

Minutes of meeting held on 07-08-2010 under the Chairpersonship of Smt. Keshni Anand Arora , IAS, Financial Commissioner & Principal Secretary to Govt., Haryana Forest Department.

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To review plantation progress and other related activities of Haryana Forest Department, a meeting was held on 07-08-2010 at 3.45 P.M at Karan Lake, Karnal after Van Mahotsava celebrations. It was chaired by Smt. Keshni Anand Arora, IAS, Financial Commissioner & Principal Secretary to Govt., Haryana Forest Department.

At the outset, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Haryana, Dr. Parvez Ahmed, IFS, praised all the officers for actively participating and making Van Mahotsava, a very successful event. He expressed his gratitude on behalf of Haryana Forest Department for active and visionary guidance provided by FC & PS, Forests, Smt. Keshri Anand Arora, IAS. Worthy FC & PS, Forests congratulated all the officers of Forest Department for their concerted and integrated efforts for a successful State level Van Mahotsava event.

Smt. Keshni Anand Arora, IAS, called upon all the Divisional Forest Officers to play an active role in Urban Plantations that can be taken up on lands made available by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) as well as municipality and Institutional lands, available in and around urban areas. She further added that in view of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana directives, a balance of clonal plantations of Eucalyptus and Poplar should be maintained in afforestation programme of Forest Department. Smt. Keshni Anand Arora, IAS, FC & PS, Forests, reviewed the progress of on going plantation activities, Division wise and expressed her satisfaction in respect of good progress being made by most of Forest Divisions. However, on account of tardy progress of some of the Divisions like Rohtak, Hisar, Sonapat, Panipat & Ambala, worthy FC & PS stressed upon Divisional Forest Officers of these Divisions as well as Conservators concerned, to make headway in progress of plantations at an earliest so that Monsoonal rains may be utilized in better way. Smt. Anand Arora also emphasized that targets allotted under Community Forestry should also be completed during month of August itself before the receding of monsoons so that plantation may be established in a better way.

2. Smt. Keshni Anand Arora, IAS, FC & PS, Forests, impressed upon all Divisional Forests Officers & Conservators of Forests, Haryana to take up regular field visits for better monitoring of plantation survivals in general and DFOs & CFs of Community Forestry, in particular in respect of plantations being carried out on Farmers' fields. FC & PS, Forests went on adding that all sort of technical guidance should be provided to Farmers so as to ensure their better participation in afforestation efforts of the Department as well as better survival of plantations being taken up on Farmers's fields. While reviewing plantation targets under Environmental Service component, Smt. Keshni Anand Arora stressed upon the need to interact with Deputy Commissioners and other District level Administrative Officers to involve them in publicizing of this scheme and the targets may be achieved accordingly. Worthy FC & PS, Forests, advised all Divisional Forests Officers to make all out efforts to get the illegally encroached forest land strips along the National & State Highways evacuated and this tasks to be taken up on priority after the on going plantation season.

3. So as to ensure that plantation strips are available for plantations along the National & State Highways, Smt. Keshni Anand Arora, IAS, FC & PS, Forests instructed HDFC officials that felling of earmarked trees should be taken up on priority basis. Worthy FC & PS, Forests was also of the opinion that Divisional Forest Officers concerned should have better interactions with NHAI officials and wherever required, DFOs should ensure that Central Verge Plantations are taken up by User Agencies as a matter of condition, as stipulated by Ministry of Environment & Forest, Govt. of India.

4. Dr. Parvez Ahmed, IFS, PCCF, Haryana informed all officers that in future, Urban Forestry has to be main "avenue plantation" activity with Haryana Forest Department and for which proper planning will be required in advance, at DFOs level. Smt. Keshri Anand Arora, IAS, FC & PS, Forests expressed her desire that nursery planning for raising of tall plants should be done in advance preferably in coming months of September & October, 2010, so that quality tall plants are available with Forest Department for their utilization under urban forestry component. PCCF, further informed all that budget in respect of various components of plantations targets have already been conveyed to all concerned. CAMPA funds have been released to the extent of 50% as per Steering Committee recommendations. Dr Parvez Ahmed further added that the details of

proposed plantations sites in respect of CAMPA component, should be intimated to PCCF office within a week positively so that further programme for target allotment in respect of CAMPA Scheme may be finalized at an earliest.

5. On the demand of Conservator of Forests, Community Forestry, Hisar Circle, that targets of plantations of 1.00 lac plants per districts on Farmers' fields should be re-allocated in Hisar & Sirsa Districts in view of increase in demand of farmers, PCCF agreed that such a proposal for transfer of targets from one district to another should be routed through concerned Chief Conservator of Forests. PCCF further stressed that DFOs & Conservators should ensure regular monitoring of Departmental plantations as well as Free Supply component plantation on top priority and called upon all DFOs to complete plantation targets by August end, itself.

6. CCF (Production), Haryana, Sh. G.K. Ahuja, IFS, informed all DFOs that sufficient financial provisions are available under National Medicinal Plant Board Schemes and DFOs should prepare Projects on Herbal Plants that may include raising of nurseries of Medicinal Plants as well as plantations of Herbal Plants on Govt. lands. Dr. Parvez Ahmed, IFS, PCCF, Haryana directed all DFOs to intimate direction office with data of plants available in Herbal Parks so that proper tenders can be invited so as to dispose of Herbal Plant Material on commercial lines. Smt. Keshni Anand Arora, IAS, FC & PS, Forests, made it clear that commercialization of Herbal Parks, established in various Districts of the State, has to be done necessarily, so that, the sufficient funds for maintenance of already existing Herbal Parks, may be ensured properly. FC & PS, Forests further added that, for maintenance of Herbal Parks, PLA accounts should be opened in which the revenue generated out of sale of Herbal Plants be deposited and Herbal Parks be maintained as commercial activity with Forest Department.

7. Smt. Keshni Anand Arora, IAS, FC & PS, Forests, advised all IFS & HFS Officers that in event of any problem related to staff matters, promotions, salaries, disciplinary proceedings, all officers are free to apprise of her in respect of their problems, if any. For earning better goodwill of people, Smt. Anand Arora, advised all DFOs to have better coordination with local people as well as NGOs, working in the field of Environmental Conservation. FC & PS, Forests, also emphasized upon the Forest

Officers to involve local communities in plantations activities as a matter of conscious approach towards Forest working. She further emphasized that Petrol Pump users should be guided properly so as to avoid undue delays in respect of sanction of Petrol Pump Cases and informed the house that a separate meeting in respect of FCA cases will be taken up with Hon'ble Forest Minister, Haryana so as to streamline the sanctioned procedure of these cases. Dr. Parvez Ahmed, IFS, PCCF, Haryana, stressed upon the need to have better interaction with local politicians as well as other public representatives, so that goodwill of Forest Department with public, be maintained.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the chair.