various schemes and also to have surveys and studies conducted, the requirement of funds under this scheme has been proposed to take care of these studies. A provision of Rs. 4.00 lakh has been kept in the current financial year 2011-12. An amount of Rs. 15.00 lakh has also been utilized for initiation of Wular Project during current financial year (2011-12). Accordingly an amount of Rs. 19.00 lakh has been projected as revised Outlay for 2011-12 and proposed outlay for 2012-13 is Rs. 4.00 lakh.

16. Forest Protection: -

Protection of forests assumes highest priority and therefore adequate resources are needed to see that the forest and biodiversity is protected from all ills. The protection of existing forests is cost effective as compared to forest plantations. This scheme aims at taking preventive measures to control forest fires besides providing for infrastructural facilities to achieve the objectives of eradicating illicit timber trade and damage caused due to livestock. From 10th five-year plan, the scheme is being implemented only under District Plan and allowed to continue as such for 11th five year plan as well. An amount of Rs. 74.75 lakh has been approved for 2011-12. And proposed outlay for the 2012-13 is Rs. 82.00 lakh.

17. Centrally Sponsored Schemes

- a) Under closed Centrally Sponsored Scheme Eco-restoration of degraded catchments there is a liability about Rs. 15.00 lakh so accordingly a projection of the said amount has been reflected under revised Plan 2011-12.
- b) The approved outlay 2011-12 under River Valley Project is Rs. 45.00 lakh, and proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 50.00 lakh.
- c) The approved outlay 2011-12 under Intensification of Forest Management is Rs. 15.00 lakh and proposed outlay for the year 2012-13 is Rs. 18.00 lakh.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR.
OFFICE OF THE PR. CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

The Commissioner/Secretary to Government
Forest Department Civil Secretariat
Jammu

No: PCCF/Plg/

Dated:___-12-2011.

Sub:- Revised Annual Plan 2010-11.
Ref:- FST/Plan-08/2011-12 dated 19.12.2011.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose herewith 15 copies of Revised Estimates of Annual Plan 2011-12 and Draft Annual Plan 2012-13 of Forest Territorial along-with soft copy (Pen drive) for favour of information and further necessary action.

Yours faithfully

(Z.A.Banday)
Jt. Director (P&S)