

**Government of West Bengal
Department of Forests
Aranya Bhaban, Block-LA/10A,
Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-98**

No. 24-For

Dated: 06/01/2016

“ O R D E R ”

Sub : Disposal of Forest Produces :

In suppression of previous order No. 2581-For/6M-3/F(Pt.I) dated 14.12.2012 and in suppression of all other related orders and instructions issued on the subject, the undersigned is directed by order of the Governor to say that the governor is pleased to prescribe the following instructions related to the disposal of Forest Produce in the State -

1. The Forest Produce Disposal & Price Fixation Committee :

There shall be a Forest Produce Disposal and Price Fixation Committee and the composition of such committee will be as under :-

- | | | | |
|-------|--|---|-----------------|
| i) | Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary, Forests | : | Chairman |
| ii) | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Head of Forest Force, West Bengal | : | Member |
| iii) | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests , General | : | Member |
| iv) | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
Research, Monitoring & Development | : | Member |
| v) | Principal Chief Conservator of Forests &
Chief Wildlife Warden | : | Member |
| vi) | Managing Director
West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited | : | Member |
| vii) | Managing Director, West Bengal Waste Land
Development Corporation Limited | : | Member |
| viii) | Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Finance | : | Member |
| ix) | Chief Conservator of Forests, Headquarters | : | Member-Convener |
| x) | Special Secretary/Addl. Secretary/ Jt. Secretary, Forests | : | Member |
| xi) | Joint Secretary, Finance | : | Member |
| xii) | One Representative from not below the rank of
Jt. Secretary from Commerce & Industry Deptt. | : | Member |

The Terms and Reference of the Forest Produce Disposal and Price Fixation Committee will be as follows :-

- Guiding and deciding the entire process of disposal through different means i.e. auction, tender (both manual and e.tender) and negotiation.
- Fixation of price of forest produce including approval of the schedule of rates prepared by the forest Directorate.
- Deciding the price of forest produce to be disposed of through negotiation with different agencies including Govt. Depts., Govt. undertakings and Govt. owned Corporations etc.
- Deciding method of disposal of forest produce including approval for e-auctioning.

2. Schedule of Rate of Forest Produces :

The schedule of rates of different forest produce found in or brought from the forest is required to be prepared to facilitate deciding the reserved price for auctions and also for the purpose of selling different forest produce to the local people residing in and around forest areas for their bonafide domestic use. This schedule of rates will be used by the entire Forest Directorate for the above stated purposes.

A committee consisting of the following will prepare the Schedule of Rates of their respective areas.

- | | | |
|--|----|----------|
| (1) Chief Conservator of Forests / Conservator of Forests incharge of a territorial Circle | -- | Chairman |
| (2) All Divisional Forest Officers /Deputy Conservator of Forests under the circle | -- | Member |
| (3) One Asst. Divisional Forest Officer from all territorial divns. under the Circle | -- | Member |

The CCF/CF will decide the Member Convenor and give the responsibility to specific DFO for this purpose.

The committee will prepare the schedule price of following forest produce :-

Sl.No.	Name of Forest Produce	Rate
1	Poles and posts(class-wise, size and girth wise)	in numbers
2	Firewood (species wise and category wise)	hard firewood, soft firewood in cum
3	Bamboos (species wise, length wise)	per 100 Nos.
4	Grazing – cattle wise and period wise	annually, quarterly or monthly
5	Nursery seedlings (species wise, pot wise i.e. for hyco pots, polly pots)	in numbers
6	Stone, boulders, gravels, sand, chip etc.	per cum
7	Dry stick and fallen wood, thatch wood	head load and cut load wise
8	Dry leaves/fruits/pots etc. for decoration purpose and other decoration items	per head load and cut load wise
9	Any other forest produce found in or brought from their respective forest areas as defined in section 2 of Indian Forest Act, 1972, read with amendments.	

The schedule of rate shall be prepared for all forest produce (as defined in section 2 of Indian Forest Act, 1927) species wise/item wise keeping in view the market price/auction price as well as availability of such forest produce in their respective forest areas. The schedule of rate so prepared will be approved by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, West Bengal, and the rates will be revised in every 2 years.

3. **E.Auction** : The Forest Directorate/West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited / West Bengal Wasteland Development Corporation Limited first shall explore the possibility of holding e-auction for all forest produces in the state. When finalized the same shall be implemented following all rules and guidelines issued by the government in this regard from time to time. Otherwise normal Open Auction may be undertaken

4. **Auction** :

- A. **Auctioning Authority** : Divisional Forest Officer/Deputy Conservator of Forests/Divisional Manager or any government owned Corporation under Forest Dept., shall conduct the auction. The auction authority will take necessary action for ensuring the transparency of the auction process.

B. Fixation of the reserve price of the lots : As per the Finance Deptt. (Audit Branch) notification Nol. 4068-F(Y) dated 20.05.2015 the reserve price of all the lots placed in the auction will be fixed on behalf of the Government by the following committee –

- (1) Divisional Forest Officer/Deputy Conservator of Forests / Divisional Manager / Ex-officio Divisional Manager of West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited and West Bengal Wasteland Development Corporation Limited : **Chairman**
- (2) Assistant Divisional Forest Officer /Assistant Divisional Manager of the concerned Division : **Member Convenor**
- (3) Range Officer / Range Manager/Ex-officio Range Manager of the concerned Range : **Member**

The above committee shall fix reserve price before each auction taking into the account of all parameter/records and also on the basis of physical examination of the lots and average price of similar quality of lot sold in the previous auction, prevailing market price, quality of lots placed in the auction etc. The committee shall fix the reserve price objectively on the basis of physical examination of produce and taking into consideration as many as three previous auction price of similar type of produces. The following points should be kept in mind while fixing up the Reserved Price –

- (1) Defect,
- (2) Quality,
- (3) Location of Timber Depot,
- (4) Prevailing Market condition.

After the fixation of reserve price by the committee, the same shall be sent to the respective Conservator of Forests / Chief Conservator of Forests under sealed cover with a confidential note before the start of auction.

The reserve price fixed by the above committee shall not be declared in the auction and shall be kept in a sealed cover under the custody of officer-in-charge holding the auction. However, highest bid will not be allowed if it falls below reserve price and lot will be put afresh for the auction.

The other terms and conditions of auction shall be decided by the Principal Chief Conservator Forests & Head of Forest Force, West Bengal, for each zone (Hills, North Bengal Plains, South West Bengal and Sunderbans) and shall be notified prior to the auction.

5. Sale of other Forest Produce : The bulk supply of forest produce as stated above shall be done as follows –

- (a) By open auction
- (b) By re-auction if the auction fails
- (c) By sealed tender if the re-auction fails or auction price is less than the reserve price or for any other specific problems which should be recorded in writing by the officer-in-charge holding the auction.
- (d) By negotiation- if auction, re-auction and tenders fail the forest produce for bulk supply shall be done with the approval of Forest Produce Disposal and Price Fixation Committee.

6. Sale of Forest produce for industrial use in forest based industries like plywood, matchwood, paper industries, etc.

- a) By auction
- b) By tender
- c) By negotiation with the approval of "Forest Produce Disposal & Price Fixation Committee".

7. Supply of forest produce to fully government owned corporation under Forest Department liked West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Limited, West Bengal Waste Land Development Corporation Limited, West Bengal Pulpwood Development Corporation Limited and other wings of Forest Directorate.

The supply shall be made as per the price fixed by Forest Produce Disposal and Price Fixation Committee.

8. Sale of Forest Produce to Other Public Sector Undertakings : There are public sector undertaking which require continuous supply of forest produce and such supply shall be made by at a rate which is arrived through negotiation. The price which will be negotiated must be approved by the "Forest Produce Disposal & Price Fixation Committee". The supply should be made strictly on prepayment basis. If the period of supply is extended beyond one year the "Forest Produce Disposal & Price Fixation Committee" shall review the price for the supply in subsequent years. However, there should not be any agreement with any PSU for supply beyond 5 years.

9. **Sale of Forest Produce to Cooperatives** – Up to 10% of the total forest produce put up for sale in the auction shall/may normally be reserved for different cooperatives. All the cooperatives societies having Headquarter in the territorial jurisdiction in the forest divisions where the auction is held shall be eligible. Such Cooperatives may be given opportunity of purchasing timber at average auction price of the same quality of timber in the division. The cooperative societies having valid registration and valid mandate for dealing in timber trade and having submitted their up-to-date audited accounts to the auction authority and also having compliance of all other provision of cooperative societies act shall be eligible to get such allotment of lots.

10. Sale of Forest Produce at Schedule Rate :

(a) Not more than of 10% of the total forest produce available for disposal annually be sold to local people at schedule of rate for genuine local consumption on the recommendation of respective Panchayat/Municipal authorities. However, the amount for such sale shall not exceed in each case –

- i) Rs. 10000/- for Divisional Forest Officer /Deputy Conservator of Forests/Divisional Manager/Ex-officio Divisional Manager
- ii) Rs. 25,000/- for Conservator of Forests /Chief Conservator of Forests

The total sale in a financial year shall not exceed more than 10 lakhs in case of a Divisional Forest Officer /Deputy Conservator of Forests/Divisional Manager/Ex-officio Divisional Manager and not more than 25 lakh in case of a Conservator of Forests /Chief Conservator of Forests. Any sale beyond this limit shall be done on the prior approval of the “Forest Produce Disposal & Price Fixation Committee”.

(b) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, West Bengal, is authorised to allot different forest produce for construction and rehabilitation of local people in case of natural calamities on the recommendation of concerned district and departmental authorities. Such supplies on emergency shall not exceed 10% of the total forest produce available for disposal annually in the entire state. However, if excess quantity is required to be supplied the same shall require the approval of “Forest Produce Disposal & Price Fixation Committee”.

- (c) In case of Sunderbans where honey is a major NTFP, the present practice of fixing the rate of collection of honey will be decided by the Chief Wildlife Warden, West Bengal and Managing Director, West Bengal Forest Development Corpn. Ltd., who is marketing the produce in consultation on the rates fixed annually.
- (d) **Sale of Non-Timber Forest produce (other than Kendu leaves and cashew nuts) :**
Other Non-Timber Forest produce which are not allowed to be collected by JFMC member free of cost may be sold to the local people as per schedule of rate. However, such sale shall be done within the delegated financial power to concerned officer.

This order will apply in case of sale of all forest produce sold on behalf of the State Government.

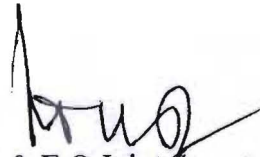
Sd/-
Principal Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal,
Department of Forest,

No. 24/1(5)-For/FR/O/FP/6M-3/12 (Pt.I)

Dated: 06/01/2016

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to :

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (HoFF)
2. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife
3. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (General)
4. The Managing Director, WBFDC Ltd.
5. The Managing Director, Wasteland Development Corpn. Ltd.


O.S.D & E.O Joint Secretary,
Department of Forests