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REPORT  
ON  
FOREST LABOUR  
IN  
MADHYA PRADESH

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A REPORT ON FOREST LABOUR  
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MADHYA-PRADESH

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P R E F A C E

THIS report on FOREST LABOUR IN MADHYA PRADESH has been prepared at the instance of the National Commission on Labour. The work was entrusted to us through the Labour Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

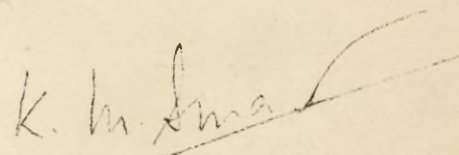
The views expressed in this report are based on the material we have been able to collect in the short period available to us. We have endeavoured to cover, briefly, as many aspects of the problem as possible. We feel that this problem has a vital bearing on the Indian economy and any further study of the subject would be very helpful.

The views expressed in this report are personal and not those of the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

We wish to thank the Departments of Forest, Labour and Tribal Welfare for their cooperation.

  
( S. S. SHRIVASTAVA )

BHCPAL  
November 21, 1968

  
( K. M. SARAN )

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E R R A T A

- Page 9 - The last sentence should read: "It should, however, not be considered anything unusual if children below the age of twelve were found collecting minor forest produce at the instance of their parents or guardians".
- Page 15 - At the bottom of the page please add:  
"45. - West Bhopal 64 9807  
46 - Raisen 49 N.A."
- Page 16 - The last line should read: ".....beginning might be made to start larger labour camps.....".
- Page 20 - The last line should read ".....Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation in executing.....".
- Page 26 - The last sentence should read: "Similarly, higher wages for night halts (generally Rs.0.10 to 0.25 per day more) have to be paid to workers drafted for working deep inside the forests, in more hilly tracts (away.....)".
- Page 32 - The last line should read: ".....Exploitation in more than one way."
- Page 38 - At the bottom please add:  
"18. - Kumpapani 32 - 1  
19. - Malapur 41 - 1"
- Page 40 - The last line should read: ".....the State's Forest Department. It was alleged in certain.....".
- Page 46 - At the bottom please add:  
"4. Paper 6 2669(Excluding figures of Security Paper Mills).
- Page 49 - Para 13.1 - last word should be "lot".
- Page 51 - Last word should read "Violence".
- Page 59 - Para 18.8 - 4th line should read: ".....functions by the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Cooperative....."  
Para 18.9 - 3rd line should read ".....contracts by the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Cooperative."
- Page 60 - 2nd sentence should read: "It is a welcome step as the labour would stand to benefit from the measures taken by this Corporation."
- Page 61 - Para 18.10. :(i) Last word of the last but five lines should read "achieving".  
(ii) Last word of the last but two lines should read "handicapped."
- Page 64 - Para 18.16 -(i) 2nd sentence should read "Labour could become decasualised and most of the many problems of ....."  
(ii) 11th line - last word should be "be".
- Appendix XIII - Col.6. - Item 4 within brackets should read "0.08 to 0.12" instead of "0.80 to 0.12"

A. REPORT





A REPORT ON FOREST LABOUR  
in  
MADHYA-PRADESH.

1. THE STATE.

Madhya Pradesh, as its name signifies, is a State located almost in the centre of the Country. Surrounded by the States of Rajasthan, Uttar-Pradesh, Gujrat, Maharashtra, Orissa, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh, it occupies an area of 1.71 lakh square miles or 44,346,000 hectares between 17°48'N and 26°52'N and 74°2'E and 84°24'E with an estimated (1965) population of 3.60 Crores. It has an undulating topography characterized by low hills (Vindhya, Satpuras and the Central hilly tract), narrow valleys (of Narmada and the Son), well defined plateaux (of Malwa, Mainpat, Chhota Nagpur and Bastar) and plains (northern plains and plains of Chhatisgarh). The whole of the State is practically an extensive water-shed of important rivers of the Country like the Narmada, Tapti, Mahanadi, Son, Chambal, Wainganga and Mahi (which originate in the State) as also of the tributaries of Godavari. The forest area which forms 38.6 % of the total land area of the State and 23.5 % of the total forest area of the country is thus no less vital to the adjoining States from the point of view of soil conservation, soil fertility, control of floods etc. than to its own economy.

1-2. Madhya Pradesh has a variety of soils. It has calcareous soil in northern parts of Sidhi and Satna districts, black cotton soil in Malwa region, Chhindwara, Seoni and Mandla, mixed black, red and yellow soils in Bastar, South Seoni, South Sidhi, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Eastern Shivpuri and Eastern Sarguja. On the slopes of Deccan trap hills the soil is reddish and brown, in Narmada Valley it is black, red and yellow and in the Chhatisgarh plains it varies from silt loam, medium clay to heavy clay loam.

1-3. The State has areas with extreme type of climate as also areas of temperate climate. The districts south of Ratlam, Shahapur, Vidisha, Jabalpur, Shahdol and Sarguja, fall in the tropical region.

A major part of the State has hot dry summer followed by rainy season and a cool dry winter. The plateaux and the hilly tracts have comparatively cool and temperate climate throughout the year whereas the northern districts of Gwalior, Bhind and Morena have extreme types of climate. Parts of the districts of Balaghat, Raipur and Raigarh are warm almost throughout the year. Bastar, parts of Surguja, Jhabua, Balaghat, Mandla are wet and humid while the Malwa plateaux enjoys a reputation for its cool and salubrious climate. The rain-fall in the State ranges from less than 60 cms. in a few areas, south of Kharone to 75 to 200 cms. as one moves from north-west to the east of the State. Certain parts of the State such as Bastar and Surguja receive as much as 250 cms. of rain-fall annually.

Land Utilisation :-

1.4. The figures of land utilization in Madhya Pradesh compiled for the year 1966-67 by the Director of Land Records are given in Table-I below. The district-wise break up of the total land and forest area would be found in Table-II below :-

TABLE - I

----- Land Utilization in Madhya Pradesh 1966-67 -----

	<u>Hectares</u>
1. According to village papers . . . .	443,12,878
2. Forest . . . . .	147,02,560
3. Not available for cultivation ...	43,10,032
4. Under non-agricultural uses . . . . .	20,40,986
5. Barren & uncultivable land . . . . . (excluding fallow land)	22,69,046
6. Other uncultivated land ) (excluding fallow land ) . . . . .	60,15,111
7. Permanent pastures (not grazing land)	35,85,113
8. Miscellaneous tree crops . . . . .	1,06,139
9. Culturable waste . . . . .	23,23,859
10. Fallow land (total) . . . . .	20,79,877
11. Net area sown . . . . .	172,05,298
12. Area sown more than once . . . . .	11,30,503
13. Gross cropped area . . . . .	183,35,801
14. Area according to Surveyor General of India. )	44345900 W.A. (1-1-66)

TABLE No. II

District-wise Forest Area in Madhya Pradesh (1966-67)

S.No.	District.	Area according to village papers. (in hectares)	Area under Forest. (in hectares)
1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	Betul	1007,800	418,556
2.	Chhindwara	1184,980	455,538
3.	Damoh	728,747	270,393
4.	Hoshangabad	997,732	363,493
5.	Narsimhapur	513,323	134,529
6.	Raisen	848,904	346,199
	Sagar	1023,134	295,155
8.	Sehore	934,255	231,041
9.	Vidisha	730,221	80,333
10.	Bhind	445,196	7,258
11.	Chhatarpur	862,533	88,184
12.	Datia	203,481	21,235
13.	Guna	1098,173	158,754
14.	Gwalior	521,887	111,008
15.	Morena	1168,320	320,583
16.	Shivpuri	1017,349	193,521
17.	Tikamgarh	501,542	65,615
18.	Dewas	721,758	225,516
19.	Dhar	824,497	71,249
20.	Indore	383,097	52,298
21.	Jhabua	679,281	101,790
22.	Khandwa	1069,227	467,914
23.	Khargone	1341,776	490,348
24.	Mandsaur	1049,574	202,701
25.	Rajgarh	612,718	14,265
26.	Ratlam	486,597	34,329
27.	Shajapur	617,804	1,354
28.	Ujjain	607,350	4,508
29.	Jabalpur	1012,432	169,573
30.	Mandla	1326,079	574,512
31.	Panna	703,387	243,299
32.	Rewa	628,745	66,538
33.	Satna	742,432	135,575
34.	Seoni	870,767	324,274
35.	Shahdol	1386,006	501,356

Continued

1.	2.	3	4
36.	Sidhi	1039,075	558,634
37.	Balaghat	922,292	507,062
38.	Bastar	3919,863	2712,622
39.	Bilaspur	2016,751	845,214
40.	Durg	1946,242	503,148
41.	Raigarh	1296,538	415,571
42.	Raipur	2122,433	825,094
43.	Surguja	2198,580	1092,421
Total M.P.State =		44,312,878	14,702,560

1-5. The figures given above give a fairly comprehensive idea of the distribution of forests in different districts of the State even though the figures compiled by the Director of Land Records, M.P. differ from those compiled by the Office of the Chief Conservator of Forests, M.P. The total area under forests as per the records of the State's Forest Department is given in Appendix II. The variations in the two sets of figures are mainly explained by conceptual differences. It would be seen that the districts having large concentrations of forests are Bastar, Surguja, Bilaspur, Raipur, Mandla, Sidhi, Balaghat, Durg, Shahdol, Kharone, Khandwa, Chhindwar, Betul and Raigarh. Incidentally, these districts have also a high percentage of tribal population which depends, to a considerable extent, for its subsistence on the forests. An idea of the districtwise population and its tribal composition can be had from the Table given in Appendix III.

## II. THE PROBLEM

2-1. In a State like Madhya Pradesh where one-fifth of its population depends for sustenance on forests spread over roughly two-fifth of the State's area, the problem of forest labour should have been reviewed in the proper perspective long ago. Since it never actually assumed the proportions of a "problem" in the feudal States or in the British

India, the question of studying the conditions of Forest Labour, with a view to regulating their conditions of work and wages and living etc. had almost been over-looked all these years and, in fact, no serious attempt was made to extend the coverage of any labour legislation to forest labour. Even the Royal Commission on Indian Labour (1929), which surveyed the ~~ground~~ of the problems of Indian labour, did not have the employment in forests within the purview of their enquiry. Their only observation with regard to forest labour was as follows ;

" We have not sufficient knowledge to judge of the extent to which it is desirable to include the employees of the larger agricultural employers and those employed in reserved forests; and in any case a discussion of this question would tend to take us out-side our terms of reference; but the point deserves examination ".

2.2. Even though the question of making labour available in the heart of forest areas for exploiting forest resources did receive the attention of Forest Policy Committees and the administrators in the past, the question of regulating the wages, conditions of work and living etc. of the persons engaged as labourers in forest operations (who were living on bare subsistence levels and were ruthlessly exploited both by the contractors and forest officials), was, perhaps, never taken up seriously heretofore. Labour legislation in the country, as also in this State, aimed mostly at ameliorating the conditions of work etc. of industrial labour. Forest labour was altogether left out of the scope of the legislation on labour matters. Some measure of protection was attempted to be provided, through the application of the Minimum Wages Act, to the agricultural labourers in the State but the idea of providing any relief to the forest labour in Madhya Pradesh by extending to them the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act or any other legislation was either never conceived of or was dropped before any serious thought could really be given to the proposal. The reasons generally adduced for this benevolent apathy were the lack of resources the difficulties in enforcing minimum wage rates in --

an employment like forest works which were scattered over a large area, the instability of forest labour and the seasonal character of forest operations. It is, therefore, more than welcome that the National Commission on Labour did consider it worth-while to get a study made of the existing position of Forest Labour in a State having the largest forest area in the country and also to explore the possibilities of recommending a few measures for the amelioration of the conditions of labour engaged in forest operations.

### III. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE PROBLEM

3-1. The first problem one was likely to be faced with while undertaking such a study was that of defining Forest Labour. We would, prefer to define Forest Labour as comprising of all skilled and unskilled persons wholly or partially engaged on piece rate or time rate wages in works connected with the development, protection, management and exploitation of forests including collection, processing and transport of forest produce, construction of forest roads and buildings etc.

3-2. The second problem would be that of knowing the number of such persons as were covered by the above definition. An idea of the number of persons engaged in forestry in Madhya Pradesh vis-a-vis other States of the Indian Union as per 1961 Census could be had from the table given as Appendix IV. The appendices V & VI give detailed break ups by districts and Industrial classifications. It would be seen that according to the Census of India 'Major group -02' classification only 71,924 persons were engaged in forestry and logging in Madhya Pradesh. These figures, as a matter of fact, related to the population which had forestry for its whole-time occupation or the main source of livelihood in 1961 and did not include persons who took to working as forest labourers as a diversion from agriculture during the slack agricultural periods and/or as a secondary source of their livelihood.

According to the estimates of the State's forest officials, the number of persons engaged currently as forest labourers skilled and unskilled in major forest works in the State (i.e. works excluding collection of minor forest produce) was around two lakh fifty thousand. We have reasons to believe that this figure would be approximating to the truth. This number would roughly increase thirteen fold if the persons engaged indirectly in forest works such as collection of minor forest produce etc. were also accounted for. As it happens, every able-bodied tribal above the age of 8 or 9 years is indirectly a forest worker in a wider sense of the term for he is either cutting wood and collecting minor forest produce for his own requirements or for eking out a meagre income from this secondary source (even-though his primary interest was agriculture) and the tribal population was approximately 66.78 lakhs or 20.63 % of the State's population according to 1961 Census. The estimated male participation rate was 61.2 % and female participation rate was 38.8 % .

3-3. While it would be difficult to ensure better conditions of work and living for such a big number by regulation, efforts ought, however, to be made to ameliorate the conditions of work and living of those workers whose direct earnings from forest works were substantial. As far as the indirect forest workers were concerned, it would perhaps suffice to see that they got a fair price for the produce collected by them and no direct or indirect attempts were made by their employers to deprive them of even a fraction of their meagre earnings through undesirable means.

#### IV. SEASONAL CHARACTER OF FOREST OPERATIONS.

4-1. As already stated in paragraph 3-1 above, forest operations implied exploitation of major forest produce, protection and conservancy works, marking, demarcation, thinning, cutting back and other cultural operations, plantation and felling of trees, collection of forest produce, construction of forest roads and buildings or other works in forests.

\*\*\*\*\*

All these operations cannot always assure full time employment to the forest workers throughout the year for a variety of reasons specially because there was a certain element of seasonableness in forest operations e.g. plantation operations were carried out during the rainy season whereas felling of trees, charcoal burning etc. were done during the dry season on account of the difficulties of operation and transportation. The problem of the availability of labour for forest works was accentuated during agricultural season because of the dependence on labour essentially drawn from the ranks of small cultivating land-holders or landless agricultural workers who were generally available only in off-agricultural seasons. Forest operations, as of to-day, do not offer opportunities for gainful employment in forest areas throughout the year. This creates serious difficulty in having a specialised and a stabilized labour force for forest operations. A person would perhaps seek specialisation in a particular occupation only if he was assured of continuous employment throughout the year which, as it happens, is at present not possible in the case of forest works.

#### V. AVAILABILITY, AND RECRUITMENT, OF FOREST LABOUR.

5.1 Forest Labour is normally employed by the following agencies :-

- (i) The State Government's Forest Department for departmental works including plantations, protection of forests, working of coupes, collection of forest produce, construction and maintenance of forest roads and buildings etc. Only a small staff is on permanent footing and a majority of workers are employed on casual basis largely from the Forest Villages.
- (ii) Contractors who take forests on lease with a view to exploiting its resources on the conditions prescribed by the State Government and on payment of the stipulated royalty.



Such contractors in Madhya Pradesh are not necessarily individuals or firms. They can as a matter of fact be classified as follows :-

- (i) Individuals, partnership firms or Corporate bodies.
- (ii) Forest Labour Cooperative Societies.
- (iii) Quasi-Government Organisations such as the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation.
- and (iv) Others.

5.2 The contractors require different types of labourers viz; skilled workers for specialised jobs such as charcoal burning, catechu-making, sawing etc., semi-skilled workers such as loggers, fellers and unskilled workers like those engaged for stacking, loading, unloading and transporting forest produce. They are free to engage any labour of their choice and there are no restrictions of the type that they would only engage persons living in Forest Villages or in the villages in or around the coupes being worked by them. They have, however, to give first preference to Forest Villagers where-ever available. Consequently the established contractors employ some of the skilled workers who are always moving with them from one coupe to another, utilise the services of labour from Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Orissa which migrates into Madhya Pradesh during off-agriculture months for charcoal burning etc. and recruit local labour on casual basis from the areas where the coupes are located. The obvious advantages in recruiting local labour are that it obviates the difficulties in carrying people to distances away from and to their homes for which higher wage rates have to be paid besides incurring expenses on their transportation.

5.3 Local labour is normally engaged through the village head-man, Mukaddam, Patel or heads of labour gangs etc. Female and child-labour is also employed for doing light jobs and at places not far away from their homes. The employment of child-labour is not very common and wherever such labour is employed, the workers are generally not below twelve years of age. It should, however, not be considered anything unusual if children below the age of twelve were employed in forest

5.4 There are numerous difficulties in obtaining regularly the requisite type of labour from the point of view of the employer. The Forest Department faces the shortage of labour mainly for nursery plantations during the sowing seasons whereas the contractors face the shortages of labour generally during the harvesting seasons. Where the Forest - Department also engages in exploitation of forests departmentally, it faces shortage of labour during harvesting seasons also. This difficulty of non-availability of labour increases manifold in certain areas during the agricultural seasons (specially during the sowing and harvesting seasons) when there is very little local labour available for forest works. Even on payment of higher wages and handsome advances there is considerable absenteeism. Out-side labour is also not generally available for some skilled jobs because it too returns to its native villages for agricultural operations. Lack of a decasualised labour force and want of work uniformly throughout the year for skilled and semi-skilled categories of workers pose serious problems.

5.5 As already pointed out earlier, another characteristic of forest operations is that in such operations <sup>persons</sup> have very often to work deep into the interior of forest areas, quite far away from their normal places of residence. ~~It~~ naturally affects the regular availability of labour especially skilled labour for work in ~~the~~ interior. Shifting of works from one area to another also create practical difficulties in getting the required quantum of labour.

5.6 In short, forest operations require a wide variety of skills on various occasions and in different areas. This has naturally prevented the emergence of any committed labour force as is commonly found in industrial occupations. In view of this difficulty of ensuring a guaranteed supply of labour, various systems have developed over a number of years. A reference has already been made to the attempts made by Forest Contractors to attract and retain a labour force by giving --

handsome advances of money to the villagers in the neighbourhood of forest areas as also to the employment of labour from the neighbouring States, like Rajasthan and Orissa through some intermediaries or pang-men. The evils then noted by the Royal Commission on Labour in the recruitment of labour for tea and coffee plantations through intermediaries are also common-place in this system.

5.7 The question of ensuring a regular supply of labour for forest works was sought to be solved in the erstwhile Madhya Pradesh by the establishment of Forest Villages quite deep in the Reserved Forests.

## VI. FOREST VILLAGES

6.1 A brief history of the system of the Forest villages as reported by the Forest Policy Committee, Madhya Pradesh (1951) would not be out of place here. Towards the close of the 19th century (1878 or so) the important tree clad areas of the State which were not burdened with many prescriptive rights were declared 'reserved forests' and placed in charge of the Forest Department for being managed with a view to making them "more productive and increasingly useful to the people". The first concern of that Department was to put a stop to reckless and ruthless exploitation of forests for shifting cultivation being done by the aboriginal tribes in these forests.

" This shifting agriculture variously referred to as Dahya, Beora, or Bewar consisted of clear felling the forests, burning the slash and sowing field crops for so long as the unmanured soil could give a reasonable yield and then shifting to new areas of forest. This practice was leading to a progressive extermination of valuable tree growth as the abandoned land did not get satisfactorily forested ".

6.2 Small patches of reserved forests containing good culturable soil were, therefore, chosen by the forest officials for the establishment of forest villages with a view to settling such nomadic tribes therein the ultimate objectives being the ready availability of labour for forest works from these villages and also to prevent the tribals --

from indulging in such destruction. An important condition on which these nomads were given land for cultivation and a few other facilities in these Forest Villages was that they would be available for forest work whenever required on payment of reasonable rates of wages fixed by the Forest Department. Since tribals were found to be better forest workers preference was given to tribals which establishing forest villages. These villages were in a way, labour colonies "composed of settlers, able and willing to work in the forests". In the initial stages a large number of forest villages were deserted if the villagers were not satisfied with the conditions of settlement or found it difficult to adjust to the new ways of living and taxing discipline imposed by forest officials or if they found the ~~landless~~ fertile. Some nomadic tribes also settled by themselves in villages in or around the forests and became regular cultivators. In the off season of agriculture such people also became available for forest operations. It helped them in supplementing their earnings. The Forest Villagers could, however, not refuse to be employed by the contractors if other conditions were fulfilled.

6.3 With the increasing exploitation of forests by the Forest Department or by the contractors need for a larger labour force was felt. Labour was required for such works as road-making, plantation, cultural operations, etc., in forests areas often remote from civilization. It necessitated establishment of many more forest villages. The basic objective of establishing forest villages solely for an assured supply of suitable local labour thus remained unchanged.

6.4 The conditions on which people are allowed to settle in forest villages are basically three ;

- " (i) the Forest Department and its contractors have the first claim to the labour of forest villagers on payment of the market rate ;
- (ii) the villagers may not accept other employment without the sanction of the Forest Department and are expected to obey the orders of the Divisional Forest Officers".

- (iii) they can be summarily evicted for disobedience of orders.

The Madhya Pradesh Forest Manual provides for the following privileges and concessions being given to the settlers in Forest Villages :

- (i) enough culturable land to support the settler and his family. It varies from place to place but is around 10 acres per head of the household. A very nominal token annual rent of 25 to 50 Paise per acre is charged for the land. The villagers do not have any tenancy or other legal rights over the land.
- (ii) free grazing for eight bulls, bullocks or cows per holding to cultivators and four such animals to each landless labourer ;
- (iii) free removal of thorns and wood needed for bonafide agricultural purposes, a reasonable quantity of wood and grass for house building and repairs and all the requirements of dead wood for fuel, and bamboos, leaves, edible fruits, flowers and roots for domestic purposes ; and
- (iv) taccavi advances on easy terms either in cash or as seed and for purchase of bullocks or carts upto Rs.500/- per individual on payment of a nominal rate of interest.

6.5 Persons habituated to extraction and handling of forest produce (such as persons belonging to Karku, Gond, Baiga, Maria, Khumar and Banjara races) were given preference wherever a new village was established and attempts were made to provide sufficient work throughout the year. A few amenities such as, a tank or well, free medicines for protection against malaria or epidemics etc. are often provided by the Forest Department. In some of the bigger villages, schools and hospitals have also been provided, and the villagers are encouraged to start shops, dairies, cooperatives etc. The Divisional Forest Officers have a nominal annual grant for the provision of amenities in Forest Villages. While some sympathetic officers try to utilize the grant, a few often overlook the need for providing such amenities.

6.6 The Forest villages are generally sought to be managed through the agencies of village kotwars and mukaddam or patel.

The Patel collects rent, enforces sanitation and keeps a record in the village book of the land allotments, dues recoverable, works on which villagers are employed and wages etc. paid to them all in return of a commission of 25 % of the rent collected. The duties of the Kotwar are of the nature of a policeman for the performance of which he is allowed to cultivate two ploughs of land and collect some custom from the village. Experience has shown that this system of establishing Forest Villages is perhaps the best solution, to the problem of non-availability of forest labour. The success or otherwise of this institution has always depended upon the scrupulosity of the forest officials. Where full wages were paid and adequate facilities for looking after the crops allowed, the objective of establishing such villages has been achieved to a considerable extent.

6.7 According to the latest data available with the Chief Conservator of Forests for the year (1966-67) there are at present, 2059 Forest Villages in Madhya Pradesh with a total population of about 1.75 lakhs. The number of non-agriculturist labourers was estimated at 17,000.

The distribution of Forest villages in some of the Forest Divisions is as follows :-

S.No.	Name of Division.	Number of forest villages.	Estimated population.
1.	2.	3.	4.
1.	North Bastar	17	2,077
2.	West Bastar	8	1,242
3.	South Bastar	42	4,387
4.	East Bastar	44	7,717
5.	Kanker	13	2,141
6.	North Raipur	71	N.A.
7.	South Raipur	94	13,529
8.	East Raipur	17	N.A.
9.	North Durg	10	471
10.	South Durg	24	847
11.	Bilaspur	44	4,269
12.	Raigarh	10	1,007
13.	Jashpur	11	1,091

contd.

S.No.	Name of Division.	Number of Forest villages.	Estimated population.
1.	2.	3.	4.
14.	Korba	9	635
15.	Surguja	1	87
16.	East Sidhi	11	617
17.	Umaria	2	293
18.	North Balaghat	58	7,373
19.	South Balaghat	28	N.A.
20.	South Seoni	18	1,595
21.	North Seoni	11	904
22.	East Chhindwara	12	1,381
23.	West Chhindwara	13	N.A.
24.	South Chhindwara	24	3,310
25.	Indore	89	5,626
26.	Jhabua	N.A.	N.A.
27.	Dewas	20	837
28.	Dhar	44	N.A.
29.	East Kargone	79	27,956
30.	West Kargone	88	N.A.
31.	North Betul	51	7,121
32.	South Betul	45	4,538
33.	Hoshangabad	53	N.A.
34.	Nepa	1	3,016
35.	Harda	53	N.A.
36.	North Khandwa	48	40,559
37.	South Khandwa	45	9,074
38.	Jabalpur	10	924
39.	Damoh	1	119
40.	Narsimhpur	13	859
41.	North Mandla	N.A.	N.A.
42.	Sagar	10	623
43.	South Mandla	114	-
44.	East Bhopal	23	N.A.
45.	West Bhopal	61	9,807

S.No.	Name of Division.	Number of forest villages.	Estimated population.
1.	2.	3.	4.
47.	Sheopur Kalan	48	6,571
48.	Guna	42	346
49.	Tikamgarh	17	N.A.
50.	Shivpuri	75	2,610

Source:-Chief Conservator of Forests(MP).

Out of these roughly 678 villages were actually revenue villages in Forest areas in M.B. and Bhopal regions of Madhya Pradesh. There were a few forest villages in V.P. region but they were set up not with the intention of providing labour force for the exploitation of forests but for providing drum-beaters for Shikar (wild game).

6.8 The Forest Policy Committee, Madhya Pradesh (1951) had the following to observe about the Forest villages. "The basic principle of establishing labour colonies for facilitating forest works is a sound one, but the Committee doubts if such villages are really necessary in developed tracts where labour is available in plenty. Elsewhere the Forest Department should provide full time employment to its villagers, guarantee adequate wages and reasonable amenities and make the conditions of residents so attractive that even without tenancy rights the residents would prefer to stay in them permanently. The present conditions are not altogether satisfactory and the fear of harassment by the forest officials is a serious draw-back. The time has also come when instead of establishing small hamlets in out of the way places, a beginning might be made to start larger labour camps



provided with modern amenities such as proper housing accommodation, school, dispensary, clean water, recreation and transport facilities, insurance benefits, etc."

6.9. There has been some criticism of the system of Forest villages in the recent past. It has been alleged in certain quarters that these villages were nothing short of slave labour camps as the workers do not get any tenancy rights on cultivable land in the villages and can be evicted for refusing to work as and when called upon to do so. We feel that an agreement with this contention would tantamount to taking a very uncharitable view of the situation. The facilities afforded for cultivation of land, grazing cattle, building houses, schooling of children etc. are in return of the condition regarding the availability of the residents for forest operations when needed and that too where cultivation was not likely to suffer due to prolonged absence from the village. Normally one person is taken from each household for plantations or forest works leaving the rest of the family for looking after the household, cattle, agriculture etc. There is absolutely no compulsion for them to settle in the village and work from them is not taken gratis. They are paid wages for the work done on the rates fixed by the Collector or the Divisional Forest Officer.

6.10. As long as the villages are within the Reserved Forests, no legal rights on the land can obviously be given. It has, however, been noted that "of late, the forest labourers from forest villages have failed to secure the main objective of providing labour for forest works". In recent years they have grown politically conscious and have been misled by politicians and a few others into violating the conditions of settlement in

Forest villages by avoiding to go on works (when asked to do so) on flimsy grounds and demanding proprietary rights on lands. Politicians have sought to capitalise on evictions if any ordered by Forest officials for violating the law.

6.11. There is evidence of a little bit of departmental rivalry between the Forest officials and officials of the Tribal Welfare Department. The latter (who, for certain controversial reasons, have largely refrained from extending their welfare activities to the tribals living in the forest villages) have often accused the forest officials of exploiting the tribals (forest villagers) and preventing their economic well being. The former have also accused the officials of the other Department of misleading the ignorant and championing a wrong cause. We can not do better can quote from the Report of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission (1960-61) -which described the tenure in forest villages as "Tenancy on sufferance" -

"It is not denied that the residents of such villages enjoy some amenities provided by the Forest Department .....(para 12.32)

"..... The charge that forest villagers are no better than serfs is not justified (para 12.34)". This Commission while admitting the legal difficulties and also indirectly the security of tenure in these words: "As long as the land given for temporary cultivation remains a part of the reserved forest, it is obvious that occupancy rights cannot be given to them. The hereditary principle is tacitly recognised "(para 12.34), had made a recommendation (in self contradiction but based on its "feelings") that "security of tenure should be assured to the tribals" in other words to the Forest villagers a majority of whom were tribals. Whatever was

the real basis for such a recommendation, a few politicians took advantage of such pronouncements for inciting the forest villagers to demand tenancy rights which if conceded would knock out the very basis for which these villages were organised by the Forest Department viz. ensuring uninterrupted availability of labour for forest operations, in return for certain facilities and concessions. The basic objective was certainly not "tribal welfare".

Whatever amenities were provided in Forest villages by the Forest Department, were more in the nature of labour welfare activities. The Commission's arguments that "the tribal who formerly regarded himself as the lord of the forests was through a deliberate process turned into a subject and placed under the Forest department"; that "Tribal villagers were no longer an essential part of the forests but were there merely on sufferance"; and that "the traditional rights of the tribals were no longer recognised as rights" have considerable emotional appeal. Perhaps three things were overlooked while presenting these arguments viz.-

- 1) There is no evidence of conversion of tribal Abadi villages into Forest villages (which were established in reserved forests and where people were brought for settlement and allowed to carry out agriculture and animal husbandry). They were only expected to help in development, preservation and rational exploitation of forests;

- 2) The development of forests and their exploitation was to be for the benefit of all people and not of persons living in primitive civilization alone. The primitiveness could not have been allowed to continue for all time to come;

- 3) The tribals inhabiting the forests were exploited, no doubt, by contractors and forest officials. They took

advantage of their ignorance and simplicity but the basic objectives of the Forest Policies declared so far were utilisation of the forest wealth for the benefit of all people and did not imply the exploitation of the tribals. Our objective in saying so is not to criticize the work of such an august Commission but only to pin-point the purpose of establishing Forest villages, which would be lost in the whirlwind of such controversies. Indiscipline is gradually creeping in because of political machinations. It would ultimately make the problem of recruiting labour for Forest operations increasingly difficult. Other problems of an industrial civilization would, follow as a matter of course.

6.12 A solution to the problem of giving land to the landless workers and also to the problem of giving tenancy rights to the cultivating forest villagers would perhaps lie in the conversion of all agricultural land within the forest villages into State farms wherein all forest villagers, whether having land or landless, can be asked to work, when not engaged in forest operations, and to share the proceeds of the harvests in the proportion of the quantum of labour put in. In that case the farms can also be improved by inputs of fertilisers etc. to give better returns. The issue might arouse some controversy but needs fuller examination for the benefit of the forest worker.

6.13. In recent years efforts have been made to organise co-operative societies of Forest labourers especially in the Tribal areas. The membership of these societies is generally, though not exclusively, of tribals and these societies are also available for taking up works other than those directly connected with the exploitation of forest wealth. The services of these societies have been extensively tried to be made use of by the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Co-operative Development Corporation in executing

their contracts. Difficulties have, however, to be faced very often in obtaining even the members of such societies during the agricultural seasons for forest operations.

6.14. These societies should, as a matter of fact, have gone a long way to materialize the expectations of the M.P. Forest Policy Committee (1951) expressed in the following words: "If labour gangs are organised and their programme is properly arranged, not only forest operations will be more satisfactorily carried out but what is more important, the petty inconveniences caused to the labour eliminated". These societies have failed, in our judgement, to be as effective as they should have been for three reasons:

- 1) There has been no realization of its utility by the tribals; and these societies have not been born of their urge to forge a cooperative movement. These have been born mostly of the attempts of Tribal and Cooperation Department officials to reach the targets prescribed for them for organizing such societies.
- 2) There is lack of proper programming for such societies; its members are not assured of regular jobs throughout the year. As a matter of fact these societies have not been actually constituted as labour gangs even though their names so suggest;
- 3) The authoritarian approach of the field officials has added to a misunderstanding of the purpose of such a movement. The tribal (who is generally a forest worker) thinks that he and the forest belong to each other and no outsider has any business to meddle in their affairs. Tribals have a very keen sense of cooperation but it seems that the right approach

to the tribal mind is perhaps yet to be made.

We shall have more to discuss about the role of forest labour cooperative societies in some of the following pages.

6.15. Reverting back to the problem of availability of labour for forest operations especially during the agricultural seasons, one is often inclined to seek a solution in the evolution or development of a labour force which was divorced from agriculture and was available for uninterrupted employment in forest works throughout the year. In other words, the problem is essentially that of decasualisation. It would also be seen that unless forest labour is decasualised it may not be feasible to do much for bettering their conditions of work and living. Decasualisation would, of course, call for a detailed examination of the different types of forest operations, the industries which can be based on forest produce and carried out throughout the year in different areas with a view to so phasing and dovetailing the programmes as to provide employment opportunities to all types of workers in forests and allied works throughout the year. The task is an arduous one specially because a majority of the labour force engaged in forest operations is the local tribal population whose attachment to their land is preponderant. Unless efforts are made to divert a section of this population from agriculture to other occupations through education and other measures such as provision of employment opportunities in other trades, a solution to the problem may not be well within reach. Perhaps in due course when the tribals are more educated and have shed their indifference towards their economic uplift it would be easier to train and divert

them to other remunerative trades. At present, it is largely their indifference towards their own economic uplift which prevents much that could be done for improving their lot.

6.16. It is felt that education (preparation of a mental frame of the desired bent) of the tribals in their own way and attempts to decasualise forest labour could help in the evolution of a committed or stabilized labour force for eventually displacing the present system of recruitment and casual employment for forest operations. It needs to be recalled that many employments in our country have had to go initially through such a phase where recruitment of labour was quite unsatisfactory resulting in the emergence of a large floating population of uncommitted labour force. But as industry grew, as avenues for employment expanded, as the needs of industry called for higher skills, it no longer was considered desirable to have a large uncommitted labour force. A stabilized labour force was now recognised as a necessity, although even now, the organised industry has not been able to do away completely with casual labour even though the percentage of casual labour to total labour force has certainly come to be negligible. Such a change in forestry would, however, call for the provision of avenues for employment in forests and forest based industries throughout the year, development of necessary skills and gradual introduction (and acceptance) of more modern and scientific techniques. We shall examine shortly the role that forest based industries can play in such an effort but before doing so it may be desirable to review briefly the conditions of work, wage structure and wage differentials etc. in forest operations in M.P.

Absenteeism

7.1 There is a fairly high rate of absenteeism amongst the forest workers coming from out-side forest villages the reasons for which are mainly as follows :-

- (i) The forest labour is not decasualised and is not a regular stabilised labour force. The casual nature of their work adds to their indifference and they like to abstain on the slightest excuse for doing so.
- (ii) Opportunities of employment in agriculture push up the rate of absenteeism during the agricultural seasons.
- (iii) Absenteeism is often a mode of protesting against some alleged wrong done to them.
- (iv) Accidents, illnesses in the family, important events in the family, social functions etc. often keep the workers away from work. Since they are generally not given any leave with pay they care little for obtaining leave sanctions in advance.
- (v) The tribals, who form the majority of the workers in forest areas of Madhya Pradesh are so very often indifferent towards their economic advancement that they hardly care to earn ~~and~~ and save for to-morrow if they have enough for the day.
- (vi) Some workers often get drunk on the 'Hat' day and are unable to return to work on the next day.

7.2 Employers of forest labour often resort to such practices as retaining a part of the wages, offering alcoholic drinks before or after work to ensure attendance. These measures, undesirable though they may be, very often succeed. Sometimes they fail to click also. The giving of job contracts instead of employing persons on daily wage basis (as the contractors are not sure of the number of days the worker would turn up for work) is very common.



It is felt that with the extension of education, enlightenments of the working force, forest work becoming more remunerative etc. there would be a change in the right direction. Decasualisation of forest labour as suggested else-where would be an important step forward in bringing down the rate of absenteeism.

#### WAGES AND EARNINGS:

8.1 There is no machinery for fixing of wages of forest labour in Madhya Pradesh and perhaps no principles for the fixation of such wages. In most of the areas daily wage rates are fixed by the Collectors or the Divisional Forest Officers more or less arbitrarily; such rates are normally paid in the forests exploited departmentally. But the rates which the contractors pay vary depending upon the availability of labour during different periods, skill of the workers, urgency of the job and other factors. Even if he employs people on piece-rate basis, the rate is such that the daily earning of the worker would be around the rate fixed by the Collector or the Divisional Forest Officer, unless availability of labour is less and he is in a hurry to complete exploitation before his lease expires.

8.2 The contractors prefer to employ workers on piece wage basis. A very small percentage of the workers is employed on daily wage basis. It has been the feeling of the forest contractors that persons insisting on daily wage system are generally not good workers. They do not like to be paid on the piece rate because they are not sure of their performance. There might be a grain of truth in this assertion but we had found no reliable evidence to support it. On the contrary, we found that contractors liked to employ workers on job contract basis because they could get more quality work done for the same amount as would have been paid by way of daily wages. Necessity of supervision is also avoided to a considerable extent. Workers cannot complain against payment of lower wages and the contractor has enough scope for giving less wages by finding some fault or the other with the work. Governmental, quasi governmental agencies or

corporate bodies such as Forest Labour Co-operative societies or M.P.T.C. Development Corporation prefer to employ workers on daily wage basis largely because of facility in accounting. There was, however, evidence of the fact that in eastern districts of Madhya Pradesh the system of paying on daily wage basis was more prevalent than in western districts of Madhya Pradesh. The daily wage rate was very near the wage normally earned by a person working on piece rate.

8.3. The wages, towards the end of 1967 for an adult male unskilled worker were around Rs.1.50 per day in eastern districts of the State and Rs.2.00 per day in Malwa region. The wage rates for female and child workers were slightly less. The wages for semi-skilled workers ranged between Rs.2 to Rs.3 per day but there was a wide variation in the rates payable to skilled workers in different areas. For example, a black-smith was paid Rs.5/- per day, a carpenter Rs.6.00 and a painter Rs.7.50 per day in East Kharone Division. As against this, rates ranged between Rs.2.50 to Rs.5/- for similar trades in Sidhi. The table given as appendix XII gives the normal rates of wages prevalent in different Forest Divisions during 1967-68.

8.4. Wage differentials are found to exist in different parts of the State during different periods of time for different types of jobs or even for identical jobs. As has already been indicated, the forest villagers are generally employed on departmental works on the rates of wages fixed by the district authorities or Divisional Forest Officers. But the wages in employment by contractors have usually been determined by the forces of demand for and supply of labour. Normally labour is not expected to be employed on rates lower than those fixed by Governmental agencies. It is the business of the Forest Department officials to ensure that lower rates were not paid but one should not be surprised if the forest contractor takes advantage of availability of enough labour and pays wages at rates lower than those fixed by the Government. Fairly higher wages have, however, to be paid for attracting labour during the sowing and harvesting seasons. Similarly, higher wages for night halts (generally Rs 0.10 to 0.25 per day

from the worker's villages) and to those workers who are unable to return to their village homes for days together (because of non-availability of transport or the distance) and are obliged to stay at the work sites only. The tribal is also usually reluctant to go away from his kith and kin and familiar surroundings for work. The wage rates for forest operations near the plains and at lesser heights (where it is also not very difficult to obtain labour) are comparatively lower. There is considerable difficulty in getting skilled labour for working in the interior of forests. Such labour is scarce, is not assured of work throughout the year in the forests and wage rates offered to them are often not very attractive. The forest officials sometimes find it difficult to get skilled workers such as blacksmiths or carpenters on rates fixed by the collectors.

8.5. It has already been indicated while dealing with recruitment and availability of labour that female labour is also employed on forest works. The employment of females is generally for collecting forest produce, stacking, cutting off branches, bringing water from distant places for workers, debarking, stone-breaking, road work, helping in charcoal burning and catechu making, Bamboo cutting etc. The rates of wages payable to female labour where working independently (i.e. not working jointly with her family on job contract basis) are generally less by about a quarter of a rupee than the rates paid to male workers. In south eastern districts of Madhya Pradesh the average female reportedly does more work than her male counterpart but gets lower wages. This differential ought to go if female labour performs harder or equal work.

8.6 Child labour, generally above 12 years of age is often found working along with other family workers engaged on job contract basis. Children are generally utilised for collection of minor forest produce and sometimes e.g. during school holidays, slightly grown up boys often take to felling trees also. They are normally treated on par with an adult female as far as the payment of daily wages is concerned. Where they help their parents on works the wages are paid on the

basis of the work done to the head of the family and it goes difficult to work out his contribution. In the case of minor forest produce the payment is made on the basis of forest produce collected and a child is able to earn between 50% to 75% of the normal adult earning.

8.7. The types of jobs normally performed by forest labourers are :-

- (i) Felling of trees and stacking of (a) Fuel in prescribed sizes; (b) Ballis upto 24" girth by numbers; (c) Logs above 24" girth by c.ft.;
- (ii) Cutting of bamboos;
- (iii) Transporting, loading and unloading;
- (iv) Debarking. The rate for debarking sal is generally higher.
- (v) Sawing
- (vi) Charcoal making
- (vii) Catechu making.

The last three categories are considered to be skilled jobs for which a little training is also necessary. Besides these, masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, painters etc. belonging to the skilled category are required for construction of forest rest houses and other jobs taken up departmentally in forest areas by the Forest Department. A higher wage rate is, therefore, paid for these trades depending on the skill of the worker. For other jobs, the rates of wages are more or less uniform in an area. The piece rates for different jobs in Madhya Pradesh are currently around the rates given below :-

(i) Felling and logging of timber:

Rs.0.25 per c.ft. over 18" girth for timber with bark and Rs.0.35 per c.ft. over 18" girth for debarked timber.

The rates for Ballies are generally as follows:

- (i) 9" -12" girth Rs.0.10 each
- (ii) 12"-15" girth Rs.0.15 each
- (iii) 15"-18" girth Rs.0.25 each.

(ii) Felling and stacking of Fuel trees:

For stacks of 6 ft. x 3 ft. x 3 ft. from Rs.1.50 to Rs.2.00 in departmental works and on contract works for stacks of 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 4 ft. Rs.1.25 to Rs.1.50 per stack.

(iii) Loading and Unloading:

Rs.0.75 per stack.

(iv) Rs.2.00 per bag for charcoal making.

8.8. During the open working season the daily earning of an average hard worker would range from Rs.2.50 to Rs.3.00 and that of a family from Rs.5 to Rs.6 per day. Poor workers may earn from Rs. 1.25 to Rs.2.00 per day depending upon the labour put in by them.

8.9. The labour from Rajasthan is more skilled in charcoal making and is employed even in distant places like Raigarh and Raipur. The employment is generally on piece rate basis. Labour from Bihar and Orissa also comes to Raipur and Raigarh. The rates paid to such outside workers are generally competitive.

8.10. Wherever cultivation is developed the wage-rate for forest work is found to be higher. It is directly in proportion to the degree of cultivation in a particular tract. For these reasons the wage rates in Malwa region are slightly higher than in the south-eastern districts of the State. Unskilled labour is also available in plenty in the eastern and south eastern districts than in the western districts.

8.11. The labour engaged in the collection of minor forest produce such as, -kullu gum, Dhawada gum, Phool Bahari, Rosha grass, Moheline, Honey, Wax, Mahuwa flower, Mahuwa seed, Tendu patta etc. is paid on the basis of the quantity of average quality produce collected. Their earnings through collection of minor forest produce are generally not substantial except for such produce where collection is a whole day's work e.g. Tendu-Patta, Mahua flower and seeds. In the case of such other produce where it cannot be a whole day's job, it is more or less a side family occupation and an average family earns about Rs.150 to Rs.250 in about six months time while primarily engaged in other occupations such as agriculture etc.

8.12. The rates for kullu gum vary from Rs.0.40 to Rs.2.00 per kg. for Dhavda gum from Rs.0.75 to Rs.1.50 per kg., Mahul leaves from Rs.0.06 to 0.20, Mahuwa flowers Rs.0.10 to Rs.0.25 and Rs.1.50 for 100 gaddis of Tendu patta each gaddi having 50 leaves. An idea of the rates paid for such produce can be had from the

table given as Appendix XIII. This table also gives an idea of the rates paid by the M.P.State Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation. It has been alleged that the benefit of increased rates paid by this Corporation does not actually go to the forest workers. They were paid the normal rates which were being paid earlier and with which the tribal was more familiar, the difference being pocketed by unscrupulous or corrupt agents. These allegations may not be wholly true. There is, however, a need for constant vigil in this behalf else the objectives of setting up this Corporation would be undermined.

8.13. The three years preceding 1968-69 were years of droughts and scarcity and the forest labourers were more interested in getting foodgrains than in cash wages. Availability of food grains on reasonable prices was more important to them and they preferred to work for contractors rather than on departmental works if the contractors could arrange to supply foodgrains and some other important requisites, such as salt, at work sites on reasonable rates. Some contractors did try to provide these commodities on reasonable prices against a part of the wages and some made a profit even in this deal. It must be said to the credit of M.P.S.T.C.D.C. that they had opened a number of fair price shops where these commodities were supplied on fair prices. Even though the wages had gone slightly up the real wages during this period had gone down considerably low.

8.14. In short the wage differentials have generally been due to -

- (i) Distance from residence to work place
- (ii) Adequate availability or otherwise of labour
- (iii) Nature of job.
- (iv) Prices of foodgrains and other necessities
- (v) The terrain and location of the coupes or areas of working e.g. rates were higher for working in hilly areas or dacoit-infested areas.
- (vi) Availability of outside labour skilled or unskilled during December to May.

8.15. In the course of our investigations we found that increases in wages in recent years have not been consistent with the increase in the prices of foodgrains and other necessities. In south eastern districts of the State, the daily wage rates increased from Rs.0.50 in 1960 to Rs.0.75 in 1962 to Rs.1.00 in 1964 to Rs.1.50 in 1965. Since 1965 there has not been much change in the rates of wages fixed officially by district authorities even though slightly higher wage rates had to be paid during the busy seasons. In the western districts of Dewas, Kharone, Khandwa, Indore, Dhar etc. the wage rates had reportedly increased from Rs.0.37 per day in 1952 to about Rs.1.50 to Rs.2.00 per day in 1967.

8.16. As has been pointed out elsewhere the contractors like to ensure the availability of labour by giving advance wages (sometimes interest free) to the workers and adjusting the same against the work taken from them. This practice is more in vogue in the western and Central districts of the State than in the eastern and south eastern districts where the employers are reluctant to give wage advances on account of the difficulties of recovering the same from defaulters. The practice of giving advances appears to be more prevalent amongst Punjabi contractors in the State than amongst the local contractors. No advance wages are, however, given on departmental works. There have been a lot of complaints from both sides. The workers and social workers allege that the contractors recover much more than they give by way of wage advances by manipulating accounts whose accuracy can scarcely be questioned by the workers. The advances are often recovered in different possible ways from relations or co-villagers of defaulters or even of workers who died before completing their part of the contract to the satisfaction of the contractors. The contractors, on the other hand, allege that they have a lot of trouble realising the wage advances from the workers. Without going into this controversy we would only like to say that the tribal is generally honest in paying off his debts and such complaints are true about the non-tribal workers.

8.17. A word needs to be added about the payment of wages. The workers are usually paid weekly on the market day. Deductions from wages are often made for doing bad work. Some contractors prefer to retain a part

of the wages with a view to ensuring the presence of the worker during the following week. It appears to be a very common practice by the contractors. Allegations of manoeuvring the accounts, taking illegitimate advantage of the worker's illiteracy and ignorance while adjusting advance wages against work done are often made which ought to be checked. Many forest villagers alleged that, the contractor's 'munim who is often present at the coupe site adopted such techniques as delaying counting of stacks and later on refusing to accept some of them as having been put up by a particular worker, declaring work done or minor forest produce collected by them as sub-standard and paying a lower rate therefor, deliberately committing mistakes (to the disadvantage of the workers) in counting or measuring logs, in calculating wages and marking attendance etc. These allegations were denied by the contractors. It is possible that the contractors may not be directly involved in such exploitation and the Munims might be tempted to make a little easy money by cashing on the illiteracy and ignorance of the forest workers. Unfortunately there is nothing in the forest manual for preventing such exploitation. Such complaints against contractors are generally many but in the absence of any provision either in the Forest Manual or conditions of contract against such irregularities the forest officials are not able to take any action. Despite all this the trouble is not always one sided and the workers have often been allegedly found stealing a part of the produce and selling it to outsiders, idling away time and shirking work (if engaged on daily wage basis) if not being watched, really doing sub-standard work, playing deliberate mischief while logging or felling etc. (where not paid on piece rate). While some of the charges against the workers often hold good, one cannot lose sight of the fact that the contractors scarcely allow anybody to shirk work and always have on upper hand in paying for work extracted from workers. Sometimes wages or collection charges are not paid to a whole group of workers on charges of having stolen away some produce. The frustrated workers try to pay the devil off by other means. It is no doubt a pointer to the existence of dissatisfaction on the job, of unredressed grievances and of the helplessness of the workers against their exploitation in more than one way.



8.18. In departmental works carried out by the Forest Department, the labour is mostly drawn from the forest villages whose inhabitants are bound to work on the wage rates considered reasonable by the Forest Officers. There are allegations, however, of corrupt practices by the officials in the lower echelons of the Forest Department, such as demanding of 'Dasturi' on the pay day, payment of lower rates than those charged to Government by obtaining thumb impressions on muster rolls showing higher amounts than actually being paid, taking of personal work from the labourers while charging their wages to Government etc. but an unorganised and illiterate labour force does little (and can perhaps also do little) to protest against such malpractices when they know that in case of defiance they can be deprived of employment and also evicted from their houses and land in the forest village even on some cooked up charges.

8.19. It may not be possible in the existing circumstances to do anything revolutionary for emancipating the lot of the forest labourers in this regard yet the following measures can certainly be taken towards achieving that end:

- (i) The State's Labour Department can set up a Committee for determining the minimum wages of different categories of Forest labour and suggesting revisions as and when necessary with a view to giving at least a minimum wage to the forest workers. It is true that there would be difficulties in the enforcement of the minimum wage but ways and means of encountering those difficulties can be found out only when a beginning is made and some experience gained in that direction. The work of ensuring payment of the minimum wage can perhaps be made <sup>the</sup> joint and several responsibility of Labour and Forest Departments.
- (ii) Rules should be framed under appropriate Acts (perhaps Payment of Wages Act which can be suitably modified if necessary to include forest labour in its purview) to provide a wage card to each worker wherein

advances, if any, given and the adjustments made against payments for work can be indicated. In other cases, the quantum of work done, attendance, wages earned and paid, and dates of payment can be recorded therein by the employers. Till workers get to be educated some social workers have to help such workers in ensuring that correct entries are made in the card. Intensive and surprise physical checks on such entries by Forest/Labour officials can also help.

- (iii) Some incentive needs to be given to the Forest workers by way of payment of bonus for good work, regular attendance etc. It would also perhaps help in the development of a stable forest labour force in the State.
- (iv) Only reasonable deductions from wages should be made and no part of the wages should be allowed to be retained by the employer for ensuring attendance.
- (v) There should be equal pay for equal work and no discrimination in wage payments should be made on grounds of sex or age.
- (vi) Efficiency should be sought to be rewarded by payment of higher wages.
- (vii) Provision should be made for paid national holidays.
- (viii) Payment of wages should be made regularly.
- (ix) The forest manual should be modified for dealing effectively with cases of irregularities in payment of wages by contractors etc.

#### Conditions of Work:

9.1. The conditions of work in forest operations are by no means satisfactory. The labour engaged therefor, has to work in remote areas away from his home in somewhat trying conditions. The work by its very nature is physically strenuous. Its made all the more exacting by the contractors. The life is not so hard for those who live near the place of work but its indeed trying for those who have to spend a number of nights and days, away from their families/homes, in the interior and expose themselves to the vagaries of nature.

9.2. The hours of work do not normally exceed nine and the workers get a rest interval of about two hours during noon. The problems which the workers normally face at the work site are (i) Accommodation; (ii) drinking water; (iii) bathing and washing facilities; (iv) Medical facilities; (v) Transport; (vi) Rations and (vii) Recreation. They are normally required to construct thatched hutments themselves near the work sites. These huts, as a matter of fact, do not offer anything more than bare protection against direct exposure to rain or sun and in the winter months the workers have to keep fire burning throughout the night for keeping them warm.

9.3. Normally transportation facilities are not provided by the Forest Department to workers for going to work sites from their homes daily. Some workers even cover a distance of 10 kms. each way for going to and coming back from work. It directly affects their capacity to work. Lack of facilities for keeping families at the place of work often distract the workers and is sometimes an important cause of absenteeism amongst forest labourers especially in Chhatisgarh region. Some contractors arrange to transport workers from their villages to the work sites if the terrain permits and also to bring drinking water for workers in trucks etc. Pure drinking water is usually not available in the interior areas. The workers have often to go long distances for bathing, washing and bringing drinking water for themselves where it is not provided by the employers. Many forest workers are very orthodox. Caste considerations weigh heavily with them and they refuse to drink water fetched or drawn by a fellow worker belonging to a lower caste.

9.4. The workers in remote areas also need foodgrains, salt, tobacco or Bidi, alcoholic drinks (their hot favourite) etc. which are usually not available on work sites. The contractors try to provide these facilities also wherever and as far as possible. Otherwise workers have to bring their own rations while coming for work or on Hat days from the nearest Hat.

9.5. There are virtually no medical facilities and no facilities for entertainment at the work sites. Forest contractors claim to provide first aid facilities and to get the workers involved in accidents while working

treated in hospitals at their own cost but such contractors are exceptions than the rule. If a worker gets badly injured he is generally transported to the nearest hospital and is thereafter forgotten. He does not get any sick leave on full pay in case of accidents. Workers often apply indigenous herbs or medicines for a cure. The Forest Department also does not provide any medical facilities on work sites but sometimes paludrin tablets are given as a prophylactic against malaria. ~~Ordinary~~ first aid facilities are also sometimes available.

9.6. The entertainment facilities on work sites are practically none and the contractors do little to provide any. In Departmental works also such facilities are not given. The workers try to forget their worries, families and homes by singing and dancing together after taking drinks in the evening. Drinks are available or made available on payment by contractors some of whom are also Excise contractors besides being forest contractors.

#### Labour Welfare:

10.1. Amelioration of the conditions of work and living of labour is normally the responsibility of the employer but in the case of forest labour, contractors, who have been the main employers have always felt relieved of any responsibility in this behalf. The Forest department has, ofcourse, been doing something for providing certain amenities to the forest villagers though in a very small way. A small provision is made in the budget of the Forest Department annually for providing amenities in forest villages. It had also been included as a plan scheme in the previous three five year plans. A perusal of Appendix XIV would show that an expenditure of Rs.0.32 lakh was incurred on providing amenities to forest villagers in Madhya Pradesh in the First plan period; the expenditure during the second plan period was Rs.2.06 lakhs and during the third plan period Rs.5.40 lakhs. The shortfall in the targetted expenditure showed that the scheme was implemented casually and not very sincerely. The States of Maharashtra, Madras and Gujarat have been spending comparatively more than Madhya Pradesh. The progress of expenditure on this subject in Madhya Pradesh, as reported by the Chief Conservator of Forests, during the

previous few years has been as follows :-

1962	.. ..	Rs.	47,145
1963	.. ..	Rs.	64,734
1964	.. ..	Rs.	50,244
1965	.. ..	Rs.	1,35,882
1966	.. ..	Rs.	2,41,510
1967	.. ..	Rs.	1,33,098

10.2 The facilities which have been tried to be provided by the Forest Department can be classified as follows :-

- i) Medical and health facilities
- ii) Educational facilities
- iii) Construction of roads, sinking of wells, provision of drinking water
- iv) Others.

It would be desirable to review briefly the extent to which these facilities are available.

10.3 There are 11 Forest Circles in the State but the number of dispensaries (mobile) set up so far are seven. These dispensaries have their headquarters at -

- i) Barnawapara village in North Raipur Division.
- ii) Sankara village in South Raipur Division.
- iii) Achanakmar village in Bilaspur Division.
- iv) Amla village in South Chhindwara Division
- v) Mukki village in North Balaghat Division
- vi) Boroani village in Hoshangabad Division and
- vii) Goflapalli village in Bastar Division. Five out of these seven dispensaries were reported to be functioning without a doctor. Fortunately for the Forest villagers a compounder was attached to each dispensary and he distributed paludrin tablets, supervised spray of D.D.T., dressed ordinary wounds and distributed carminative, cough, Bismuth and other mixtures according to his diagnosis of the disease. Since the vehicles had gone out of commission the mobile dispensaries had also become a sort of permanent fixtures in some of the important Forest villages. It is reported that doctors who are allotted by the Health Department for posting to these dispensaries are extremely reluctant to stay in Forest villages. There is some difficulty about the pay scales at

The Forest Department incurred an expenditure of Rs. 41,000/- on the maintenance and running of these dispensaries during 1966-67. About 20,000 outdoor patients were treated therein.

10.4. The Forest department incurred an expenditure of Rs. 38,885/- in running 47 primary schools and one carpentry school in the State for the benefit of the Forest villagers. The distribution of the schools students and teachers therein is as follows:

Division.	Village where located.	No. of students.	No. of teachers	
			Head-Master.	Assistant teachers.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

1. Bilaspur Circle:

1. Bilaspur	1. Katra	57	1	2
	2. Dongripani	78	1	2
			<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>

2. Raipur Circle:

1. South Raipur-				
	3. Risraon	120	1	2
	4. Anjhar	59	1	1
	5. Bhaismuda	65	1	1
	6. Dugli	114	1	2
	7. Angaon	114	1	1
	8. Jhunjgarakasa	113	1	1
2. North Raipur -				
	9. Barnawapara	90	1	2
3. South Durg -				
	10. Amabahara	62	1	1
			<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>

3. Balaghat Circle:

1. South Balaghat-				
	11. Nawagaon	17	-	1
2. South Seoni -				
	12. Karamjhiri	51	1	1
	13. Nawegaon	36	-	1
	14. Mohgaon	46	1	1
	15. Manikahar	52	1	1
3. South Chhindwara -				
	16. Anla	51	-	1
	17. Baipani	71	1	2
	18. Kuropani	32	-	1

Division.	Village where located.	No. of students.	No. of teachers	
			Head-Master.	Assistant teachers.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.

4. East-Chhindwara -	20. Barban	N.A.	-	1
5. West Chhindwara -	21. Piparia	48	-	1
			<u>4</u>	<u>12</u>

4. Central Circle:

1. Jabalpur-	22. Bagdari	18	-	1
2. South Mandla -	23. Kisli	18	-	1
	24. Kisli Bilwani	49	-	2
	25. Motinala	40	1	1
	26. Saida	51	-	2
	27. Mangli	60	1	2
3. North Mandla -	28. Malpathar	54	1	1
	29. Padaria	60	1	2
			<u>4</u>	<u>12</u>

5. Hoshangabad Circle:

1. Hoshangabad -	30. Bori	16	-	1
2. Harda -	31. Borpani	102	1	2
	32. Bora	45	-	1
	33. Barwani	27	4	1
3. North-Betul -	34. Baretha	32	-	1
	35. Ladi	38	-	1
	36. Dhar	29	-	1
	37. Keolajhir	36	-	1
	38. Kalapani	30	-	1
	39. Pholia	56	-	2
	40. Kuppa	24	-	1
4. South Khandwa -	41. Dhakna	46	-	1
	42. Amulla	33	-	1

Division.	Village where located.	No. of students.	No. of teachers	
			Head-Master.	Assistant teachers.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
	43. Kirgaon	30	-	1
	44. Avolia	19	-	1
5. North Khandwa -				
	45. Sukwa	34	-	1
	46. Bhoral	18	-	1
	47. Golkheda	36	-	1
			<u>1</u>	<u>20</u>
Total:-	47 Schools.	2316	19	57
		Students.	Head-Masters.	Teachers.

The total total number of Primary schools is thus 47 and the number of teachers 76 including 19 Head masters. There is one carpentary school in Garhi village in North Balaghat Division of Balaghat Circle. Looking to the number of forest villages- 2059 -the number of schools appear to be much less. It was, however, noticed that the attendance in these schools has not been encouraging despite the fact that education was free and books and slates etc. were supplied free to the students. Our enquiries revealed that parents were not very anxious to send their children to the schools. If at all they succumbed to the persuasion of the school teacher they rarely allowed their children to complete one full term in the school. The children were themselves averse to the discipline of the village teacher; the parents, on the other hand, liked the children to look after younger children at home when they went to work, to take cattle for grazing, to watch the agricultural lands while crops were growing, to lend a hand in tilling the soil and in collecting forest produce which would bring some money. Our feeling is that there is need for intensive extension work in forest villages. The forest villagers would not be averse to sending children to the schools once they are convinced of the long-run advantage of getting the children educated. A few instances came to our notice where children of enlightened forest villagers have risen to become Gazetted Officers in the Forest Department. It was allowed in certain



quarters that the forest department officials discouraged parents from sending children to school for fear of lessening the labour force but the allegation appeared to be incorrect.

10.5. The Forest Department has been trying to sink wells in the Forest villages for providing drinking water, constructing fair weather and boulder roads and culverts for improving communications. It was reported to us that nearly 60% of the villages had been provided with drinking water wells. 200 wells were proposed to be sunk and 370 wells remodelled during the third plan period of which 113 wells had been sunk, 57 partly constructed and 93 remodelled. The work has not made satisfactory progress. Nevertheless, the realization of such a need of the forest worker is by itself a welcome feature. The callous apathy to the needs of such villagers is gradually waning off.

10.6. Under the terms of settlement, the Forest department is under an obligation to give taccavi loans on easy terms either in cash or as seed to the forest villagers for the purchase of bullocks or carts etc. upto Rs.500/- per individual. Interest is presently charged at the rate of Rs.6.25% per annum. The principal alongwith interest is recoverable after the next crop season. If the Forest villager required another advance, it was granted after the previous advance had been recovered in full alongwith the interest. The number of instalments for refund are not fixed but the villagers are allowed to refund the loan in easy instalments in a year's time. The forest villager needs financial assistance in the form of loans for improvement of land, purchase of seeds, fertilisers, purchase of implements etc. but is unable to get the same as the Forest department does not give loans for these purposes and they cannot raise loans as they have little security to offer. They cannot raise loans on the security of the land tilled by them because they don't own it. There has been a lot of consciousness amongst the land holders and landless alike in forest villages. While the landless clamours for allotment of land, the land holders want legal rights to permanent tenure being given. The cultivable land in reserved forests being limited it is not possible to allot land

to the increasing number of landless workers. There are legal difficulties in granting of permanent tenure to land holders in reserved forests. A few politicians have whipped up the feeling of being exploited in the minds of forest villagers and incited them to press their claims to tenancy rights, not going to work when called for etc. A remedy would perhaps lie in providing for grant of loans for improvement of land and purchase of agricultural implements etc. on the security of the crops raised by the forest villagers.

10.7. It would not be out of place to mention here the role that the Tribal Welfare department can play in ameliorating the conditions of living of the forest villagers who are predominantly tribal. Unfortunately, due to certain misunderstandings and misgivings the welfare of the forest villagers has been left completely out of the orbit of the Tribal Welfare department. The Tribal Welfare Department is mainly concerned with ameliorating the socio-economic conditions of the tribal population. If it extends its activities to the forest villages also keeping in mind the purpose for which forest villages were established and safeguarding the interests of the Forest Department, a lot of good can be done to the forest villagers and indirectly to the forest labour. This aspect needs to be examined very carefully at the highest level in the State.

10.8. There are certain other fields where welfare measures and certain benefits need to be assured to the forest labourers. There are even no paid national holidays for the workers which should be given. ~~Weekly paid rests~~ weekly paid rests should also be allowed.

10.9. Besides, legislation, there is an urgent need for making adult education compulsory in the forest villages and for forest workers elsewhere also and providing necessary facilities therefor. It is also necessary to provide some financial incentive by way of scholarships etc. for sending children to school. Financial incentives would atleast help in solving the economic reasons for which parents often decide against sending children to school. Some safeguard would have to be provided (e.g. payment of scholarship in 2 instalments, recovery of full amount if the child fails to attend the school for the full term without any reasonable

excuse) so that undue advantage is also not taken of the welfare measures.

#### XI - Socio-Economic Conditions of Forest Workers:

11.1. In a study of Forest Labour in Madhya Pradesh, it would be worthwhile to review very briefly the consumption patterns and modes of living. A comparison of a tribal forest worker with a non-tribal worker would be relevant. The tribal worker is a specimen of good health and bliss and his house a picture of neatness and cleanliness. A non-tribal even though economically more prosperous and well to do than a tribal, is neither so healthy nor so happy. Some of the non-tribals belong to the scheduled castes, some to the trading class etc. Even though a lot of funds have been spent on the amelioration of the conditions of tribals, the benefits thereof have indirectly flown to the non-tribals in numerous ways, but largely due to the ignorance and simplicity of the tribal folk.

11.2. The tribals have a very rigid discipline, code of conduct and manner of social inter-course all in some way or the other having a religious sanctity. Their virtuousness and righteousness are remarkable. The non-tribal even though living side by side with a tribal is somewhat different and not so virtuous or righteous either.

11.3. The differences in dress and food are not so marked though the non-tribal workers dress and food habits give an idea of their being economically slightly better off. The forest workers normally wear a small Dhoti or Langoti, a Pagari (sort of turban) and sometimes a Bandi (Jacket). In eastern districts they are very fond of deep blue, bluish-green and reddish-brown coloured dresses but are scantily clothed. The female workers wear rough coloured saris and a few of them occasionally a blouse. In western districts coloured phanpā or lahangā, chunri or rough sari are common dresses. Rajasthani labour wears very coloured dresses; their ladies wear a brassiere-cum-blouse, a printed coloured lahangā (sort of petti-coat) and a chunri. They are very fond of crude ornaments, lac bangles and are extremely shabby though very hard-working. In some parts of Bastar, tribal women are in a sort of topless sari. The reasons for their

being so scantily clothed are their poverty and a deep desire for acclimatization. Their desire to identify themselves with nature is overwhelming. They put on nominal clothes only for modesty's sake. Footwear is not very popular with the tribal labour in the eastern districts of the State. Those who put on any footwear, wear shoes or chappals made of raw hide or chappals with rubber-tyre soles. The Rajasthani labour (both male and female) likes to wear locally tanned leather shoes.

11.4. The food of the forest workers is generally Jowar, Kodon, Kutki, Maize, Bajra, Mahua etc. Some are fond of meat, fish and game-birds etc. but the main items are inferior foodgrains, jungle fruits etc. The foodgrains are generally grown on their own fields or obtained in lieu of something from the producers. The agricultural productivity being poor in hilly tracts, agriculture is not a very paying proposition. Some, therefore, like to supplement their incomes by other sources. Landless workers who do not have avenues of continued employment often have to live on edible fruits, seeds, roots etc. for days together. Their condition is worse during years drought. All of them are fond of toddy or locally brewed spirits/wines. Those who go for work deep inside the forests like to wind up the evenings with toddy and dance and music.

11.5. Most of the forest workers own earthen utensils. Some ofcourse own brass, pheel or Kaskut utensils but such people are not generally many.

11.6. The tribal forest worker because of his poor income, rising expenditure on account of rise in prices and also on account of his tendency to spend beyond his means on social functions like marriage, births, death-ceremonies etc. is often indebted. He also incurs debts for investment in agriculture, e.g. purchase of seed, bullocks etc. A recent study made by the Tribal Welfare Department of Madhya Pradesh shows the difference in average per capita annual income and per capita annual expenditure in tribal areas in different parts of the State :-

Area/Zone.	Per capita income.	Per capita expenditure.
	(Rs.)	(Rs.)
Eastern	143.8	174.12
Western	194.6	226.92
Central	200.0	233.76

The standard of living of tribals judged from their per capita expenditure was lowest in southern and eastern districts. The condition in Central Zone was certainly better than in the Western Zone. The extent and incidence of indebtedness is highest in Western Zone followed by Eastern and Central Zones. In the Southern Zone the tribal economy is not essentially deficit.

11.7. The tribal worker borrows not only for consumption and festivities but for liquor also. The money-lender is often the liquor vendor also. He may also be the village trader. They dupe ignorant tribals by falsifying accounts and by charging very high rates of interest. The tribal is traditionally very honest and feels that he would not achieve salvation until his debts were paid off. So the custom of paying off father's or grand-father's debts by sons or grand-sons continues. That is why he is given loans without any security. This system of inherited indebtedness often leads to a sort of serfdom or bonded labour. The 'Hali' system, whereunder a person binds himself or his relatives or descendants to work (almost as slaves) for the money-lender till manumission is obtained by paying off the debts with interest in full, is an example of such bonded serfdom in Madhya Pradesh.

11.8. It would not be out of place to mention here that while giving foodgrains etc. on loan or selling foodgrains etc. to the tribal, the traders often use debased weights and while realising back or purchasing seeds or foodgrains a heavier weight is used. He is also duped in the matter of rates by the clever trader. Our purpose in pointing out these measures of ruthless exploitation is to emphasize the emergent need of protecting the tribal and other forest workers from such institutions so as to enable them to have a better living. The Tribal Welfare Department has tried to end such exploitation of the tribal (through usurious loans) by setting up Debt Courts and enacting Debt Relief Legislation. Despite all this, the tribal honours his tradition and allows to be exploited by these money-lender

XII. Forest based Industries:

12.1. The role which forests play in the economic development of any country through their numerous major and minor produce (with a multiplicity of uses) is fairly well known. The past few years have witnessed a growth of forest based industries in the country as also in Madhya Pradesh. These industries have provided employment to a large number of people in the State besides helping it to raise its revenues as also in earning some foreign exchange through exports. Our purpose in introducing this subject in our report is to show the position of forest based industries vis-a-vis the forest worker. While there may not be much scope for the employment of forest labour in large scale forest based industries, the potentialities of providing employment opportunities to a large number of forest labourers in small-scale and household industries/crafts are considerable especially because of their low capital requirements, and labour intensiveness. India is now already producing various types of Boards including ply-wood and fibre Board; Rayon and other staple fibres and has made considerable progress in the manufacture of Match sticks, paper, furniture, pencils, packing materials, Resins, turpentine and essential oils like sandal wood oil, palmrosa oil, euclyptus oil, tannis, sports goods, beats, battery separators and ammunition boxes, Railway sleepers and wagons, celluphone etc. Among the industries based on minor forest produce, there can perhaps be no better money spinner than the "Bidi Industry". Lac and Katha industries are also good money earners.

12.2. A perusal of Appendices IX, X and XI would give an idea of the industrial units, based on Forest products, registered under the Indian Factories Act. The total number of registered factories in each industry and the estimated average daily employment therein during 1966-67 was as follows:

	<u>No. of units.</u>	<u>Estimated daily employment.</u>
1. Saw Mills ..	158	3193
2. Manufacture of ply wood.	1	180
3. Furniture and general wood working ..	14	649
4. Paper ..	6	2669 (excluding

	<u>No. of units.</u>	<u>Estimated daily employment.</u>
5. Paper and straw Board	7	1038
6. Lac	12	454
7. Matches	2	65
8. Ayurvedic Medicines	4	190
9. Bidi	196	9143
10. Other products	4	200
	<hr/> 404 <hr/>	<hr/> 17,761 <hr/>

This is not all. There are a large number of small factories except in paper and straw Board manufacturing units which are not registered as factories but are engaged wholly in these industries. Its not possible for us at the moment to estimate the number of such unregistered units and the likely employment therein but the number of units would certainly not be less than 2½ times that of registered factories. Bidi industry alone gives employment to about 3 lakh workers.

12.3. There is still considerable scope for the development of industries based on forest produce. What is needed is a little research in the field and simplification of the processing techniques and industrial organisation so that the tribal population can get employment in these industries easily. The problem presently is that of providing employment opportunities all the year round to the forest labourers in and around their habitation which are located in wooded areas. This can be done by intensive development and exploitation of the forest resources, setting up adequate number of small and cottage industries training schools, providing for better educational facilities, giving incentives to tribals for sending their children to such schools and also motivating them through extension methods and other means to increase their earnings through cottage industries or employment in forest based industries and also by giving a lead by establishing some such industries in the forest areas. In case Forest Labour Cooperatives come forward to take to such industries the Cooperation Department may extend technical, financial and managerial assistance to them. We do not see any harm in even allowing individuals

developing such industries with State assistance or in outsiders setting up such industries in forest areas with or without the help of the State Government. There are obvious advantages in it. There would be a development of forest based industries, better utilisation of major and minor produce locally and employment opportunities would be provided to the local population. Some of the industries which can be developed within and around the forests are :-

- i) Wood seasoning and preservation;
- ii) Saw mills;
- iii) Furniture and wood working;
- iv) Basket and bamboo boxes, furniture and mats;
- v) Match industry;
- vi) Straw board, plywood, insulation boards, hard boards, chip boards etc.
- vii) Charcoal and charcoal briquettes;
- viii) Catechu;
- ix) Bidi;
- x) Wood working - manufacture of doors, windows and other frames, ammunition boxes, reeds, battery separators, electrical casings etc.
- xi) Scales, slates, rules, tool handles, etc.
- xii) Pencils;
- xiii) Hand paper from grass, barks and pulp;
- xiv) Fodder processing;
- xv) Lac manufacture and lac products;
- xvi) Starch from tamarind and deseeding tamarind;
- xvii) Rope making;
- xviii) Distillation of alcohol from Mahua;
- xix) Distillation of essential oils, etc. from Rusa, khus and other grasses, mahua etc.
- xx) Soap making from fatty oils;
- xxi) Processing, preparation of sweets and confectionery from chironji and packing thereof;
- xxii) Manufacture of vinegar, pickles, jams, jellies etc.
- xxiii) Extraction of tannins;
- xxiv) Extraction of neem oil;
- xxv) Conversion into dry ginger and turmeric;
- xxvi) Manufacture of colours from indigo;
- xxvii) Cellulose
- xxviii) Manufacture of Tassar and kosa cloth;
- xxix) Collection, classification and packing of herbs for preparation of medicines;
- xxx) Teak veneers.



This list is only exemplary and not exhaustive. Industries for grass processing, fibre making from barks etc. can also be developed. Some minor forest produce can also be cultivated as an industry. There is a lot of scope in Madhya Pradesh for the development of such industries. These can provide large employment opportunities to the forest labourers when they are not engaged in forest operations. The initial responsibility of providing marketing facilities should be that of the State. Forest labour cooperative societies can gradually take up these functions if they are developed enough to do so. We visualise a day when a few of the tribal forest workers would come forward to take up production and marketing of such goods from their own resources.

Other Untapped sources of income:

13.1. The forest labourer can have other sources of side incomes besides the wage earned from forest operations and collection of minor forest produce. He can take to dairy, pisciculture, piggery and poultry farming, flaying, leather tanning and manufacture of leather goods, taxidermy etc. These can be extremely remunerative side trades. What is needed is that some body should show them the way, help them financially in taking to such side trades individually or through Forest labour cooperative societies and in marketing of their products. Necessary training and skill in the processing of products has to be imparted through simple methods. They have also to be motivated through extension methods to take to such trades. It has to be explained, in their own way, and they have to be made to realize the advantages of taking to such side occupations for bettering their lot.

13.2. Besides, we would recommend continuous research (in the Forest, Industries and Tribal Welfare departments of the State) in new and better ways of utilising forest produce, development of new products, avenues of developing new industries and trades based on forest resources and the resources of the tribals so that economic betterment of these economically backward and exploited people is not stagnated. Inter departmental rivalries must end and there should be properly coordinated utilization of the researches of these departments. For this

purpose a Board consisting of the representatives of these Departments (including Labour and Cooperation) can be set up.

Trade Unionism:-

14.1. Trade Unionism amongst the Forest labourers has till very recently been conspicuous by its absence in this State. Even after the registration under the Trade Unions Act of two Unions namely M.P. Forest Karamchari Sangh, Indore (Reg.No.910) on September,4,1967 and Vangram Mazdoor Sangh (East Nimar), Chandani (Reg.No.978) on January 5,1968 with memberships of 30 and 26 respectively, there is hardly any evidence of the realization of the advantages of unionisation amongst the large mass of forest labourers in this State. The extent to which even these two unions are able to function effectively can be judged only after these unions have worked for sometime.

14.2. The main reasons for the lack of trade unionism amongst forest labourers are :-

- (i) Illiteracy, ignorance and indifference of the tribal forest workers;
- (ii) Non-existence of a decasualised or regular forest labour force;
- (iii) Instability of employment due to shifting work locations;
- (iv) Remoteness and lack of easy accessibility of work areas and forest villages making them less vulnerable to the politicians and professional trade union leaders.

14.3. There have been some instances of the support of political workers being available to the forest workers in some areas especially in Durg and Raipur districts in the East and Khandwa and Kargone districts in the West. Refusal to go compulsorily for work when called on some pretext or the other, asking for permanent tenure rights on reserved forest land are some of the things, the tribal forest worker has been incited to do in recent years. But there has been an absence of concerted action or approach by forest labourers.

14.4. There has been practically no growth of leadership amongst such workers from within their ranks and outside leaders have not found it profitable for themselves to work for the amelioration of the conditions of such unorganised <sup>and</sup> ignorant masses. The village headman, Mukaddam or Patel through whom local labour is often

employed is usually respected by the fellow workers and he is very often the spokesman of the labourers in dealing with contractors and officials etc. There has been little evidence of the headman committing anything on behalf of his co-villagers without consulting them.

EMPLOYERS' ORGANISATIONS:

15.1. There is a small number of organisations of contractors engaged in the exploitation of Forests. Some important organisations exist at Indore, Sagar, Raipur and Jabalpur. These organisations have been organised more with a view to wresting contracts on more favourable terms from the State Government and for the combined representation of matters of their interest to the Government. There has been little evidence of these organisations indulging directly into activities detrimental to the interests of the forest labourers even though doubts have been expressed in certain quarters about their secretly deciding against paying wage rates higher than those fixed by the association to the forest workers.

Industrial Relations :-

16.1. The relations between the forest labourers and their employees are widely different from the relations obtaining between the workers and management in industrial organisations. Such relations on forest works are more on person-to-person basis and more personalized than in the factory situation. Lack of organisation amongst the tribal and non-tribal forest workers has helped the forest contractors especially to maintain the primitive type of relations between the master and the servants. Such relations have existed since long despite several malpractices indulged into by the forest contractors largely because of the lack of employment opportunities to forest workers in the State. Even though the most considerate forest contractor has only thought of maximising his profits in all possible ways, no case of strike or concerted action or demonstration has come to our notice. It might be due to an awe of the forest official, the need for employment opportunities or for any other reason. The forest workers approach has generally been of humble submissiveness or mute non-cooperation. It was rarely marked with violence.

16.2. The channels of ventilating grievances open to forest workers, engaged in departmental works are appeals to higher authorities (than the Forest Ranger) who go largely by the reports of their sub-ordinates in such matters, almost invariably to the disadvantage of the person going in such appeals. There are fewer channels of appeal against the decisions of the contractors and no labour laws which can secure justice to the workers. It appears that wherever there is an unholy alliance between the contractors and lower forest officials there are many complaints about the denial of the legitimate claims of the labourers.

16.3. There has been no evidence of any sort of collective bargaining by the local forest workers and very little by the Rajasthan or Orissa labour which migrates into Madhya Pradesh seasonally for Catechu making and charcoal burning. Even in these cases the employers have an upper hand if there is the slightest evidence of more labour being available during a particular season. In times of scarcity or droughts etc. the helplessness of the labourer is taken advantage of in keeping the wage rates effectively low by supplying rations and salt etc. at above fair prices.

16.4. Unfortunately the existing labour laws are not applicable to the forest labourers in this State and the lack of trade unionism amongst them prevents their putting up a united front against the injustices frequently perpetrated on them. Their illiteracy ignorance, simplicity poverty and submissiveness perhaps comes in the way of their securing justice or even invoicing their grievances and seeking redress. Obviously something needs to be done to remedy it.

#### Productivity :-

17.1. The question of increasing the productivity of Forest labour has received little attention so far in Madhya Pradesh largely for the following reasons :-

- i) Non-existence of a decasualised forest labour force in the State;
- ii) Non-adoption of modern scientific techniques for exploitation of the forest resources especially in felling, logging, sawing etc.

- ii) Non-existence of any organised training facilities for forest labour;
- iv) Absence of fixation of any norms of productivity and efficiency; and
- v) Absence of incentives.

17.2. It is universally agreed that intensive training is one of the most important factor in productivity. The labour engaged for exploitation of forests by the contractors, quasi-Government bodies etc. basically lack any scientific training in the job he is engaged to carry out. The labourers learn by observation and by imitating the methods used by fellow workers in felling, logging, de-barking, charcoal and catechu making etc. In due course they gain expertise and become skilled hands. The forest workers are usually indifferent to new techniques and their illiteracy adds to their indifference; it needs hardly be added that better exploitation of forests is possible by giving training to those who may appear to be belonging to the permanent forest labour force. Existence of a decasualised forest labour force would no doubt be a distinct advantage as far as better exploitation of forests is concerned for it would be easier to train such a force. The efficiency and productivity of forest workers engaged in afforestation, rehabilitation of forests and conservation of wild life can also be improved by imparting proper training to the workers besides ensuring congenial working conditions, good wages, etc.

17.3. Forest operations in the present stage of forestry and under the existing practices and systems of forest management followed in India are generally labour intensive and would probably continue to be so for a few more decades to come till the country becomes more industrialized and takes to mechanized exploitation of forests. Nevertheless, the need for imparting training with a view to increasing the productivity of forest workers or improving upon their efficiency cannot be discounted in the existing situation also.

THE ROLE OF FOREST LABOUR COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES:

18.1. The Forest Labour Cooperative Societies are perhaps the outcome of Shri D. Symington's report on the 'Conditions of Adivasis in Bombay State.' The first such society was set up in that State in 1946-47 and despite the ignorance, illiteracy and backwardness of the tribals, the societies were fairly successful. The credit for their success goes not only to Shri B.G.Kher, eminent social workers like Thakkar Bapa and social welfare agencies as the Adivasi Sewa Mandal and Bhil Sewa Mandal (which conducted classes for the tribals in running labour cooperative societies and in numerous other ways) but also to the efforts made by the government officials. Encouraged by the initial successes of this movement, planners and policy makers started recommending the organisation of such societies. For example, paragraph 32 of the National Forest Policy, 1952 laid down as follows:

"Intermediaries who exploit both the forests and local labour for their own benefit may with advantage be supplanted gradually by Forest Labour Cooperative societies which may be formed to suit local conditions. Once the local population learns to look upon the forest as a means of its livelihood a great step forward will have been taken."

and the Central Board of Forestry recommended early in 1965 "the replacement of contractors by Forest Labour Cooperative societies."

18.2 Before we proceed to examine the experience of Madhya Pradesh with the functioning of such societies, it would be desirable to consider briefly the pre-requisites

of success of Forest Labour Cooperative societies. The first pre-requisite is that the forest worker must be convinced of the utility of organising such societies. Both social workers and government officials have a major role to play in making the forest worker realize its importance and necessity for his own benefit. Once he is convinced, the urge for cooperation (another pre-requisite for success) would not be lacking. The government official has to shed the authoritarian approach to the suspecting tribal mind. He should explain, demonstrate and then urge them to organise themselves into such societies. He should watch closely the responses of the tribals to such suggestions and programmes so that further approaches to the problem are cautiously and correctly made. The tribal has a keen sense of cooperation and it should not be difficult to make him take advantage of that instinct. Besides these, if the State has a broad based cooperative organisation, can provide enough funds, managerial assistance, adequate training and marketing facilities and also help these societies in the initial stages from unfair competition from contractors in getting leases for exploitation of forests etc., the success of the Forest Labour Cooperative societies would be assured. Further programmes for the expansion of the movement should, however, be carefully planned, phased and executed. The key to success would eventually lie in the enthusiasm of the worker-members and adequate and proper guidance atleast in the initial stages. They should be guided into shouldering all responsibilities in their entirety as early as possible.

18.3 The Forest Labour Cooperative Societies have to be got registered under the cooperative legislation for qualifying for financial, managerial and other facilities afforded by the State. As far as possible, they should have only forest workers living within a Forest Village or a cluster thereof. Once these societies get going they can be further organised into District or Divisional Federations of Forest Labour Cooperative societies. These Federations can help the member societies in managing their affairs, maintenance of their accounts, getting coupes allotted, take up their problems with the government or other bodies through the apex institution. It can also train and thus create a group of accountants, secretaries, formulate and also implement labour welfare programmes which may, when the movement is quite advanced, include opening of schools, hospitals etc. for the benefit of the members of the member societies. The Federation may for its guidance have not only the elected representatives of the member societies but also leading social workers and even nominees of the government. It should only be ensured that the contractors, money-lenders, village traders etc. are not allowed to enter this organisation and manoeuvre things to their advantage.

18.4 At the State level an apex body of such Federations can be formed to help promote Forest Labour Cooperative societies in Forest areas, act as an apex marketing organisation and help the member federations and their members in all possible ways including loans for coupe working expenses, setting up industrial units based on forest produce etc. They may draw funds from different



departments of government, State Cooperative Banks and other institutions. Initially all the primary Forest Labour Cooperative societies, their District Federations and Apex State Federation will have to be provided managerial and financial assistance (even for working capital) till they are in a position to have their own men and/or train them adequately.

18.5. Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation in Andhra Pradesh formed in 1956 was such an apex organisation which did valuable work in this direction. The Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes Commission had the following to recommend to other States:

- " For the purposes of obtaining labour of right type for forest operations, the tribals residing in and around the forests be organised into permanent labour corps;
- " For the purposes of mobilising the labour and its economic and efficient use and for the purpose of increasing the tribals' will, skill and resources of income, the forest department should assist in organising Forest Labourers Cooperative societies. A period should be fixed to cover the entire forest area with such societies and all work should be entrusted to them; and
- " with a view to consolidate and develop the economy of the tribals, particularly in relation to purchase of minor forest produce, with a view to supply the requirements of the members of the Scheduled Tribes to undertake activities such as processing and grading for the benefit of the tribals to discharge prior debts and to act as agents of the government for procurement, supply and distribution of agricultural and other produce and generally for the promotion of the economic interest and the social welfare of members of the scheduled Tribes, the State government should organise cooperative finance and development corporation on the model of the Andhra Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation,

subject to such modifications as the circumstances may require. The entire tribal areas can only thus be covered by primary cooperatives functioning as agents."

(Paragraph 12.61 -b -vi to viii)

18.6. The Tribal Welfare Department of the government of Madhya Pradesh organised Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Cooperative Development Society on March 26, 1960. This society actually commenced business in 1962-63 and was converted into a Corporation called M.P. State Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation in 1964-65. The declared objects of the Corporation, among other things, were :

- " i/ To supervise, assist, provide technical guidance to and develop the business of forest labour cooperative societies, multipurpose cooperative societies and other cooperative societies functioning for the benefit of the tribal people and to control, coordinate and consolidate their activities;
- " ii/ to enter into all kinds of contracts and transactions relating to major and minor forest produce with a view to the gradual elimination of middle-men and thus ensure fair wages and fair share in profits to tribal workers;
- " iii/ to purchase agricultural produce and market such produce to the best advantage;
- " x/ to provide facilities for training in cooperative organisation and to grant such facilities, ..... as would directly or indirectly help the cooperative movement among tribal people in general;
- " xi/ to undertake development work relating to tribes ....."

18.7. This Corporation started discharging these functions by

- i/ Setting up processing units such as saw mills, oil expelling units, cateehu manufacturing units, rice mills etc. in tribal areas;
- ii/ giving loans for productive as also non-productive purposes through the Forest Labour Cooperative Societies;

- iii/ working of various types of coupes and handling minor forest produce;
- iv/ Malik Makbuza timber in partnership with the Forest Labour Cooperative Societies.

The Corporation, it is stated, conduct its business through 16 branches located at Sarguja, Bastar, Durg, Raigarh, Bilaspur, Chhindwara, Raipur, Dhar, Jabua, Khargone, Morena, Shahdol, Betul, Mandla, Seoni and Guna. Each branch has a District Committee of which the Collector is the chairman. This committee actually supervises the working of the cooperatives -Multi-purpose cooperative societies and Forest Labour Cooperative societies.

18.8. The Corporation also claims to have set up two Training Institutes for the training of managers. It has been claimed that with the discharge of these functions by the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation the forest worker is in a better position than earlier. It is claimed that he gets better value for the produce collected by him, better-wages for the work done, better avenues for marketing his agricultural produce and there are better employment opportunities for all Forest Workers in forest-based industries and to khairuas. All this is being done on "no-profit no-loss" basis with a view to giving maximum return to the forest worker or the tribal for his labour or produce etc.

18.9. Since the establishment of forest labour cooperative societies and taking of a few forest contracts by the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation there has been a shift in the

established practices of not providing any welfare measures to the workers. It is a welcome step and the labour would stand to benefit from the measures

taken by this Corporation. The ..... said Corporation has been trying to give some facilities for making the work more remunerative, and less painful. The following table shows the facilities given by the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Co-operative

Development Corporation and contractors in forest areas :-

Benefits given by the M.P.T.C. Development Corporation.	Benefits given by Contractors.
---	--------------------------------

(1)	(2)
-----	-----

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Free medical aid.  | 1. No medical aid.  |
| 2. There is a provision for giving incentives to members of Tribal Forest labour Co-operative societies by way of dividends out of profits earned by the societies. The members are helped to raise the share capital of such societies by advancing money for the purpose and recovering it gradually. | 2. No such societies are helped to be formed as far as possible the services of such societies are not utilised.  |
| 3. Better hutments are provided.  | 3. Hutments or shanties are sometimes provided. Normally they are erected by the workers themselves.  |
| 4. Free medicines in case of illness are provided and a health visitor makes regular visits.  | 4. Essential medicines like paludrin or Aspro are sometimes given.  |
| 5. Fair Price consumers shops are provided and foodgrains and other bare necessities are tried to be provided at reasonable rates to workers (whether tribals or not) as near the place of work as possible.  | 5. During the scarcity, efforts were in some cases made to provide foodgrains and salt at no profit no loss basis but regular fair price shops were not provided. |
| 6. Radio listening facilities are being provided at work sites.   | 6. The workers sometimes get the benefit of listening to a song or tune on the contractors transistor if he happens to stay there overnight.                      |

.....  
Benefits given by the M.P.T.C. Development Corporation.      Benefits given by Contractors.  
.....

(1)

(2)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 7. Drinking water facilities are provided.  | 7. Drinking water facilities are provided if possible otherwise the workers bring their own drinking water. |
| 8. Incentive wage is given as a percentage of the total wage earned (5-10%) depending upon the quality of work and expected profits. Its a sort of bonus given to worker-members. | 8. No such incentive wage or bonus is given.  |
| 9. Training facilities to Supervisors and persons in skilled trades are provided.   | 9. No such facilities are given.  |
| 10. Paid national holidays are given in some cases.   | 10. No paid national holidays are given.  |
- .....

13.10. The Madhya Pradesh Tribal Cooperative Development Corporation has been, however, facing certain problems due to which its efforts have not been so extensively successful as they should have been. The problems according to the Corporation are :-

- i/ the delay in granting of Forest contracts;
- ii/ Forest leases are not given for long terms; and
- iii/ Forest Department does not give them coupe leases on concessional rates etc.

It is also possible that the Corporation's efforts in helping to boost the economy of the tribal workers by paying them higher rates of wages or higher price for minor produce may not have been as successful in achieving the objectives as envisaged on account of some allegations of corruption against collection agents (referred to in an earlier paragraph). The Corporation was also handicapped for want of experienced personnel. Nevertheless its objectives and efforts are commendable.

18.11. The Forest Labour Cooperative societies on which the Corporation's success depends to a considerable extent, have also not made much headway in the State. During the year 1966-67, the number of such societies registered with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Madhya Pradesh was 285 with a membership of 14,450 in Tribal areas and 46 with a membership of 1,590 in Non-Tribal areas. Appendix XV gives the distribution of these societies in the State. These figures are not indicative of a satisfactory development of the cooperative movement in the Forest areas. The reasons are basically non-fulfilment of the pre-requisites for the success of such institutions. Another factor is that the forest people are yet to realise the advantages of such cooperation. There is little cooperation between Forest and Tribal Welfare Departments. Policy decisions at the highest levels are needed to solve their tangles.

18.12. There is a need for eliminating the middleman or the contractor. The profits accruing to a handful of persons can flow through the Forest Labour Cooperative Societies to a large number of forest workers in this State also. Maharashtra and Gujarat have <sup>done</sup> fairly good work in this direction. Efforts have, however, to be made to see that these cooperative societies do not become arenas of political activities as it now being experienced in some States.

18.13. Besides the need for a strong Forest Labour Cooperative movement, there is also a need for entrusting the Forest Labour Cooperative societies with the following

functions :-

- i/ Exploitation, afforestation, regeneration and protection of forests and development of industrial units for the processing of forest produce in forests;
- ii/ promoting cottage industries;
- iii/ arranging for the education and preliminary training of the members and their children in Silviculture and processing etc. with the help of Government Departments or Social Welfare institutions;

These would go a long way in removing seasonal unemployment amongst forest workers.

18.14. The different departments of the government have a major role to play in the success of this movement. For example the Cooperation Department can help by providing training facilities in the art of management, accounting etc; The Forest Department can provide training facilities through the F.L.C.S. in protection and development of forests and their scientific exploitation. The Tribal Welfare Department can run courses of short duration in tribal custom, culture, dialect etc. for the newly recruited forest officials so that they can understand the problems of forest labourers with facility. The social welfare organisations can help in bringing about cultural and social uplift of these workers. It would ultimately lead to their economic uplift.

18.15. We would go a step forward and recommend that the agricultural land in Forest villages may be given to the Forest Labour Cooperative Societies as State Farms on lease for cultivation also. The society may also develop the land, irrigation facilities etc. with the help of the Forest and other Departments and with its

own resources. The benefit of the proceeds can be shared by all members equitably.

18.16. Further, if the employment opportunities available/likely to be created in the fields of forestry, agriculture, industry, piggery, dairy and poultry farming etc. could be so co-ordinated and dovetailed as to provide employment opportunities to the forest workers throughout the year in or around forests, labour could become decasualised and most of the many problems of Forest Labour could be solved. Our optimism has to be cautious and, as stated earlier, it would be necessary to watch very closely the responses of all forest workers (tribals and non-tribals alike) and their societies to such programmes. It would be equally necessary to ensure that the vested interests of the exploiting elements are gradually nullified and that the forest worker does not become complacent because of continuous patronage. The Forest Labour Cooperative societies should function freely and effectively on their own strength.

### Conclusions:

19.1. We have surveyed briefly the whole gamut of Forest Labour in Madhya Pradesh. The conclusions are obvious. Forest labour has been exploited by the contractors all these years because of his poverty, honesty, simplicity, ignorance and illiteracy and also because of want of employment opportunities. His conditions of work and living need to be improved. He has to be assured of a minimum wage and reasonable returns for his labour - be it on forest operations or for the minor forest produce collected by him. Equally important



is to assure him avenues of employment throughout the year. There is also a need for protecting him from other harmful elements especially the contractors and the middlemen.

10.2. There appear to be, in the existing conditions, only two ways out :-

- (i) Nationalisation of all operations connected with the exploitation of forests and trade in major and minor forest produce; and
- (ii) The Forest Labourers should be trained and equipped to organise themselves into Forest Labour Cooperative Societies through which they can ensure their economic uplift.

10.3. An experiment has been made with nationalisation of Tendu Patta in this State and the results have been encouraging enough. The scheme is briefly described in appendix XVIII. There are certain operational difficulties in the nationalisation of other items which have also been indicated in the note. Besides these, the major difficulty is that nationalised undertakings are not allowed to function as commercial undertakings but as Government Offices, the man who manages the show is not allowed to take spot decisions, efficiency is neither rewarded nor in-efficiency deplored, and the government official is always inclined to have an authoritarian approach which does not succeed in business. There are numerous other difficulties in public sector undertakings which need to be examined in detail.

19.4. The other alternative is that of having a decasualised labour force and eliminating the middle-man through the Forest Labour Cooperative Societies. We have seen in the chapter on Forest Labour Cooperative Societies the manner in which such societies can be utilised to the fullest advantage of the forest worker. There can be <sup>an</sup> happy blending of both the remedies viz. nationalization of forest operations and trade and Forest Labour Cooperative societies - the societies acting as agents of the Forest Department for the purpose at the different levels - to the advantage of the worker, people and the State.

**B.** A P P E N D I C E S.

APPENDIX - I

Statement showing the total Land area, Area under Forests and per Capita Forest Area in India (1964-65)

State/Union Territory	Land area ('000 hectares)	Forest Area ('000 hectares)				Total	Percentage to all India.	Percentage of Forest Land Area	Mid-Year population (1965) ('000 persons)	Density of population (per thousand hectares)	Per Capita Forest area (hectares)
		Reserved	Protected	Unclassified							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
<b>I STATE</b>											
1. Andhra Pradesh	27,524	4,090	1,991	369	6,450	8.9	23.4	39,101	1,420	0.16	
2. Assam ..	12,197	1,616	1	850	2,467	3.4	20.2	13,450	1,102	0.18	
3. Bihar ..	17,401	411	2,585	147	3,143	4.3	18.1	51,280	2,946	0.06	
4. Gujarat ...	18,709	654	213	999	1,866	2.6	10.0	23,197	1,239	0.08	
5. Jammu & Kashmir	22,287	**	**	2,108	2,108	2.9	9.5	3,781	169	0.56	
6. Kerala ..	3,887	898	-	155	1,053	1.5	27.1	18,823	4,842	0.06	
7. Madhya Pradesh	44,346	7,976	9,030	105	17,111	23.5	38.6	36,027	812	0.47	
8. Madras ..	12,997	1,724	383	115	2,222	3.0	17.1	36,233	2,788	0.06	
9. Maharashtra..	30,727	4,015	1,693	614	6,322	8.7	20.6	44,175	1,437	0.14	
10. Mysore ..	19,176	2,912	569	41	3,522	4.8	18.4	26,061	1,359	0.14	
11. Nagaland ..	1,649	30	52	181	263	0.4	15.9	397	240	0.66	
12. Orissa ..	15,586	2,359	644	3,813	6,816	9.3	43.7	19,302	1,238	0.35	
13. Punjab (composite)	12,201	61	1,421	303	1,785	2.4	14.6	23,172	1,899	0.08	
14. Rajasthan ..	34,227	1,099	1,823	921	3,848	5.3	11.2	22,818	666	0.17	
15. Uttar Pradesh	29,430	2,476	189	1,999	4,664	6.4	15.8	81,161	2,757	0.06	
16. West Bengal..	8,767	700	410	71	1,181	1.6	13.5	39,237	4,475	0.03	
<b>STATE TOTAL:-</b>	<b>3, 11, 117</b>	<b>31,021</b>	<b>21,009</b>	<b>12,791</b>	<b>64,821</b>	<b>89.0</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>4,78,215</b>	<b>1,537</b>	<b>0.14</b>	

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>II UNION TERRITORIES</b>											
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	829	244	332	-	606	0.8	73.1	76	91	7.97	
2. Delhi ..	148	1	1	3	5	Neg.	3.4	3,297	22,277	..	
3. Goa, Daman & Diu	373	105	-	-	105	0.1	28.1	655	1,756	6.16	
4. Himachal Pradesh (erstwhile)	2,820	151	950	144	1,245	1.7	44.1	1,499	529	0.83	
5. Manipur ..	2,235	53	158	388	599	0.8	26.8	918	410	0.65	
6. N.E.F. Agency ..	8,143	925	-	3,937	4,862	6.7	59.7	332	44	13.43	
7. Tripura ..	1,045	412	223	-	635	0.9	60.8	1,300	1,244	0.49	
ALL INDIA ..	3,26,809*	32,912	22,703	17,263	72,878	100.0	22.3	4,86,811*	1,489*	0.15	

\* Includes information in respect of Pondicherry and Karikal, Laecadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands and Dadar and Nagar Haveli where no forest area exists.

\*\* The legal classification on Forests in vogue in the State is demarcated, partially demarcated and Undemarcated. For total adjustments entire figure has been shown under "Unclassed".

Source: 'Forest Statistics' -  
 Issued by Central Forestry  
 Commission (Forestry Statistical  
 Cell), Ministry of Food,  
 Agriculture, C.D. and Cooperation,  
 Govt. of India . 1967.

**APPENDIX II**

Statement showing the Forest Area by legal Status Circle-wise/Division-wise in M.P.

Forest Area by legal Status		Area (sq. km.) as on 1-4-1967				
S. No.	Name of the Forest Circle	Name of the Forest Division	Reserved Forests.	Protected Forests	Unclassed Forests	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Raipur Circle	1. Raipur South	2004.89	247.03	-	2251.92
		2. Raipur East	22.84	2469.95	270.81	2763.60
		3. Raipur North	1327.14	1429.86	-	2757.00
		4. Durg North	1317.35	1450.74	-	2768.09
		5. Durg South	653.97	1706.32	-	2360.29
		Total:-		5326.19	7303.90	270.81
2.	Bastar Circle	6. Bastar North	1677.67	3133.07	-	4813.74
		7. Bastar South	2344.33	1836.98	-	4181.31
		8. Bastar East	2095.02	2061.53	-	4156.55
		9. Bastar West	2512.51	2816.30	-	5334.00
		10. Kanker	1315.90	2513.64	-	3829.54
		Total:-		9951.43	12334.61	-
3.	Bilaspur	11. Raigarh	1732.99	1811.01	-	3544.00
		12. Jashpur	1102.33	1213.57	-	2915.95
		13. Bilaspur	1373.40	751.69	-	2125.09
		14. Bilaspur North	58.35	5800.10	-	5858.45
		Total:-		4267.12	10176.37	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4. Central Circle	15. Damoh	2040.87	1074.93	-	-	3115.80
	16. Jabalpur	844.34	1473.71	-	-	2318.05
	17. Mandla North	1763.81	754.70	-	-	2518.51
	18. Mandla South	220.23	664.31	-	-	884.54
	19. Narsinghpur	556.82	727.35	-	-	1284.17
	Total:-	8926.07	4595.00	-	-	13121.07
5. Balaghat "	20. Balaghat North	1647.24	1186.22	-	-	2233.46
	21. Balaghat South	997.15	1183.05	-	-	2180.78
	22. Chhindwara East	395.85	1232.82	-	-	1688.67
	23. Chhindwara South	897.49	385.62	-	-	1283.31
	24. Chhindwara West	421.78	1473.24	-	-	1895.02
	25. Seoni North	1106.16	363.79	-	-	1469.95
	26. Seoni South	996.89	490.41	-	-	1487.30
	Total:-	6462.78	5375.73	-	-	12838.49
6. Bhopal "	27. Bhopal East	1308.47	904.47	150.79	-	2368.73
	28. Bhopal West	1546.64	848.66	143.22	-	2538.52
	29. Raisen	1080.36	973.74	717.43	-	2771.53
	30. Sagar ..	1916.08	843.43	15.33	-	2774.84
	Total:-	5851.55	3875.30	1026.77	-	10453.62
7. Ho shanga bad "	31. Betul North	1245.90	270.40	-	-	1514.30
	32. Betul South	906.71	774.67	-	-	1691.38
	33. Betul west	874.51	444.96	-	-	1319.47
	34. Harda ..	982.90	442.58	-	-	1425.48
	35. Ho shangabad	1500.90	753.69	39.63	-	2294.22
	36. Khandwa North	-	1740.50	195.55	-	1936.05
	37. Khandwa South	-	2304.06	212.12	-	2516.18
	38. Nepa ..	289.43	-	-	-	289.43
	Total:-	5798.35	6730.86	447.30	-	12976.51

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Indore Circle	39. Indore ..	2481.37	1376.30	-	3857.67
		40. Dewas ..	1861.35	653.66	-	2515.01
		41. Dhar ..	754.41	976.20	-	1730.61
		42. Khargone East	2744.49	38.41	-	2782.90
		43. Jhabua ..	635.98	1615.09	-	2251.07
		44. Khargone(West)	2277.46	259.00	51.80	2588.26
		Total:- ..	10755.06	4918.66	51.80	15725.52
9.	Gwalior "	45. Guna ..	1345.53	2940.17	-	4285.70
		46. Gwalior ..	1102.56	1026.44	-	2129.00
		47. Sheppur ..	3266.58	3695.18	18.31	6980.07
		48. Shivpuri ..	1837.42	4351.22	-	6188.70
		49. Tikamgarh ..	-	3095.32	-	3095.38
		Total:- ..	7552.09	15108.45	18.31	22678.85
10.	Rewa "	50. Chhatarpur ..	14.30	2676.71	-	2691.01
		51. Panna North	-	1937.08	-	1937.08
		52. Panna South	-	2675.18	-	2675.18
		53. Rewa ..	935.77	2398.34	-	3332.11
		54. Sidhi East ..	1409.22	772.88	-	2182.10
		55. Sidhi West ..	1375.83	1375.83	528.49	3280.15
		Total:- ..	3733.12	11833.02	528.49	16097.63
11.	Shahdol "	56. Surguja North	1344.83	1780.50	1293.58	4418.91
		57. Surguja South	550.00	1709.61	1575.06	3834.73
		58. Korea West	1062.32	930.92	-	1993.24
		59. Korea East	924.37	1035.27	-	1959.64
		60. Umaria (Changbhakar)	1176.19	940.32	-	2116.51
		61. Shahdol North	1616.73	1136.33	-	2753.09
		62. Shahdol South	1035.12	1321.96	-	2357.08
		Total:- ..	7709.62	8854.94	2868.64	19433.20
Grand Total			75933.36	91830.84	5212.12	172985.32



APPENDIX - III

Statement showing the distribution of Scheduled Tribes  
Population in M.P.  
1961

District	Total population	Scheduled tribes population	Percentage of scheduled tribes to total population
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<b>I BHOPAL DIVISION</b>	3,877,034	336,307	8.67
1. Betul ..	560,412	179,739	32.07
2. Hoshangabad ..	618,293	46,136	7.46
3. Raisen ..	411,426	57,837	14.06
4. Rajgarh ..	516,871	979	0.19
5. Sehore ..	754,684	30,348	4.02
6. Shahjapur ..	526,135	45	0.01
7. Vidisha ..	489,213	21,223	4.34
<b>II BILASPUR DIVISION</b>	4,099,757	1,421,316	34.67
1. Bilaspur ..	2,021,793	367,092	18.16
2. Raigarh ..	1,041,226	477,936	45.90
3. Surguja ..	1,036,738	576,288	55.59
<b>III GWALIOR DIVISION</b>	3,436,639	153,773	4.47
1. Bhind ..	641,169	477	0.07
2. Datia ..	200,467	2,483	1.24
3. Cuna ..	595,825	42,657	7.16
4. Gwalior ..	657,876	13,534	2.06
5. Morena ..	783,348	39,973	5.10
6. Shivpuri ..	557,954	54,649	9.79
<b>IV INDORE DIVISION</b>	5,931,593	1,313,032	22.14
1. Dewas ..	446,901	34,747	7.78
2. Uhar ..	643,774	328,867	51.08
3. Indore ..	753,594	462	0.06
4. Jhabua ..	514,384	435,793	84.72
5. Khandwa (Nimar)	685,150	54,043	7.89
6. Kargone (Nimar)	990,464	400,343	40.42
7. Mandasaur ..	752,085	534	0.07
8. Echlam ..	483,521	58,113	12.02
9. Ujjain ..	661,720	137	0.02
<b>V JABALPUR DIVISION</b>	5,721,602	1,177,867	20.59
1. Balaghat ..	806,702	86,928	10.78
2. Chhindwara ..	785,535	261,298	33.26
3. Lamoh ..	438,343	..	N.A.
4. Jabalpur ..	1,273,825	154,989	12.17
5. Mandla ..	684,503	423,096	61.81
6. Narsinghapur	412,406	50,495	12.24
7. Sagar ..	796,547	..	..
8. Seoni ..	523,741	201,661	38.89

1	2	3	4
VI RAIPUR DIVISION	5,054,741	1,362,687	26.96
1. Bastar ..	1,167,501	843,749	72.27
2. Durg ..	1,885,235	208,777	11.07
3. Raipur ..	2,002,004	310,161	15.49
V REWA DIVISION	4,251,042	913,428	21.49
1. Chhatarpur..	587,373	17,228	2.93
2. Panna ..	331,257	48,215	14.56
3. Rewa ..	772,002	102,773	13.30
4. Satna ..	694,370	101,378	14.60
5. Shahdol ..	829,649	426,786	51.44
6. Sidhi ..	580,129	195,678	33.75
7. Tikamgarh ..	455,562	21,370	4.69
MADHYA PRADESH	32,372,428	6,673,410	20.63

Source: Census of India, 1951.

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APPENDIX - IV

Statement showing Industrial Classification by Sex of Persons at work other than Cultivation in the Major Group 02 Forestry and Logging in Madhya Pradesh.

Sl.No	State	Persons	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
	<u>ALL INDIA</u>	375,212	268,333	106,879
	<u>STATES:</u>			
1.	Andhra Pradesh ..	27,911	17,447	10,464
2.	Assam ..	1,995	1,794	201
3.	Bihar ..	22,689	13,873	8,816
4.	Gujarat ..	7,543	5,853	1,690
5.	Jammu & Kashmir ..	3,248	3,109	139
6.	Kerala ..	15,589	14,722	867
7.	Madhya Pradesh ..	71,924	43,884	28,040
8.	Madras ..	21,099	15,896	5,203
9.	Maharashtra ..	43,183	26,602	16,581
10.	Mysore ..	16,109	14,055	2,054
11.	Orissa ..	24,044	9,542	14,502
12.	Punjab ..	8,874	8,307	567
13.	Rajasthan ..	11,684	4,800	6,884
14.	Uttar Pradesh ..	71,834	63,530	8,304
15.	West Bengal ..	11,344	9,541	1,803
	<u>Total STATES :-</u>	3,59,070	2,52,955	106,115
	<u>UNION TERRITORIES AND OTHER AREAS.</u>			
1.	Andman & Nikobar Islands	4,889	4,879	10
2.	Delhi ..	802	798	4
3.	Himanchal Pradesh	7,440	7,064	376
4.	L.M. and A. Islands	-	-	-
5.	Manipur ..	188	161	27
6.	Tripura ..	720	692	28
7.	Ladra and Nagar Hiveli	1,334	1,029	305
8.	Goa Daman and Diu	266	262	4
9.	Pondicherry ..	86	77	9
10.	N. E. F. A. ..	327	327	-
11.	Nagaland ..	44	43	1
12.	Sikkim ..	46	46	-
	<u>Total - UNION TERRITORIES AND OTHER AREAS -</u>	16,142	15,378	764

Source:- Census of India 1961  
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Page 375.

APPENDIX - V

Statement showing Industrial classification by Sex of Persons at work other than Cultivation in Major Group 02 in Madhya Pradesh-"Forestry & Logging".

S.No	Division/District	Total	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5
<b>I.</b>	<b>RAIPUR DIVISION</b>	17,977	7,086	10,891
1.	Bastar	10,675	3,036	7,639
2.	Durg	2,428	4,558	870
3.	Raipur	4,874	2,492	2,382
<b>II.</b>	<b>BILASPUR DIVISION</b>	7,505	4,579	2,926
1.	Bilaspur	3,155	2,345	810
2.	Kaigarh	2,316	904	1,412
3.	Surguja	2,034	1,330	704
<b>III.</b>	<b>JABALPUR DIVISION</b>	9,876	7,196	2,680
1.	Balaghat	2,099	1,578	521
2.	Chhindwara	1,549	1,252	297
3.	Damoh	972	574	398
4.	Jabalpur	1,091	763	328
5.	Mandla	1,017	847	170
6.	Narsinghapur	537	319	218
7.	Sagar	1,464	974	490
8.	Seoni	1,147	889	258
<b>IV.</b>	<b>REWA DIVISION</b>	10,193	6,930	3,263
1.	Chhatarpur	1,002	614	388
2.	Panna	978	599	379
3.	Rewa	591	551	40
4.	Satna	934	521	413
5.	Shahdol	5,240	3,756	1,484
6.	Sidhi	93	86	7
7.	Tikamgarh	1,355	803	552
<b>V.</b>	<b>INDORE DIVISION</b>	9,483	7,008	2,475
1.	Dewas	1,731	1,338	393
2.	Dhar	349	276	73
3.	Indore	1,036	877	159
4.	Jhabua	710	542	168
5.	Khandwa (East Nimar)	1,445	1,224	221
6.	Khargone (West Nimar)	2,565	1,736	829
7.	Mandsaur	1,105	701	404
8.	Katlam	404	223	181
9.	Ujjain	138	91	47
<b>VI.</b>	<b>GWALIOR DIVISION</b>	5,887	3,270	2,617
1.	Bhind	32	32	-
2.	Datia	276	100	176
3.	Guna	1,159	842	317
4.	Gwalior	632	423	209
5.	Morena	1,585	784	801
6.	Shivpuri	2,203	1,089	1,114
<b>VII.</b>	<b>BHOPAL DIVISION</b>	11,003	7,815	3,188
1.	Betul	1,869	1,368	501
2.	Hoshangabad	4,826	3,416	1,410
3.	Kaisen	1,649	1,157	492
4.	Kajgarh	353	143	210
5.	Sehore	1,349	1,187	162
6.	Shajapur	102	77	25
7.	Vidisha	855	467	388
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>		<b>71,924</b>	<b>43,884</b>	<b>28,040</b>

Source:- Census of India  
Vol. VIII-Part II B(IV)

APPENDIX - VI  
FOREST LABOUR IN MALAYA FOREST

Code Digit No.	Industrial classification of occupation.	Total			Urban			Rural		
		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
42	<u>Hunters and Related</u> <u>Workers - III</u>	1,926	1,755	171	75	75	-	1,851	1,680	171
	420 - Hunters ..	1,147	1,075	72	58	58	-	1,089	1,017	72
	421 - Trappers ..	762	671	91	13	13	-	749	658	91
	429 - <u>Hunters &amp; Related</u> <u>workers</u>	17	9	8	4	4	-	13	5	8
44	<u>Loggers &amp; other Forestry</u> <u>workers. Total:-</u>	65,140	39,025	26,115	6,580	4,454	2,126	58,560	34,571	23,989
	(iii) <u>Mining Quarrying &amp;</u> <u>Forestry</u>	62,536	37,711	24,825	6,552	4,454	2,098	55,984	33,257	22,727
	(iv) <u>Household,</u> <u>Industries</u>	1,989	890	1,099	-	-	-	1,989	890	1,099
	(v) <u>Manufacturing other</u> <u>than household ..</u>	615	424	191	28	-	28	587	424	163
	(viii) <u>Transport, storage</u> <u>and communications</u>									
440	<u>Forest Rangers and</u> <u>Related Workers.</u>									
	(iii) .. ..	10,001	10,000	1	1,993	1,993	-	8,008	8,007	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
441 - <u>Harvesters and gatherers of Forest Products including Lac (Except Logs)</u>										
Total:	25,653	9,657	15,999	2,632	1,306	1,326	23,024	8,341	14,673	
(iii)	25,297	9,429	15,863	2,632	1,306	1,326	22,665	8,123	14,542	
(iv)	359	228	131	-	-	-	359	228	131	
442 - <u>Log Fellers &amp; wood cutters</u>										
Total:-	20,484	14,265	6,219	1,578	876	697	18,906	13,389	5,522	
(iii)	19,014	13,855	6,060	1,545	876	697	17,370	12,979	5,391	
(iv)	19	19	-	-	-	-	19	19	-	
(v)	550	391	159	28	-	28	522	391	131	
443 - <u>Charcoal Burners &amp; Forest Product Processers</u>										
Total:-	7,706	4,189	3,517	261	195	66	7,445	3,994	3,451	
(iii)	6,083	3,544	2,539	261	195	66	5,822	3,349	2,473	
(iv)	1,602	636	966	-	-	-	1,602	636	966	
(v)	21	9	12	-	-	-	21	9	12	
449 - <u>Loggers &amp; Other Forestry workers</u>										
Total:-	1,293	914	379	121	84	37	1,172	830	342	
(iii)	1,240	883	357	121	84	37	1,119	799	320	
(iv)	9	7	2	-	-	-	9	7	2	
(v)	44	24	20	-	-	-	44	24	20	
(N.C.O.)772										
<u>Sawyers &amp; wood working machinists</u>										
Total:-	4,504	4,481	23	2,624	2,608	16	1,880	1,873	7	
(iii)	51	51	-	-	-	-	51	51	-	
(iv)	145	142	3	4	4	-	141	138	3	
(v)	4,303	4,283	20	2,618	2,602	16	1,685	1,681	4	
(viii)	5	5	-	2	2	-	3	3	-	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
413 - <u>Tappers (Palm, Rubber Trees etc.)</u>										
Total:-	239	205	34	207	173	34	32	32	-	
(iii)	238	204	34	207	173	34	31	31	-	
(iv)	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	
415- <u>Plantation Labourers</u>										
Total:-	1,986	1,111	875	580	298	282	1,406	813	593	
(iii)	1,981	1,109	872	578	298	280	1,403	811	592	
(iv)	5	2	3	2	-	2	3	2	1	

N.B.) Classification based on National classification of occupations -D.G.E.T., Govt. of India.

Source: Census, 1961-Vol. I Part II-B-2

- i) Classification
- iii) Stands for Mining, Quarrying and Forestry
- iv) Stands for household Industries
- v) Manufacturing other than household
- and viii) For Transport, storage and communications.

## Production of Timber and Fuel Wood.

(Thousand Cubic metres)

State/Union Territory	Year	Timber	Percentage to All-India Total of Timber	Fuel wood (including charcoal)	Percentage to All-India Total of Fuel Wood.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	1961-62	179	3.0	456	3.7
	1962-63	223	3.8	480	3.5
	1963-64	184	3.2	573	4.6
	1964-65	212	3.4	514	3.8
2. Assam	1961-62	213	3.6	260	2.1
	1962-63	302	5.2	433	3.1
	1963-64	267	4.7	182	1.4
	1964-65	290	4.6	300	2.2
3. Bihar	1961-62	355	6.0	233	1.9
	1962-63	312	5.3	238	1.7
	1963-64	391	6.9	334	2.7
	1964-65	412	6.6	335	2.5
4. Gujarat	1961-62	196	3.3	417	3.4
	1962-63	150	2.6	305	2.2
	1963-64	140	3.5	363	2.9
	1964-65	181	2.9	569	4.2
5. Jammu & Kashmir	1961-62	416	7.0	100	0.8
	1962-63	431	7.4	108	0.8
	1963-64	318	5.6	79	0.6
	1964-65	394	6.3	100	0.7
6. Kerala	1961-62	240	4.1	272	2.2
	1962-63	289	4.9	205	1.6
	1963-64	273	4.8	119	0.9
	1964-65	286	4.6	190	1.4
7. Madhya Pradesh	1961-62	984	16.7	2361	19.2
	1962-63	1164	19.9	2890	20.9
	1963-64	1281	22.6	3449	27.3
	1964-65	1281	20.4	3449	25.4
8. Madras	1961-62	43	0.7	404	3.3
	1962-63	45	0.8	352	2.8
	1963-64	51	0.9	279	2.2
	1964-65	36	0.6	354	2.8
9. Maharashtra	1961-62	497	8.4	2142	17.5
	1962-63	371	6.3	2610	20.9
	1963-64	304	5.4	1498	11.9
	1964-65	369	5.9	2078	15.8



1	2	3	4	5	6
10. Mysore	1961-62	463	7.8	1,350	11.0
	1962-63	480	8.2	1,666	12.1
	1963-64	480	8.4	1,666	13.2
	1964-65	480	7.6	1,666	12.3
-----					
11. Nagaland	1961-62	17	0.3	2	Neg.
	1962-63	17	0.3	2	Neg.
	1963-64	18	0.3	2	Neg.
	1964-65	18	0.3	2	Neg.
-----					
12. Orissa	1961-62	517	8.7	832	6.8
	1962-63	536	9.2	803	5.8
	1963-64	451	7.9	677	5.4
	1964-65	536	8.5	803	5.9
-----					
13. Punjab	1961-62	192	3.3	221	1.8
	1962-63	134	2.3	288	2.1
	1963-64	167	2.9	294	2.3
	1964-65	231	3.7	322	2.4
-----					
14. Rajasthan	1961-62	69	1.2	129	1.1
	1962-63	66	1.1	254	1.3
	1963-64	61	1.1	251	2.0
	1964-65	63	1.0	144	1.1
-----					
15. Uttar Pradesh	1961-62	524	8.9	1,914	15.6
	1962-63	554	9.5	2,090	15.2
	1963-64	617	10.8	1,942	15.4
	1964-65	646	10.3	1,552	11.4
-----					
16. West Bengal	1961-62	206	3.5	727	5.9
	1962-63	232	4.0	679	4.9
	1963-64	232	4.1	605	4.8
	1964-65	242	3.8	707	5.2
-----					
TOTAL STATES	1961-62	5,111	86.5	11,820	96.3
	1962-63	5,306	90.8	13,403	97.1
	1963-64	5,235	92.1	12,316	97.6
	1964-65	5,677	90.5	13,048	96.4

1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1961-62	76	1.3	52	0.4
	1962-63	79	1.7	58	0.4
	1963-64	107	1.9	37	0.3
	1964-65	74	1.2	119	0.0
-----					
2. Delhi	1961-62	-	-	1	Neg.
	1962-63	-	-	1	Neg.
	1963-64	-	-	1	Neg.
	1964-65	-	-	1	Neg.
-----					
3. Goa, Daman & Diu	1961-62	Neg.	Neg.	1	Neg.
	1962-63	Neg.	Neg.	1	Neg.
	1963-64	5	0.1	1	Neg.
	1964-65	10	0.2	1	Neg.
-----					
4. Himachal Pradesh	1961-62	630	10.7	306	2.5
	1962-63	328	5.6	239	1.7
	1963-64	209	3.7	152	1.2
	1964-65	356	5.7	204	1.5
-----					
5. Manipur	1961-62	8	0.1	53	0.4
	1962-63	8	0.1	53	0.4
	1963-64	8	0.1	53	0.4
	1964-65	8	0.1	53	0.4
-----					
6. N.E.F. Agency	1961-62	62	1.1	8	0.1
	1962-63	80	1.4	6	0.1
	1963-64	101	1.8	8	0.1
	1964-65	113	1.8	33	0.3
-----					
7. Tripura	1961-62	20	0.3	34	0.3
	1962-63	23	0.4	44	0.3
	1963-64	17	0.3	46	0.4
	1964-65	33	0.5	70	0.5
-----					
ALL INDIA	1961-62	5,907	100.0	12,273	100.0
	1962-63	5,844	100.0	13,801	100.0
	1963-64	5,682	100.0	12,614	100.0
	1964-65	6,271	100.0	13,569	100.0

\* Provisional

Source: "Forest Statistics"-  
Bulletin No.4. Issued by  
Central Forestry Commission  
(Forestry Statistical Cell)  
Ministry of Food, Agr. C.D.  
and Co-operation, Govt. of  
India.

OUTPUT OF FOREST PRODUCE

(a) Major produce

Rs. '000

Years/ States	Timber	Fire-wood	Charcoal	Pulp and	Bound-wood	Total	Total value
	Quantity in '000 cubic metres						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1951-52 ..	2,820	10,160	550	13	1,140	14,692	19,76,01
1953-54 ..	2,459	9,090	232	47	554	12,382	17,45,58
1954-55 ..	3,083	8,825	1,873	36	714	14,530	21,92,03
1955-56 ..	3,395	9,234	1,576	42	721	14,967	27,68,82
1956-57 ..	3,591	9,423	756	56	816	14,643	27,41,01
1957-58 ..	3,773	10,200	776	56	840	15,645	28,93,30
1958-59 ..	3,722	11,079	884	66	913	16,664	41,21,36
1959-60 ..	4,478	11,066	612	48	1,045	17,249	50,81,62
1960-61 ..	4,526	11,335	281	47	753	16,943	49,17,07
1961-62 ..	4,199	10,347	403	215	1,021	16,185	50,13,75
1961-62 - States:-							
Andhra Pradesh	174	439	18	-	5	636	2,37,63
Assam ..	193	260	(d)	-	20	474	1,36,96
Bihar ..	173	155	78	-	182	587	1,71,31
Gujarat (a)	234	514(e)	(d)	-	-	748	2,54,51
Jammu & Kashmir	410	98	2	4	2	516	8,25,58
Kerala ..	109	30	-	1	81	220	2,82,31
Madhya Pradesh	410	1311	128	9	389	2,257	7,34,57
Madras (f) ..	38	318	-	-	(c)	356	1,74,48
Maharashtra	440	2,142(e)	(d)	-	57	2,639	7,34,80

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Mysore ..	262	1,344	6	198	3	1,813	-
Orissa (b) ..	263	521	-	-	145	929	1,67,82
Punjab ..	178	205	16	-	14	414	84,83
Rajasthan (f)	61	124	118	-	-	302	1,84,41
Uttar Pradesh	523	1,914	(d)	(c)	(e)	2,438	6,36,22
West Bengal ..	88	690	37	4	114	932	1,52,95
<b>Centrally Administered Territories:-</b>							
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Delhi ..	-	1	-	-	-	1	6
Himachal Pradesh	614	493	@	-	2	805	1,77,24
Manipur ..	7	53	@	..	1	61	2,32
Tripura ..	14	34	@	-	6	54	55,70

@ Less than 500 cub.metres.

(a) Relate to 1959-60

(b) Relate to 1958-59

(c) Included under timber

(d) Included under firewood

(e) Includes figures for charcoal wood as well

(f) Relate to 1960-61.

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics,  
Ministry of Food, Agriculture,  
Community Development & Co-operation,

Appendix III - A

OUTTURN OF FOREST PRODUCE

(b) Minor Produce

(Rs. '000)

Years/States	Bamboos and canes	Fodder (and Grass)	Gums and resins	Lac	Drugs & spices	Tan- stuffs (& dye-stuffs)	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1951-52 ..	12,490	15,321	7,468	3,265	720	1,701	29,623	70,588
1953-54 ..	9,499	15,658	7,897	1,776	367	867	27,013	63,977
1954-55 ..	13,234	17,820	9,119	1,774	851	739	33,433	76,970
1955-56 ..	13,678	17,435	10,142	675	554	1,259	36,431	80,174
1956-57 ..	12,535	15,008	12,309	812	772	894	36,787	79,117
1957-58 ..	13,459	15,478	12,561	844	1,160	874	41,044	85,420
1958-59 ..	15,545	17,357	13,748	1,758	496	514	34,630 (e)	84,048
1959-60 ..	16,169	15,397	14,883	1,292	681	645	54,301	93,368
1960-61 ..	21,699	15,379	20,478	1,636	807	896	50,400	1,11,295
1961-62 ..	24,186	15,414	20,593	194	613	661	49,400	1,21,016
1961-62 - States :-								
Andhra Pradesh	2,453	1,220	1	-	-	140	8,908	12,722
Assam ..	1,986	183	-	-	-	-	733	2,902
Bihar ..	2,369	164	11	4	7	-	2,262	4,817
Gujarat(a) ..	957	546	90	8	174	5	870	2,650
Jammu & Kashmir	-	438	1,531	-	-	-	230	2,199
Kerala ..	271	17	1	-	5	61	396	691

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Madhya Pradesh	5,154	3,201	590	106	-	147	13,746	22,858
Madras (d)	905	280	-	2	135	33	1,059	-
Maharashtra	3,714	3,267	107	39	5	-	5,392	12,557
Mysore ..	1,524	50	-	-	-	109	2,594	4,168
Orissa (b) ..	1,813	322	103	29	170	-	7,346	9,892
Punjab ..	37	625	4,234	1	-	-	455	5,402
Rajasthan(d)	618	1,157	376	-	-	164	1,217	3,532
Uttar Pradesh	1,446	2,452	9,300	5	42	-	12,740	25,985
West Bengal	127	113	-	(c)	4	1	503	748
Centrally Administered Territories:-								
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	29	-	51	-	-	-	18	98
Delhi ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Himachal Pradesh	34	1,313	4,148	-	71	-	861	6,427
Manipur(a) ..	4	23	-	-	-	-	28	55
Tripura ..	745	42	-	-	-	-	41	828

- (a) Relate to 1959-60  
(b) Relate to 1958-59  
(c) Below Rs. 500  
(d) Relate to 1960-61  
(e) Includes Rs. 2,461 thousand for which details are not available.

Source: Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation, Govt. of India.

APPENDIX - 5

Statement showing Average Daily Employment in Selected Industries based on Forest Produce during 1966 in Madhya Pradesh.

Industries/Districts.	No. of units.	Average estimate employment.
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WOOD AND CORK EXCEPT FURNITURE

SAW MILLS

1. Bilaspur	3	40
2. Balaghat	2	37
3. Bastar	18	520
4. Chhindwara	12	251
5. Durg.	* 25	529
6. Jabalpur	* 63	1202
7. Mandsaur.	2	32
8. Raipur	20	359
9. Raigarh	3	80
10. Rewa	1	16
11. Sehore	1	11
12. Seoni	6	82
13. Satna.	2	34
Total =	<u>158</u>	<u>3193</u>

MANUFACTURE OF PLY WOOD

1. Hoshangabad (Itarsi)	1	180
Total =	<u>1</u>	<u>180</u>

JOINERY AND GENERAL WOOD WORKING

1. Indore	2	70
2. Jabalpur	2	70
Total =	<u>4</u>	<u>140</u>

FURNITURE REPAIRING

1. Jabalpur	1	(Defence Industry)
2. Sehore	1	319
Total =	<u>2</u>	<u>319</u>

FURNITURE AND FIXTURES  
(WOODEN)

1. Gwalior	1	20
2. Indore	3	90
3. Raipur	2	40
4. Ratlam.	1	35
5. Sehore	1	5
Total =	<u>8</u>	<u>190</u>

PAPER

1. Indore	2	104
2. East Nimar (Nepanagar)	1	1498
3. Sehore (Mandidip)	1	143
4. Shahdol (Amlai)	1	924
5. Hoshangabad.	1 *	- NA

Total =

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PAPER AND STRAW BOARD

	1.	2.	3.
1. Dhar (Mandargarh)	1		50
2. Gwalior	1		15
3. Indore	1		100
4. Ratlam	1		257
5. Sehore (Bhopal)	1		512
6. Shahdol.	1		57
7. Vidisha.	1		47
Total =	<u>7</u>		<u>1038</u>

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LAC (INCLUDING SHELLAC)

1. Bilaspur	7		325
2. Raipur	4		149
3. Umaria	1 (closed)		-
Total =	<u>12</u>		<u>454</u>

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MATCHES.

1. Gwalior.	1		65
2. Jabalpur.	1 (closed)		-
Total =	<u>2</u>		<u>65</u>

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PEN AND PENCIL MAKING.

1. Bhind.	1		20
2. Gwalior	1		20
3. Mandasaur.	<u>6</u>		<u>146</u>
	<u>8</u>		<u>186</u>

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AYURVEDIC MEDICINES

1. Raipur	3		90
2. Gwalior	1		100
Total =	<u>4</u>		<u>190</u>

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B I D I

1. Bilaspur	5		211
2. Bastar	3		151
3. Balaghat.	10 (1 closed)		250
4. Durg.	9		700
5. Dewas	7		195
6. Damoh.	9		208
7. Hoshangabad.	5		257
8. Indore.	1		28
9. Jabalpur.	20 (1 closed)		1073
10. Narsimhapur.	10		665
11. East Nimar.	10 (1 closed)		1323
12. West Nimar.	3		362
13. Raipur.	19 (4 closed)		836
14. Raigarh.	23		957
15. Ratlam.	14 (6 closed)		380
16. Rewa.	3 (2 closed)		20
17. Sagar.	27 (1 closed)		1105
18. Surguja.	1		100
19. Sehore.	1		210
20. Shahdol.	1 (closed)		-
21. Satna.	6		87
22. Ujjair.	1		20
Total =	<u>190</u>		<u>9143</u>



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1.

2.

3.

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OTHERS

FOREST PRODUCTS.

1. Shivpuri 1 118

Total = 1 118

SPORTS GOODS AND BRUSH.

1. Gwalior. 3 76

Total = 3 76

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\* One Unit in these industries was reportedly closed.

Source :- Chief Inspector of Factories, M.P.

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APPENDIX - 8

Statement showing Production of Match Boxes, Straw Board, and News Print In Madhya Pradesh.

Year.	News print (M.Tons.)	Match Boxes. (In gross)	Straw Board (In M.Tons)
1.	2.	3.	4.
1961	25,653	53,137	12,093
1962	24,865	65,992	14,262
1963	30,164	66,993	10,966
1964	28,792	72,342	11,169
1965.	30,516	57,661	10,549
1966	29,312	51,776	9,867
1967	31,171	44,978	9,687

Source :- Director of Economics and Statistics, M.P.

APPENDIX - 9

Statement showing Production of Stick Lac in Madhya Pradesh.

Year.	Production.
1.	2.
1960-61	482 (000, Mds.)
1961-62	290 (000, Mds.)
1962-63	225 (000, Mds.)
1963-64	55,799 (Quintals)
1964-65	91,205 "
1965-66	59,156 "
1966-67	79,126 "
1967-68	72,035 "

Source :- Director of Economics & Statistics, M.P.



Contd.

	Jabalpur	South Raipur	Bastar	Durg	Rajnandgaon	Kawardha Dongargarh & Khairagarh	Remarks
1	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1. Unskilled Labour							
- Male ..	2.50-2.80	1.50	2.00	2.20	2.12	1.00	
- Female ..	1.75	1.15	1.50	2.12	1.87	1.75	
- Child ..		0.60	1.25	1.75	1.62	1.50	
2. Semi-skilled Labour ..	-	2.00	2.50	-	-	-	
3. Skilled Labour				4.50*	4.25*	4.00	* Extra wages from 0.25 to 0.50 for <i>per</i> day given for halts in the interior.
- Blacksmith	5.50-6.50	-	-	-	-	-	
- Carpenter..	-	-	-	-	-	-	
- Painter ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	
- Masan ..	5.50-6.50	-	-	-	-	-	
- Sawyers ..	-	-	4 to 5	-	-	-	
- Others ..	.	.	-	-	-	-	

Source :- Divisional Forest Officers, M.P.

APPENDIX XIII

Statement showing the prices reportedly paid by the Corporation (during 1967-68)  
for main items of minor Forest Produce to tribals and the price of these  
commodities the tribals can get elsewhere (Rate in Rs. per kg.)

Item of M.F.P.	Jagdalpur	Kanker	Ambikapur	Chhindwara	Raigarh
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Kullu gum	1/ to 1.50 (0.62 to 0.75)	1/ to 1.50 (0.75 to 1/-)	1.25 (0.75)	1.00 to 1.50 (0.50 to 0.75)	1.25 to 1.50 (1.00 to 1.50)
2. Dhawada gum	1.00 to 2.50 (0.25)	1.00	1.25 (0.75)	1.30 to 1.75 (0.50 to 1.00)	1.00 to 1.25 (0.80 to 0.90)
3. Other gum	-	-	-	-	-
4. Mahul leaves	-	-	0.10 (0.06)	-	0.10 (0.80 to 0.12)
5. Mahua flowers	-	-	-	-	0.17 to 0.20 (0.10 to 0.13)
6. Mahua seed	0.80 to 1.00	-	-	-	1.00 to 1.50 (0.50)
7. Chironji	2.50 to 3.50	-	2.00 (1.37)	4.00 to 4.50 (1/- to 2.50)	2.50 to 2.75 (2.00)
8. Katha	-	-	Rs.100/-per 40 kg. 33% additional. (Rs.60 per 40 kg.)	-	-
9. Phool-bahari	0.12 to 0.20 each (0.06 to 0.12)	0.15 to 0.25 each	-	0.10 to 0.18 each (0.05 to 0.10)	0.20 to 0.25 each (0.10 to 0.12)
10. Rosha grass	-	-	-	-	-
11. Honey	1.50 (0.75)	-	2.00 (2/-)	1.50 to 2.25 (0.50 to 1.00)	-
12. Wax	3.25 to 3.75	-	2.00 (2.00)	2.50 (1.00)	-

---- Contd.

	Sheikpurkalan	Guna	Betul	Bilaspur	Kaipur	Shahdol	Khargone	Remarks
1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1. Kullu gum ..	0.80 to 1.25 (0.67)	1.25-1.50 (0.62 - 1/)	1.00-1.50 (1/to 2)	1.00-1.50 (1/-to 1.75)	1.00-1.50 (0.75 to 1)	1.50 (0.40-0.60)	1.00 - 1.25	Monopoly procurement.
2. Dhawda gum ...	1.00 to 1.50 (1.00)	1.00 to 1.50 (0.75-1.25)	2.00 (1.25-1.50)	do.	-	-	1.50 - 2.00	
3. Other gum ..	0.80 to 1.00 (0.34 to 1.00)	-	-	-	0.50-0.75 (0.25-0.50)	-	-	
4. Mahua leaves	-	-	-	0.13-0.25 (0.10-0.20)	0.15-0.20 (0.10-0.12)	0.10-0.15	-	
5. Mahua flowers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
6. Mahua seed ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
7. Chironji ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
8. Katha ..	Rs. 124 per 40kg.	Rs. 120 per 40kg.	-	-	-	-	-	
9. Phool-bahar ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
10. Kosha grass ..	-	-	1.00-1.50 per 100 pulas (0.50-1/-)	-	-	-	1.50 per 100 pulas.	
11. Honey ..	-	1.50 (1.00)	1.50	1.50-2.00 (1.25-1.50)	1.50 (1.00-1.50)	-	-	
12. Wax ..	-	3.00 (1.25-1.50)	-	-	-	-	-	

Source: M.P. Tribal Co-operative Development Corporation.

APPENDIX - XIV

Plan Expenditure on Labour Amenities in Forests (Rs.in La

State/ Union Territory,	Allocation for and Expenditure on Labour Amenities.					
	First Plan (1951-56)		Second Plan (1956-61)		Third Plan (1961-66)	
	Allo- cation.	Expen- diture.	Allo. Exp.	Allo. Exp.	Allo. Exp.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
1. Andhra Pradesh.	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Assam	-	-	-	-	-	1.16
3. Bihar	-	-	-	-	1.0	-
4. Gujarat	-	-	-	-	17.23	8.88
5. Jammu & Kashmir.	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Kerala	-	-	-	-	0.70	0.21
7. Madhya Pradesh	-	0.32	N.A.	2.06	18.00	5.40
8. Madras.	-	-	-	-	5.00	6.04
9. Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	24.57	1.57
10. Mysore	-	-	-	-	5.00	0.41
11. Nagaland	-	-	N.A.	0.05	-	4.07
12. Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Punjab (Composite)	-	-	-	-	1.00	0.37
14. Rajasthan.	-	-	-	-	0.50	0.15
15. Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-
16. West Bengal.	-	-	7.60	5.40	3.00	0.60
Total States. =	-	0.32	NA	7.51	76.00	47.24
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands.	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Delhi .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Goa, Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Himachal Pradesh) (Erstwhile)	-	-	-	-	0.50	0.64
5. Manipur.	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. N.E.F.A.	-	-	-	-	-	-
7. Tripura.	-	-	0.29	0.31	0.25	0.13
Total All India	-	0.32	N.A.	7.82	76.75	48.01

Source :- "Forest Statistics" published by Central Forestry Commission, Government of India in May, 1963 - Bulletin No.5.

APPENDIX - XV

Statement showing the Forest Labour Co-operative Societies in Madhya Pradesh during 1966-67.

District	A B E A							
	Tribal				Non-Tribal			
	No. of societies	Member ship	Capital ((paid up)	Working capital	No. of societies	Member ship	Capital ((paid up)	Working Capital
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			Rs.	Rs.			Rs.	Rs.
1. Betul ..	16	1086	41,530	1,91,711	-	-	-	-
2. Hoshangabad ..	4	220	963	67,366	1	15	455	1,322
3. Kaisen ..	1	18	180	17,680	-	-	-	-
4. Rajgarh ..								
5. Sehore ..								
6. Shajapur ..								
7. Vidisha ..	-	-	-	-	2	109	841	5,860
8. Bilaspur ..	14	388	3,270	1,97,928	-	-	-	-
9. Raigarh ..	14	766	1,699	1,72,985	-	-	-	-
10. Surguja ..	26	994	3,928	2,40,919	-	-	-	-
11. Bhind ..								
12. Datia ..								
13. Guna ..	-	-	-	-	6	299	447	765
14. Gwalior ..	-	-	-	-	1	182	905	14,282
15. Morena ..	22	2206	1,18,131	11,46,848	1	12	120	120
16. Shivpuri ..	2	297	1,835	54,116	2	22	220	220
17. Dewas ..	1	26	260	260	-	-	-	-
18. Dhar ..	9	197	2,413	86,548	-	-	-	-
19. Indore ..	-	-	-	-	15	280	6,395	6,420
20. Jabua ..	16	783	6,955	2,47,440	-	-	-	-
21. Khandwa ..	4	156	1,337	1,337	-	-	-	-
22. Kargone ..	19	603	45,262	2,05,348	-	-	-	-



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
23. Mandla	..	-	-	-	-	1	64	780	3,492
24. Ratlam	..	2	42	258	10,270	-	-	-	-
25. Ujjain	..	-	-	-	-	1	12	2,530	2,535
26. Balaghat	..	3	64	320	52,869	-	-	-	-
27. Chhindwara	..	12	262	3,304	1,33,604	-	-	-	-
28. Damoh	..	2	58	1,205	3,705	1	18	425	425
29. Jabalpur	..	-	-	-	-	4	267	5,144	8,785
30. Mandla	..	29	774	6,757	4,19,902	-	-	-	-
31. P. Shivpur	..	-	-	-	-	5	143	837	837
32. Sagar	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33. Seoni	..	6	247	3,024	53,051	-	-	-	-
34. Bastar	..	47	2,354	11,211	4,67,844	-	-	-	-
35. Durg	..	12	1,214	4,564	34,569	-	-	-	-
36. Raipur	..	12	659	1,12,276	2,35,601	-	-	-	-
37. Chhatarpur	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
38. Panna	..	-	-	-	-	5	141	4,040	19,279
39. Rewa	..	-	-	-	-	1	26	250	250
40. Satna	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
41. Shahdol	..	9	433	1,404	191,107	-	-	-	-
42. Sidhi	..	3	168	635	30,685	-	-	-	-
43. Tikamgarh	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>MADHYA PRADESH</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>14,450</b>	<b>3,73,271</b>	<b>42,88,693</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1,590</b>	<b>23,399</b>	<b>64,605</b>

Source :- Registrar, Co-operative Societies, M.P.

## APPENDIX XVI

### FOREST LABOUR IN BETUL DISTRICT OF MADHYA PRADESH

(Note prepared by a study Teams of the National Commission based on a visit to Betul District on June 7 and 8, 1968)

The district of Betul is one of the densely forested and undeveloped districts of Madhya Pradesh. The district is covered with extensive forest, of which about 30% is under the Government Reserved Forest. The total area under Reserved Forest was 1164.16 sq. miles, excluding the area of ex-proprietary forest of 689.13 ex. Mail Dusari villages which covered an area of 579.13 sq. miles out of which 24.32 sq. miles of forest were declared and notified as protected forest.

Scheduled Tribes roughly account for 1/3rd (32.1%) of the population. Gond and Koris who make up 68% and 32% of the population of the district are the most numerous of the tribes. The population generally depend on agriculture. In cultivation, agriculture labourers are outnumbered by cultivators by more than 4 to 1. About a third of cultivating households (total) cultivate uneconomic holdings of land of 7.5 acres each; another 1/3rd belonging to the intermediate cultivator holding between 7.5 to 15 acres of land each. The district contains mainly Kharif area, the principal crops being jowar, koda-kutki and the oil-seeds. The principal Rabi crop is wheat, the area under which is conc concentrated in Multai and to some extent in Betul Thana. Irrigated area is small, and there is not much double cropping. Sugarcane is an important non-grain food crop, grown mostly in the basin of Bel river.

The number of workers other than those engaged in cultivation classified under the industrial classification division '0' are 10,652 of which 9247 are males and 1405 are females. In the major group '00' there are only 270 persons - 215 males and 55 females. In the major group of '02' there are 1869 persons - males 1368 and females 501. In the major group, '03' there are 925 persons - 700 males and 145 females and in major group '04', there are 7508 workers - 6884 males and 704 females.

#### Forest Villages: Their Constitution.

There are about 300 forest villages in the three circles of Betul, Hoshangabad and East Khundwa. These Forest villages have been settled in forest areas to secure a permanent supply of labour for forest operations and to provide employment for members of forest tribes who, under a strict system of conservancy, are debarred from maintaining themselves by the now extinct Khava cultivation. Most of the villages are very old and have not been de-settled since they were founded. The forest villages unlike revenue

villages are designed only to afford a permanent supply of suitable local labour and not for the purpose of extending cultivation and bringing in rents preference is given to local tribals and local people in the matter of settlement because of their experience in extraction or handling of forest produce. The number of houses in each village is limited. The villagers enjoy the right to free grazing of their cattle, to free supply of thorns and wood required for bonafide agricultural purposes for house building and repairs. There is the first claim to the employment in forest works. A headman or Patel is selected by each village subject to the approval of the Divisional Forest Officer, and he collects all rents, cesses and other dues from the villagers for which he receives a suitable commission. He also advises the Forest Officials in the organisation and employment of forest labour. Arrangements for the supply of country liquor and drugs is made under the control and orders of Deputy Commissioner, Taccavi loans are distributed through the agency of forest department for clearing of land, purchase of bullocks and carts, defraying the current expenditure of cultivation, on the joint personal security of the borrowers.

#### Visits to villages -7th June 1968

On our arrival at Amh Junction at 11.00 AM. it was decided in consultation with officers of the forest department to visit a limited number of forest and non-forest villages for intensive study of conditions of forest labour and to see the working of nationalised tendu leaves operations handled by forest department, and conditions of charcoal workers etc. Under the revised programme, forest villages of *Ladi, Sarui, Sarot* and non-forest villages of *Rateda and Kolu Dhana* were selected for the visit. A discussion with District Magistrate was also arranged.

First, we visited the non-forest village of Rateda and observed the working of nationalised tendu leaf trade. An obvious result of the nationalisation of tendu leaf from which beedis are manufactured is the rise in forest revenue for the State from Rs. 80 lakhs before the nationalisation to a gross revenue earning of Rs. 7.75 crores and a net revenue of Rs. 4.25 crores for the entire State during the current year. A second more important result has been the abolition of the system comprising petty traders and contractors who arbitrarily fixed prices for tendu leaf in the past and paid generally low wages to forest labour engaged in plucking tendu leaf. The system has now been replaced by the Government machinery which fixes the rate every year and buys tendu leaf from the persons concerned. An agent who is ordinarily a forest guard is in charge of the purchase at the village level and he gets some commission. We visited his office and found bagfuls of tendu leaves piled up in the field.

We looked into a few receipts and observed that the earning of an average worker per 100 standard gaddies was Rs. 1.50 and that of a family consisting of 3 persons about 400 to 500 gaddies which fetched about Rs. 6 or 7. We also examined a number of workers and found that they were aware of the rate which was Rs. 1.50 per hundred gaddies and that they received the correct price. We, however, felt that counterfoil of the receipts should also have been entrusted to the labour .

Tendu leaf collection is a seasonal occupation which starts from the second week of May and lasts till the onset of the monsoon. A man or woman spends ~~four~~ hours in the morning in collecting leaves and the afternoon in drying them.

Wage rates have been going up over the last three years since nationalisation was introduced. In the beginning a worker earned Rs. 0.90 per hundred gaddies. Last year the wage went up to Rs. 1.10 per hundred gaddies and this year it stands at Rs. 1.50. A higher wage rate is prescribed at Rs. 1.75 per gaddy for the lands in respect of which a worker is registered as a grower of tendu leaf in revenue records. Wage rates are revised every year by a Committee headed by the Commissioner and consisting of another representative of the Government, three representatives of growers and two representatives of trade.

That the new system is preferable to the old contract system was vouched for by labour. In the past, under the contract system the workers got one anna per five or six gaddies, that is, about Rs. 1 per hundred gaddies of 100 leaves each, and in addition a few gaddies were also given free of charge to the contractor. Now the gaddies are of 50 leaves each, and the wages are more.

Asked about the change which has come about in the village during the last 10 years, the villagers felt that there has not been any marked change. Some of them observed that they had been better off earlier. There has no doubt been a change in respect of the provision of a school, a hospital and roads. Epidemics have been controlled. All the changes have been blurred and wiped out by the rising prices which though neutralised to a great extent by rise in wage earnings, *have caused hardships.*

Another change was about the cultivation of cash crops such as sugarcane. There was a middle school. Most of the labour owned lands. A few boys were literate, if not educated. A suggestion regarding the nationalisation of mahua flower, gum and other minor forest produce,

such as, chironji and harre was welcomed by the people, provided they were allowed to hold in reserve enough for their <sup>own</sup> domestic consumption and to sell the surplus at their will.

The next village that we visited was the forest village of Ladi. The Forest Officers explained that the impression that forest villages were more or less concentration camps and that the people were at the mercy of forest staff and were not adequately paid was not correct. Nevertheless the people had no occupancy right in the lands which belonged to the Government and which for reasons of the protection of the forests could not be permanently settled with them. But the conditions of the people in the forest villages were better because they were assured of regular employment and fixed wages. There has been no eviction of people during the last 100 years. There is a school, a little away, and very few boys from this village attend it. The wages are fixed by the Commissioner in consultation with the Forest Department. Forest settlement is no longer encouraged, and no forest village has been founded during recent years. For the last three years the conditions of the people have been difficult on account of severe droughts. Ordinarily they live on makai, kutku and jagni.

We examined a number of workers including women in the village. They get a fixed daily wage of Rs. 1.50. All complained that conditions had deteriorated. They were not happy because the prices have gone up. The women said that some of them could not afford to send their children to school because they have to stay back to look after the younger children in their homes. The local bazar is five miles away and they buy maize, dal and vegetables. Nowadays, their meals consist of bread or thin boiled paste (called 'Pej') prepared from makai or some other inferior cereal mixed with chatni and only rarely dal and vegetables. They do not take tea. Almost everybody in the village has land, and they practise rotation of crops.

A very happily newly married bridegroom, a tribal spent as much as Rs. 200 over his marriage in addition to an equal amount he paid for getting the bride; he was bedecked with jewels.

The third village we visited was Sarni on a river situated near and impressive complex of Satpura Thermal Power Station. To the villagers the construction of the project entailed loss of their lands now submerged under water. The people said that these were the best lands on which they grew all kinds of crops. The restriction regarding extraction of tube-wells and fodder from the forest causes hardships. The project has not created any employment opportunity for unskilled labour on a largescale. Those who are, employed - and there is regular employment -

get Rs. 2 per day; the wage is high because of the project. Work in the forest areas is available throughout the year. A nursery has been started which also employs a number of ~~poor~~ people. Cattle and human population compete for existence; multiplying cattle constitute a menace to cultivation, Children go to school. The people spend their earning over <sup>totally, which is</sup> ~~totally~~ costs them 60 paise. They get Rs. 1.50 per gaddy <sup>available</sup> for tendu leaves.

We next visited the forest village of Bareta between 5.30 and 6.15 P.M. About 25 men and women labour including an ex. M.L.A. were present. Cultivation and regular works in the forest constituted the main source of employment. The wages ranged from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 2.00 per day. The people complained about the difficulties regarding supply of drinking water in the village. Asked about the changes which have taken place since Independence, they were unanimous in pointing to the advantages which have ~~flowed~~ <sup>flowed</sup> from the abolition of begari ~~(\$ for forced labour)~~ which had crippled them in the past. Wages have also gone up. People are now using brass vessels instead of earthen vessels though the rise in price during the last two years has dampened their enthusiasm for the first. There is a school a little away and both boys and girls attend it. Maize, mahua, kodo and Kutku constitute their food.

The people testified to the advantages of the nationalisation of tendu leaves. Under the old system contractors did not weigh the leaf before buying them. They also paid only one anna for 4 gaddies of 100 leaves each excluding some gaddies which had to be given free. The present rate is Rs. 1.50 for 100 gaddies of 50 leaves each. They felt that Government should also take over the trade in mahua flower and other forest produce.

There is a Forest Labour Co-operative Society affiliated to the Madhya Pradesh Tribal Development Co-operative Society. It has purchased in these villages mahua worth rupees two thousand and till worth rupees one and half thousand in addition to some quantity of gum during ~~the~~ the current year. The Society has, however, not been functioning well because its members are not properly trained and because it does not get the necessary managerial assistance. They have also not received bonus. There is a competition between traditional traders and the co-operatives. Because of limited finance, the co-operatives are not doing well. Traders and moneylenders should be driven out of villages and taccavi loans distributed on a large scale every year to enable cultivators to free themselves from the influence of moneylenders.

There is no change in food habits, but there is a distinct improvement in dress. Labour gets a fortnightly payment. Everybody has some cattle. People drink milk and occasionally tea.

We visited two houses owned by the Gonds. Both houses were pictures of cleanliness. The owner owned 15 acres of land and the houses were well provided.

We held discussions with the District Magistrate of Betul on our arrival at the District Headquarters. The Collector observed that the machinery for fixing the wages was not an elaborate one, and that he studied the wage trends for last two or three years before determining the wage for the current year. There are however, certain categories of wages which the Commissioner fixes. The Commissioner ordinarily fixes wages for forest department while the Collector does it for casual labour in the office and for labour employed in different technical departments at the district. Labour now is conscious about its rights. This is particularly true of labour in the neighbourhood of progressive and developing villages. There are lands available in forest areas which can be settled with forest labour. Cooperating societies are not working satisfactorily. Minor forest produce should be nationalised. Development schemes including water supply schemes should be taken up during slack period to provide employment. All departmental schemes should be co-ordinated and their wage rates made uniform. There was no problem about homestead for forest or agricultural labour. In Madhya Pradesh every villager including labour had recorded abadi rights regarding homestead. Bonded agricultural labour did not exist. There was no ~~existence~~ union of agricultural labour.

#### Visit to Village - 8th June 1968

On the 8th June, in the morning we visited a site where charcoal was manufactured, situated deep in the forest village of Kolu Dhana. Labour employed in this work was from Rajasthan belonging to Berwa community. This labour is much sought after for preparing charcoal by contractors who engage agents for recruiting them. Labour is brought here in December and works till the onset of monsoon.

At the site we visited, six families were engaged in manufacturing charcoal. The coupe was leased to a contractor on an annual basis for rupees eightytwo thousand. The labour was paid about rupees sixty <sup>per hundred</sup> ~~per~~ <sup>bags of charcoal</sup> ~~per~~ <sup>which work out to</sup> ~~per~~ <sup>about sixty</sup> per bag. During the seven months the workers are at the site, they turn out about two thousand bags of charcoal, earning in all rupees twelve hundred. Generally both man and his wife work for this amount. Contractor pays an advance of rupees ~~four~~ ~~five~~ to five hundred per worker unit (of two) at the time of recruitment and supplied ration, water, medicine, a lantern and kerosene oil to labour. He deducts the money advanced and the cost of ration and food from the wages.

Labour brought from Rajasthan is from the cultivating class and their income from this occupation is supplementary in nature. The technique of manufacture of charcoal is interesting. It ranges from cutting, transporting and collection of timber (all these are not the responsibilities of labour which prepares charcoal) to (arranging logs or other wood a skilled job and preparation of the kiln and, burning (or cooking) of wood into charcoal and reburning unburnt pieces in case this was necessary. The whole operation takes three months. reburning takes about 10 days. The labour appeared satisfied with the arrangements made by the contractor about supply of water and ration about medical facilities etc. There are, however, no arrangements for the schooling of their children at the site but their grown-up children are not brought to this place and go to school in their villages in Rajasthan. Their main diet is based on jawar and wheat. They have been visiting this area for last 10 years, and during this period their wages have increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 per hundred bags, and each bag weight about 30 k.g. In the past the labour delivered 10 bags free of cost over and above 100 bags for which they received wages. Now the system of free gift has been abolished. They have no difficulty in getting wages from contractors because they enter into a written agreement with their agents who contract them on behalf of contractors before leaving their villages. The agent does not charge anything from the labour but he gets the commission, probably Rs. 1.00 per bag from the contractor.

The Charcoal thus manufactured is transported to Bombay and a contractor gets Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 4,000 per wagon which contains 700 to 800 bags. The contractors' profits after deducting transport cost and the wages involved in filling and collecting timber works out to about Rs. 1.50 per bag.

We next visited the village of Kolu Dhana. About 40 men and women were present for discussion. The village has been in existence for last 50 years. Some labour possessed lands. Regular work is provided by the Forest Department or forest contractors. There is a school about 4 miles away and nobody can send children to that distance. They cannot mortgage lands because the lands belong to Government. They get Rs. 1.50 by way of wages. Their conditions have deteriorated during last few years because of the rise in prices. Epidemics particularly malaria have been controlled. They demand to meet the cost of their living. Mahua is a good diet during these days. Some people are addicted to drinking.

A supply of grain from fair price shops and more wages.



A bottle of toddy costs Rs. 1.25 per pawo; a man ordinarily consumes two pawas of toddy; but this is not a daily affair. The better off take the bread prepared from maize. Majority depend on mahua flower, roots, and leafy vegetables. There was a complaint about non-payment of wages in time; wages are paid *once in a month*.

We came across a somewhat peculiar case in this group of a young tribal with some education which entitled him to a job as 'coupe guard'. We wish to record it because it shows the hold which a contractor has on such guards; or in the alternative the fear complex which may be more psychological than real. This guard once detected some unauthorised cutting by the contractor and contractor's men beat him up. This made the guard give up his employment and return to his more familiar surroundings in the village. The man looked robust but was scared to move out of the village because of the earlier beating he got. He was not prepared to take a similar job even at a distant place. And possibly he may not be moving out of his self imposed internment without the assistance of elders in the village. Even if some of what he said was justifiable it shows what a terror a contractor can be to the lowest rungs of public servants.

From Kolu Deana we proceeded to visit a nursery run by the Forest Department at the village Mahu Pani. There are about 18 workers who are employed round the year in the nursery. Payment is made once in a fortnight. Male labour get Rs. 1.50 and female labour Rs. 1.20. Some labour own lands. The nearest school is a little away in adjoining village. Working hours extent from 8 A.M. to 12 P.M. and then from 2.00 P.M. to 6.00 P.M. They taken peja and bread prepared out of maize.

At Mahu Pani bungalow about 50 persons including women collected. Most persons owned lands. Even the landless persons have their houses on the lands which are recorded in their name in revenue records. There is no problem of homestead for agricultural labour in Madhya Pradesh, wages are Rs. 1.50 for male and Rs. 1.25 for female labour. There is no fair price shop and markets are a little away. The area has been ravaged by droughts for last three years. They complained about rise in prices and demanded that fair price shops should be opened. There is shortage of labour and forest department take up Schemes which provide work almost round the year,

We visited two houses in the village. The house owned by a Gwali looked neat and affluent. Such modern gadgets as lantern,iffin carriers, fruit carriers were noticed in the house. The owner possessed a sizeable area of cultivable land. The other house belonging to a Gond, though neatly kept, was almost

empty except for some utensils and storage. This reflected the difference in the economic standards of tribal and non-tribal groups.

### Conclusions

Our impressions of the conditions of forest labour in a relatively undeveloped and inaccessible district of Madhya Pradesh were based on a rather hurried tour of forest and non-forest villages. We wish to sum up our impressions and recommend as follows:-

1. The labour in forest villages in Madhya Pradesh looked more healthy, and better clothed and if not more conscious than his counterpart elsewhere. Regular works undertaken by Forest Department provided them with employment and fixed wages were paid. They were reluctant to send children to school. Stress should be laid on providing better education facilities for these people. There was no problem regarding homestead for agricultural labour in Madhya Pradesh because of recorded abadi rights of villagers; this was in striking contrast to the conditions prevailing in Bengal and Bihar where homestead tenancy has yet to be secured in favour of a large number of agricultural and forest labour.

2. Where lands are available for cultivation in forest areas, measures should be initiated to settle them with forest labour.

3. The nationalisation of tendu leaf has paid rich ~~dividends~~ dividends; besides raising the revenue accruing to the State Government, it has replaced an exploitative system dominated by traders and contractors who fixed arbitrarily price for this forest produce. We found everywhere that the wage fixed by the Forest Department was being paid to labour. We, however, recommend that a careful revision of wages should be undertaken every year in line with rise in prices and the profit made by the forest department.

4. We recommend that other minor forest produce, such as, mahua flower or seed, gum, chironji, etc. should also be nationalised. The nationalisation of mahua flower, however, should not adversely affect domestic consumption of this produce which is a food for a vast majority of forest labour. Mahua flower for distilleries should also be banned. The nationalisation of forest produce will bring many benefits to forest labour, such as, fixed and reasonable price for the produce, abolition of the vested interests of traders and money-lenders, etc.

5. While the forest department has taken up a number of schemes that provide regular employment for a large number of people, there is need for a change in the pattern of schemes to be taken up and for laying more emphasis on production-oriented or water-conservation schemes in forest areas. The District Magistrate should co-ordinate all departmental schemes and introduce and implement them in particularly vulnerable areas. The wage rates prescribed by different departments should also be standardised and made uniform.

6. A chain of fair price shops should be opened to service forest labour and some of these should be operated by the Forest Department through their own agency. This is necessary because not only markets are far away from some villages but also there is an acute shortage of food stuffs during the rainy season or slack season.

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## Statement showing the Revenue from Major and Minor Forest Produce in Madhya Pradesh during 1958-59 to 1968-69.

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Items	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61	1961-62	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	1966-67	1967-68	1968-69
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
											(estimated)
1. Timber (including supply to defence department & Railway)	459.32	545.57	554.02	555.27	539.13	652.56	803.73	930.98	955.18	931.82	984.75
2. Fuel wood & Charcoal	112.15	132.09	160.02	155.76	166.98	164.64	167.33	206.58	223.37	229.53	234.00
3. Bamboos	37.95	36.40	43.70	50.53	64.27	61.39	61.26	56.30	70.37	72.48	74.35
4. Lac	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	1.25	0.84	1.92	1.81	2.05
5. Fodder & other grasses	25.86	25.52	27.24	29.34	29.48	33.17	14.91	17.06	23.57	27.32	13.25
6. Tendu Leaves	32.11	51.16	48.98	83.26	57.91	86.08	13.53	201.07	337.76	458.31	800.32
7. Other Minor Produce (including Katha, myrobalans, Tanning material, gums and grazing)	39.30	31.24	41.34	18.39	30.68	20.25	59.51	66.80	73.88	89.07	83.67
8. Commutation	4.39	4.16	4.29	4.60	4.72	4.55	5.05	3.78	3.67	3.41	3.40
9. Other items	35.31	2.48	1.96	1.28	1.36	3.23	5.40	3.55	4.10	20.09	8.15
Total:- (Rupees in Lakhs)	746.39	828.62	881.55	898.43	944.53	1025.87	1131.97	1486.96	1696.82	1833.84	2206.94
(a) By departmental working	170.00	176.42	193.99	175.01	204.30	222.99	245.00	427.15	608.96	708.11	1050.00
(b) By consumer and purchaser	576.39	652.20	687.56	723.42	740.23	802.88	886.97	1059.81	1087.86	1125.73	1156.94
Total:- (Rupees in Lakhs)	746.39	828.62	881.55	898.43	944.53	1025.87	1131.97	1486.96	1696.82	1833.84	2206.94

Source : Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh.

STATE TRADING IN FOREST PRODUCTS -  
ITS BENEFITS AND PROSPECTS.

Back ground :-

Forests in India constitute perpetually protective, productive, renewable and valuable natural resource and forestry, at present, is an important industry in the public sector as about 92 percent of the total forest area in the country is state-owned and is being managed and worked by Forest Departments of various States. Forest and forest products occur in private holdings also in small and varying proportion, depending on how intensively or casually these holdings have been developed and used for cultivation and other purposes except forestry. In view of topography, workability, <sup>nature of</sup> products these forests yield and methods of exploitation required to be followed, almost all operations in forestry presently practised in India, particularly dealing with afforestation, exploitation, extraction and collection of forest products, are labour intensive requiring specific skill and efficiency and will continue to be so for a long time to come.

2. Indian forests yield a variety of products which, depending on quantity, use, importance and value are conventionally classified as 'Major' and 'Minor' forest products. Timber, fuel and charcoal are treated as 'Major Forest Produce' and the rest including bamboos, and other plant products like roots, leaves, flower, fruits, gums, resins, bark, extracts like katha, kutch, lac, animal products like tusks, bones, horns, hide, etc. are treated as 'Minor Forest Products'.

3. Forest Department during the past hundred years or so had concentrated its attention and activity mainly in demarcation of Government forests, giving them necessary legal status and in evolving and developing suitable systems and methods of management of extensive natural forests.

Since technical people in the Department were required for the aforesaid urgent and important technical and silvicultural work, exploitation and marketing of forest products was left to be done by forest contractors wherever they were available. Forests, then, were in plenty and commercial demand of many products limited, with the result that the scope of profit to these contractors was also limited. These contractors in early days worked hard under unfavourable circumstances and developed markets for earning increasing profits. The system of sales was generally out-right sale for stipulated consideration decided by competitive bidding in auction or tender.

4. Demand of almost all forest products particularly of those which hitherto were considered as 'Minor Forest Products' like gums and resins, katha, bamboos, lac, harra, mahua, chironji, tendu leaves etc. has been rising and many of them have become commercially important and increasingly valuable during recent years. This feature of rising price brought in new and more contractors and has also introduced competition resulting in rising revenue from State Forests but falling margin of profit to successful contractors. Forest contractors have been finding out some method to maintain and, if possible, increase, their profits ; one method was to form a ring during bidding ; another was to reduce cost of working by introducing efficiency and economy and by exploiting forest labour in any manner possible ; and third was to indulge in unauthorized activities like theft and pilferage from adjoining areas. Land Reforms particularly dealing with grant of proprietary rights in all products growing in holdings which were intended to give benefit to the grower, have actually offered additional advantage to unscrupulous contractors and created new problem of thefts and pilferage of forest products from adjoining Government lands. In the above circumstances, it was being felt that if this situation is allowed to continue, the State may, perhaps, not be able to

realize even its reasonable share of non-tax revenue from forests. There was also danger of more exploitation of forest labour particularly tribal which is mostly illiterate, unemployed, unorganized and under pressure even unscrupulous. This situation was a matter of great concern and prompted Government of Madhya Pradesh to do serious thinking about the present pattern of disposal of forest produce and desirability of suitably modifying it or even to evolving a new pattern if necessary. One of the products taken up for <sup>such</sup> consideration was tendu-leaves.

'Tendu' (*Diospyros melanoxylon*) is the characteristic tree of dry mixed deciduous forests throughout India and its leaf, which is used as wrapper of bidi, is a produce of commercial importance. It occurs abundantly in the forests of Madhya Pradesh and grows on unoccupied waste lands and on such types of tenancy holdings as are undeveloped and are of poor site quality. Madhya - Pradesh produces the largest quantity of these leaves in any single State of India and it is estimated that about 60 % of the total production of the country comes from Madhya Pradesh. About 75 % of this production is consumed within the State for manufacture of bidis and the balance is exported to adjoining States for meeting the requirement of bidi industry there.

Before the introduction of State Trading, tendu leaves from Government lands were being auctioned by the Divisional Forest Officers. Tenants who had proprietary rights over the leaves growing in their holdings under the Madhya-Pradesh Land Revenue Code, were disposing off their leaves in any manner and to whomsoever they liked. Lately, when prices of tendu leaves started rising on account of increasing demand, many unscrupulous intermediaries with vested interests entered in the trade as purchasers of leaves of tenants after paying a nominal sum to them with the sole purpose of smuggling and pilfering leaves from adjoining Government lands with the result

that the tenants could not derive desired benefits of their proprietary rights in tendu leaves and Government were also being deprived of their legitimate share of revenue. Looking to the rapid development of bidi industry in India in general and in Madhya Pradesh in particular, both the Government and traders were anxious to take necessary steps to improve both quality and quantity of leaves. This was possible only by expensive operations like coppicing and pruning and subsequently tending the new sprouts. It would have been unwise to undertake all such expensive works unless there was favourable atmosphere to ensure that benefits of these works would accrue to the investors. It was in the above back-ground that regulation of trade in tendu leaves by creating a State monopoly was contemplated and was considered as an appropriate remedy. It was attempted as a new experiment to obtain best returns from forest products after ensuring fair wages to labour and reasonable price to growers of forest products.

Enactment and Scheme of Working :-

The Madhya Pradesh Tendu Patta (Vyapar - Viniyaman) Adhiniyam 1964 was enacted to make provision for regulating the trade of Tendu leaves by creating State monopoly. The act provides that no person other than :-

(i) State Government,  
(ii) an officer of the State Government,  
and (iii) an Agent appointed by the State Government,  
can now purchase and transport tendu leaves. The Act has made special provisions to safe-guard the interest of growers of tendu leaves by fixing and ensuring payment of fair and reasonable price to them for such leaves as are sold to Government. The Scheme of State Trading, in brief, is as under :-

- (i) The State is divided into convenient units for working.
- (ii) All leaves offered for sale by growers in any unit convenient to them are purchase



(7)

and all leaves available in Government lands are collected either departmentally or by employing agents under prescribed terms and conditions. A reasonable purchase rate for growers is fixed in advance of the season after consulting Divisional Advisory Committees constituted for this purpose under the Act. Similarly wage rates for collection of leaves from Government lands are also fixed and published in advance. The above provisions and specific conditions in the Agreement of Agents enable State Government to ensure fair deal to growers as well as to labour.

- (iii) Leaves so purchased from growers and collected from Government land are sold at the collection centres in green form to purchasers who are decided and appointed in advance. Persons or parties offering highest rate per standard bag of leaves are appointed as purchaser in the unit. The purchaser is bound by a set of conditions incorporated in an Agreement.

Benefits :-

State Trading in Tendu Leaves, besides achieving the intended object of stopping smuggling and pilferage of leaves from Government lands, eliminating such intermediaries as were exploiting tenants and finally increasing non-tax revenue of the State, has yielded the following further benefits :-

1. Favourable atmosphere has been created for the department and traders to invest money for improvement of quality and quantity of leaves.

2. Manufacturers of bidi and Exporters of Tendu leaves are assured of supply of better quality leaves at reasonable price and all unhealthy competition introduced by intermediaries resulting generally in deterioration of quality of leaves, has been eliminated.
3. The above two features have encouraged the local traders and have also improved the scope of outsiders coming to Madhya Pradesh for purchasing leaves with the result that the State is now receiving reasonable competitive value of its leaves.
4. The State Forest Department has now complete statistics of Tendu Leaves, its potential and future possibilities.
5. Revenue from Sales tax has correspondingly increased as tax is now recovered on the purchase price of collected leaves which is more than that of standing leaves originally sold. Evasion of tax has also been eliminated to a large extent as it is simultaneously collected during sale.
6. Stress and strains in maintaining law and order during collection season and complaints against subordinates favouring One party or the other are reduced to the minimum.
7. Growers get fair price of their leaves and mazdoors reasonable wages for collection as these are fixed by Government and rules of Agency and conditions of Agreement ensure payment of the same.

#### Financial Results :-

About 21 lakh standard bags of tendu leaves have been collected annually during the last three years (1965, 1966 and 1967) which were generally drought years. On account of favourable climatic condition during 1968 plucking season, the collection has exceeded -

25 lakh bags. The following table gives details of receipt ~~xx~~ of annual revenue before and after State Trading :-

Statement of Annual Revenue (in lakh rupees).  
Before State Trading.

Year	Revenue receipts
1.	2.
1957-58	28.04
1958-59	32.11
1959-60	51.16
1960-61	48.98
1961-62	83.26
1962-63	57.91
1963-64	86.09

After State Trading

Year.	Gross Revenue.	Expenditure on collection i.e. payment of purchase price to growers, wages for collection, Commission to agents etc.	Net revenue.
1.	2.	3.	4.
1965-66	484	233	251
1966-67	624	286	338
1967-68	810*	369	450
1968-69	1300*	500	800 (estimated)

Revenue has been significantly rising. Similarly the expenditure on collection which mainly went to forest labour (about 90 % of total collection came from Government lands and even growers have paid increasing rates for labour engaged by them) was also rising. Wage rates were increased as under :-

Year.	Wage rate per standard bag.
1965	Rs. 8.00
1966	Rs. 10.00
1967	Rs. 12.00
1968	Rs. 15.00

It is obvious that as Government collected more revenue by better system of marketing, it could afford to pay higher wages to the labour.

Prospects :-

Successful experiment in State Trading has given an indication of potential of trade in tendu leaves and future possibility of improving it for still better returns. It has also indicated possibility of trial of this method for such other forest products which occur both in private holdings as well as Government forests and which cannot be distinguished after they are harvested and removed from the site where they have grown. Some of such forest products which could be considered for State trading are Harra, Lac, Mahul leaves, Chironji, Mahua seeds and flowers, gums and timber.

Immediate effect of creating a State monopoly of the type as has been done in case of Tendu leaves, will be that all smuggling and pilferage of forest products from Government forests will stop and quality of collected material will improve. Trade in these products may present some difficulties in the initial stage as unlike tendu leaves where collection and disposal is simultaneous in majority of units, collection, ~~is~~ in respect of other products may have to be spread over longer period, collected products may require processing, grading and warehousing and in some cases even conversion into such products as could be stored for some time (till disposal) without deterioration in value. These circumstances will require additional staff of right type and technical skill, suitable godowns, processing equipments, transport facilities and necessary marketing intelligence. Monopoly trade has its own advantages in controlling market and ensuring better profits provided it is run and managed by right type of management and organization having suitable contented and efficient personnel with business bent of mind.

If the management and organization is inefficient, losses will be inevitable and it may even be difficult to assess the extent of losses. There are always limitations of funds and bottle necks of procedure when enterprises are run and fully controlled by the State but these could be minimized by delegation of authority and suitably modifying the procedure as has been done in case of Tendu leaves in Madhya Pradesh. Necessary authority of law, normal flow of funds, desired flexibility of Rules are some of the requisites for successful trading which could be ensured to the greatest extent through a Corporation. A better compromise may be to create State monopoly by enactment which should be run by the State Government in the initial stage by employing suitable personnel and then finally transferring it to a State-owned Corporation.

After organizing successful State trading in as many forest products as possible and depending on the increasing revenue it yields, Government could take policy decision as to what part of this additional revenue should go to labour in the form of increased wages. This increase could be related to quality and also productivity. Increased wages will give to the labour necessary contentment and also desired incentive to improve quality and step up production which, under efficient marketing, could bring much higher returns from forest products than are being realized at present.