

Government of Jammu and Kashmir,
Civil Sectt: Forest Department.

NOTIFICATION
JAMMU THE 12TH JANUARY, 1999.

SRO – 17 In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 5 and 14 A of the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Act, Samvat 1987 (Act No. II of 1987), the Government hereby direct that in the Jammu and Kashmir (Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests and Village Plantation) Rules, 1992, the following amendments shall be made namely :-

I. Sub-rules (1),(4),(5) and (6) of rule 3 shall be recast as under respectively :-

(1) There shall be constituted village (Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests) Committee for each village or group of villages for the purposes of protection and management of degraded forests.

(4) Each village (Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests) Committee shall have an Executive Committee of 11 to 15 members including at least two women, three members from Scheduled Caste / Schedule Tribes / Backward Tribes / Backward Class, a representative of nomads and two members from each panchayat falling under the jurisdiction of village committee to be nominated by the Surpanch to carry out the task of such committee. The Patwari of the halqa shall be ex-officio member of Executive Committee.

(5) The members of Executive Committee shall be elected once in three years by the respective village (Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests Committee). In the event of any default by the Executive Committee in the performance of its duties fresh elections shall be held by the said committee. The concerned Range Officer / Block Forester shall be returning officer for conducting such elections.

(6) The Executive Committee shall select one of its members as Chairman and also chose a treasurer amongst themselves.

II. Rule 4 shall be recast as under :-

“Meetings. The Member Secretary of the Executive Committee shall convene at least 2 formal meetings of the Executive Committee and one meeting of the general body in a calendar year”.

III. Rule 5 shall be re-cast as under :-

“Supervision. District level policy review committee shall supervise and review working of all the committees and shall consist of :-

- a). Dy. Commissioner of the concerned District. Chairman
- b) All the Division Forest Officers both Territorial as well as Social Forestry of the District. Members
- c) Three prominent non-govt; officers includes two panches of the area to be nominated by the Dy. Commissioner. Members.

IV. In clauses (a), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (i) and k of Rule 7 the word “assist” shall be substituted by the word “associate”

V. In su-rule 10, the following shall be added as sub-rule (3) :-

“ (3). Each members of the village committee provided with a pas book showing therein details as at sub-rule(1) above. All the benefits derived by the members shall be entered in the pass book at the end of each financial year and shall be duly authenticated by the concerned Block Foresters.”

VII. In Rule 11, the word “President” shall substituted by the word “Chairman”.

VIII. Rule 12 shall be recast as under :-

“(12) Sharing of harvest (1) The committee in consultation with all the members will determine how to share 50% of the proceeds from each major harvest of the plantation in kind or the sale proceeds of the produce of the plantation of degraded forests amongst members”.

(2) The Village (Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests) Committee may generate common village fund in the name of committee by sale of surplus interim produce or from the share of the sale of major produce and keep the deposit in any of the Scheduled Banks to be utilized for the welfare of villagers. The bank account/accounts would be operated upon by the Chairman, the secretary and the treasurers only”.

IX. Rule 16 shall be recast as under :-

“Composition” There shall be constituted a village plantation (protection and management) committee in a village or group of villages for the purpose of protection and management of such waste lands / undemarcated forests and khalsa sarkar lands as are not included in demarcated forests. The composition and other conditions regarding membership and election of the committee shall be the same, as provided for village (Rehabilitation of degraded forests) Committee”.

X. In Rule 17

i) in sub-rule (5) the words “any deviation from the rules and concessions should be specifically mentioned in the file” shall be deleted.

ii) In sub-rule (6) for the words “the Revenue officials will then get a map of the area prepared by the Patwari” the words “Patwari Halqa will prepare a map of the area and demarcate the same on the ground through villagers” shall be substituted.

iii) sub-rule (7) shall be recast as under :-

“The file be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner through the Divisional Forest Officer concerned.”

IV) sub-rule (8) shall be recast as under :-

“(8) Notification will be issued by the Deputy Commissioner under Chapter III-A of the Forest Act. The file will then be returned to the Divisional Forest Officer concerned with a copy of the Tehsildar of the area”.

V) sub-rule (9) shall be deleted.

XI. Rule 22 shall be as under:-

“ Joint Management.. (1) For the joint management of the area, a development cum-management plan will be prepared by the Social Forestry in collaboration with villagers.

(2) If the villagers undertake to carry out a programme of sowing and plantation, it will be done under the joint management of the of the Social Forestry Department and the villagers.”

XII. In Rule 23_____

- i) in sub-rule(1) the words “First five years” shall be substituted by the words “first five to ten years”.
- ii) in sub-rule (2) for the words “monitor the management” shall be substituted by the words “monitor and control the management”.
- iii) Sub-rule (3) shall be recast as under:-

“(3) At each major harvest after establishment to the plantation, Social Forestry Department will recover 25% share from the sale of fuelwood timber or poles and 75% of cash balance will be given to the village plantation (Protection and Management) Committee”.

- iv) after sub-rule (3) following shall be added as sub-rule (4):-

“ The Village Plantation (Protection and Management) Committee may generate common village fund in the name of committee by the sale of exsertive interim product or from the share of the sale of major produce and keep the deposit in any of the scheduled banks to be utilized for the welfare of villagers. The Bank Account(s) would be operative by Chairman, Secretary and the Treasurer only.”

By order of the Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir

Sd/-
(K. A. Malik) IAS
Spl; Secy; to Government,
Forest Department.

No: FST/Lease-4/91

Dated: 12-01-1999.

Copy to the:-

01. All Financial Commissioners to Government.
02. All Addl. Chief Secretaries and Secretaries to Government.
03. All Commissioner/Secretaries to Government.
04. Pr. Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K, Jammu.
05. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu.
06. Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir/Jammu.
07. All Deputy Commissioners.
08. All Heads of Departments.
09. Secretary Legislative Assembly/Council.
10. General Manager, Govt. Press, Jammu.
11. Pvt. Secy. To Hon'ble Forest Minister.
12. Pvt. Secy. To Acs (Forests)
13. Government order file/stock file. (SRO-17)