



Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Department of Forest, Environment & Ecology
Civil Secretariat
www.jkforestadm.nic.in

Sub:- Implementation of Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (Amended upto October, 2018) -Devolution of Powers, Functions, Funds and Functionaries to the Panchayatis,

Govt. Order No. 182 -FST of 2019
Dated: - 19 -06-2019

Whereas, the Social Forestry Project was started in Jammu & Kashmir as a World Bank aided Project in 1981-82, initially for a period of five years & later on converted into a full-fledged Department, under the name "Department of Social Forestry" vide Govt. Order No: 481-FST of 2004 dated: 28-10-2004 to take up Agro forestry in the State besides development of degraded forest lands, wastelands and other common lands on a massive scale in the following components:-

- 1. Raising of Village Wood Lots**
- 2. Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests**
- 3. Raising of Strip Plantations**
- 4. Farm Forestry**
- 5. Institutional Plantations**

Whereas, the Department of Social Forestry undertakes afforestation under aforesaid schemes with active participation of people in terms of SRO-61 of 1992, SRO-17 of 1999 & SRO-143 of 2011, whereunder Village (Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests) Committee & Village Plantation (Protection & Management) Committees are constituted with certain functions and composition viz. General Committee & Executive Committee.

The General Committee comprises of one adult male/female member of each independent household residing at the edge of degraded forests have right to become member of Village Committee's General Body.

The Executive Committee is constituted of at least two women, three members from Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes/ Backward Tribes/Backward class, a representation of nomads and two members from each panchayat falling under the jurisdiction of village committee to be nominated by the Sarpanch to carry out the task of such committee. The Patwari of the Halqa works as ex-officio member of the said Executive Committee & the concerned Block Forester/ Forest Guard act as member-secretary and is responsible for assisting the Village Committee to co-ordinate its activities with other Government Departments and also is responsible for the maintenance of records of the concerned committee.

Whereas, as per the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (amended upto October, 2018) the following programmes/schemes and activities specified in item 3 of Schedule I-A relating to Social Forestry have been transferred to Panchayat Raj Institutions:-

- (i) *Afforestation on Waste land*
- (ii) *Development of social forestry and farm forestry, disposal of social forestry produce.*
- (iii) *Growing trees for cattle feed, fire wood and fruits.*
- (iv) *Implementation of farm forestry.*
- (v) *Establishment of nurseries and their management.*
- (vi) *Planning and implementation of social forestry and farm forestry projects.*
- (vii) *Planting and preservation of trees on the road side and other public places under control of Halqa Panchayat.*
- (viii) *Identification of sites for CAMPA/afforestation activities under different schemes/plans.*
- (ix) *Constitution of fire protection committees to assist forest department in extinguishing forest fires in coordination with the local people.*

Now, in pursuance of above provisions of the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (amended upto October, 2018) regarding devolution of powers, functions, funds and functionaries to the Panchayats relating to **Department of Social Forestry, J&K**, the following orders are hereby issued:-

1. The sites for various afforestation works under all the schemes, wherever feasible/applicable will be identified & proposed in consultation with concerned Halqa Panchayat.
2. The plans under different afforestation schemes/ sectors will be formulated by the concerned Divisional Forest Officers (SF) in consultation with concerned Village Committees in terms relevant SROs and also in consultation with concerned Halqa Panchayat.
3. The fencing shall be procured as per the standing norms & will be done through concerned Panchayats wherever 'e-tendering' is not required.
4. The plants shall continue to be provided by the Department. However, digging of pits and planting will be done by the existing regular and non-regular staff of the department and also through the seasonal labour to be provided by the Panchayats under supervision of concerned Block Officer/Range Officer, followed by monitoring by DFO and Regional Director.
5. The labour work from seasonal labourers will be hired exclusively by the concerned Halqa Panchayats on day-to-day basis for execution of plantation related works, as per the plantation targets.
6. The watch & ward of the plantations shall continue to be done by the existing staff of the department together with concerned Village Forest Committees & concerned Halqa Panchayat.
7. The monitoring evaluation and audit of all the works will be done as per the prescribed norms and rules, however the Panchayats shall be involved in inspections & checking of the works. B ✓

8. The Sarpanch/Panch (*as the case may be*) will function as Ex-Officio Chairman of Village Executive Committee instead of selection by Village Committee (*General Body*).
9. The maintenance and protection of plantation done shall be joint responsibility of the Department, concerned Village Forest Committee/Panchayat.
10. The concerned Panchayats will encourage villagers to participate in establishing village wood lots by explaining the benefits to be obtained from community plantation and assist the Department in demarcating areas of wastelands on which plantation is to be done. They will also explain the advantages of the afforestation programmes to the villagers in their respective areas and report their progress regularly to the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (SF).

In addition to above,

- i. The funds for the above purpose (*wherever required as per the service*), shall be placed at the disposal of the concerned Panchayats by the Department of Social Forestry under relevant schemes/sectors.
- ii. The SRO-61 of 1992, SRO-17 of 1999 & SRO-143 of 2011 shall be amended/re-casted accordingly.

By order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir

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Manoj Kr. Dwivedi, IAS
Commissioner / Secretary to Government,
Forest, Environment & Ecology Department

No. FST/SF/20/2019

Dated:- 19.06.2019

Copy to the:-

1. Secretary to Government, Rural Development Department & Panchayat Raj.
2. APCCF/Director, Department of Social Forestry, J&K, Srinagar.
3. OSD to Advisor (K) to Hon'ble Governor.
4. PPS to Chief Secretary, J&K State.
5. I/C Website.
6. Government Order File.

Under Secretary to Government
Forest, Environment & Ecology Department