CHAPTER IV

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP OF FORESTS IN
BALAGHAT DISTRICT
The total geographical area of the district is 9,245 sq.kms., while the total forest area in the district is 4,055.32 sq.kms. which comes to 43.87 per cent of the total geographical area of the district. Balaghat district occupies the 13th position in the state in forest area ranking as on 31.3.1981. The forests in the district are situated on the eastern range of the Satpuras and their outskirts. Except some portions of Baihar plateau and a narrow fringe at the foot of the hills the division is very hilly comprising the catchment areas of Banjar in the north-east and the Wainganga in the rest of the division, thus forming part of the Central India water shed. The elevation varies between 1000' to 3000' above mean sea level. These forests lie between latitudes 21-25' and 22-21' north and longitudes 79-49' and 81-4' east.

Balaghat circle was constituted on 1st March 1958 and it was split into two divisions on 1st March 1962 namely the North Balaghat Forest Division and the South Balaghat Forest Division vide Government Notification No. 469-547-X-62 dated the 19th January 1962. Prior to 20th June 1981 the Seoni and the Chhindwara districts were included in Balaghat Forest Circle. Balaghat circle was split into three circles from 20th June 1981
namely Balaghat Circle, Seoni Circle, and Chhindwara Circle, vide Government Notification No. 2948/10/1/8 dated the 20th June 1981.

Balaghat district containing these forests is bordered on the east by the west boundary of Rajanandgaon district, on the south by the north boundary of Bhnadara district of Maharashtra state and on the west by the east boundary of Seoni district.

**Tahsil-wise Forest Area of Balaghat District**:

Tahsil-wise distribution of the forest area in the district and a comparison of the reserve and protected forest areas with the total district geographical area are given below.

**Table No. 4.01**

**Tahsil-wise Break-up of Forest Area in Balaghat District**

*(As in 1971)*

(In sq. kms.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tahsil</th>
<th>Total Geographical area</th>
<th>Reserve Forest</th>
<th>Protected Forest</th>
<th>Total Forest Area</th>
<th>Percentage of Forest with reference to total Geographical Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baihar</td>
<td>4,116.84</td>
<td>1,512.50</td>
<td>971.25</td>
<td>2,483.75</td>
<td>26.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waraseoni</td>
<td>2,719.47</td>
<td>730.35</td>
<td>1,108.52</td>
<td>1,838.87</td>
<td>19.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balaghat</td>
<td>2,408.69</td>
<td>396.25</td>
<td>347.06</td>
<td>743.31</td>
<td>8.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source**: Working Plan for South Balaghat Division, (1972-73 to 1986-87), Office of the D.F.O. South, Balaghat Territorial Division, Balaghat, p. 11.
The above table shows that the forests occur mainly on
the hills and on the Baihar and Raigarh plateaux. The total
forest area of Baihar Tahsil in 1971 was 2,483.75 sq.kms., which
was the highest in the district. Balaghat Tahsil had a forest
area of 1,838.87 sq.kms. occupying second position. Waraseoni
Tahsil had a forest area of 743.31 sq.kms. which was lowest
among all the three tahsils of the district. The plain area
falling mainly in Waraseoni Tahsil in the south-west of the
district is an intensively cultivated tract. The above table
also confirms the fact that deforestation process was very high
in the plain areas of the district in comparison to the hilly
areas as in any other part of India.

**Division-wise Forest Area of Balaghat District**:

Division-wise distribution of forest area in the
district, comparison of the forest area with the total
geographical area and the break-up of Reserve and protected
forests are given in the following table.

**Table No. 4.02**

**Division-wise Distribution of Forest Area (As on 31.3.1981)**

(In sq.kms.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Division</th>
<th>Geographical Area</th>
<th>Total Forest Area</th>
<th>Reserved Forest Area</th>
<th>Protected Forest Area</th>
<th>Percentage of Forest Area w.r.t. Geog. Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Balaghat</td>
<td>4,856</td>
<td>2,101.90</td>
<td>1,007.22</td>
<td>1,094.68</td>
<td>43.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Balaghat</td>
<td>4,389</td>
<td>1,953.42</td>
<td>937.22</td>
<td>1,016.20</td>
<td>44.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9,245</td>
<td>4,055.32</td>
<td>1,944.44</td>
<td>2,110.88</td>
<td>44.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As mentioned earlier the total forest area in Balaghat Circle was 5,056.93 sq.kms. in 1971. The table indicates that it has reduced to 4,055.32 sq.kms. by 1981. Thus within ten years it reduced by 1,010.61 sq.kms. Out of this 1,010.61 sq.kms. area, 532.16 sq.kms. area were transferred to Kanha National Park, 112.66 sq.kms. to Lamta Project, 25 sq.kms. to different irrigation projects, 10.34 sq.kms. to Hindustan Copper Project, Malajhnand, and the rest of the area to the Revenue Department.

The table indicates that 47.95 per cent of the total forest area of the district is reserved and 52.05 per cent protected. The table also indicates that the distribution of forest area among the North and South Balaghat Divisions is 51.83 per cent and 48.17 per cent respectively.

North Balaghat Forest Division comprises Garhi, North Lamta, South Lamta, North Ukwa South Ukwa, East Baihar, West Baihar and Birsa, Damoh ranages, South Balaghat Forest Division is composed of Lougur, Balaghat, Waraseoni, East Lanji, and West Lanji ranges.

The reserved forests of North Balaghat Division are constituted of 23 forest blocks varying in area from 126.3 hectares to 3649 ha. These blocks mostly adjoin each other forming large compact continuous forest areas except in the western part of the Division where small scattered blocks of Pandratola, Amoli, Titwa, Murjhar and Bhadukota lie. There is no cultivation inside
the reserved forests blocks. The total area of reserved forests of North Balaghat Division is 1,007.22 sq.kms.

The South Balaghat Forest Division now consists of 23 reserved forest blocks, including the 12 Blocks (Bichwa, Garraghat and others) situated in Waraseoni Tahsil. Reserved forest blocks vary in area from 24,898 hectares to 47 hectares. The biggest block is Dhansua with an area of 51,612 hectares spread over three ranges, Laugor and Balaghat of the South Balaghat Forest Division and Lamta of the North Balaghat Forest Division. Except for some of small blocks like Kera, Musalkhapa, Gurrah etc., the other blocks of the reserved forest are big and compact with no cultivation inside. They are spread over all the three tahsils of the district, namely Balaghat, Waraseoni and Baihar.

The protected (Fazil) forests lie in Hatta, Kirnapur, East Lanji and West Lanji ranges. They are situated in the south eastern portion of the district, bordered by Durg District on the eastern and southern sides. There are sixteen blocks and the smallest one is of 164 hectares. Most of these forests adjoin some of the big blocks of the reserved forest like Dhiri, Dhansua and Batkari. They are compact and mostly free from cultivation. They are spread over the two tahsils, namely Baihar and Balaghat. The total areas of the protected forests of North and South Balaghat Divisions are 1,094.68 and 1,016.20 sq.kms. respectively.
The forests of Balaghat District in which the area dealt with in the plan lies were declared Reserved Forest under section 34 of the Indian Forest Act vide the Central Provinces Government Notification No. 833, dated 20th February 1879 and Notification No. 882, dated 20th February 1879. The forests are all 'A' class Reserves i.e. areas intended to be permanently maintained as forest lands.

The protected forests are old Fazil forests of Ex-Zamindaries of Hatta, Kinhi, Bijagarh, Bhadra, Chauria and Bhanpur. They used to be the reserves of Ex-Zamindars who had full proprietary rights over them. The forests were controlled by Section 202 of the Land Revenue Act 1917. In view of the Abolition of Proprietary Rights Act 1950, (I of 1951) all these forests along with other exprivate forests got vested in the State from Ist. April, 1951. Initially they were taken in charge by the Revenue Department but subsequently they were transferred to the Forest Department in 1954 vide Land Revenue Memo No. 3450 XXVIII, dated 6.9.1954. These forests were notified as protected forests in 1957 vide M.P. Gazette Notification No. 2523-2988-X-57 dated 13.6.57 and vide adhoc Notification No. 9.10.58 dated 19.7.58. Subsequently, a Forest Settlement Officer was appointed and posted at Balaghat. These protected forests (Fazil) have now been notified under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act vide Gazette Notification No. 1197-353-X, 1376-351-X and 1378-348-X
published in the M.P. Gazette dated 13th June, 1969". All the settlement proceedings are over to declare protected Forest as Reserved Forest. Thus it can be said that the whole forest area of the Circle is defacto Reserved Forest.

ORGANISATION OF FORESTS IN BALAGHAT

The traditional method of working of the forests was to auction standing coupes and permit the private contractors to fell and extract timber, bamboos etc. The department itself was organised basically to provide regulatory control over the forests and to supervise the felling and extraction by private contractors. The work-load on the territorial division was such that a D.F.O. was not able to find time for the conservation and improvement functions which are essential to scientific forestry.

Under the old system of working of forests, a D.F.O. and his staff had nothing what so ever to do with the actual felling and extraction. They were, therefore, able to ensure that the forests were properly protected, felling done according to the working plan, damage by fire minimised and illicit felling kept under control. The norms by which a D.F.O. was judged were those relating to the manner in which the forests were worked according to the working plan and were conserved and improved as per the prescription. The income accruing from a division was a secondary

norm for judging the efficiency of the division. The objectives before the D.F.O. were quite clear, implementation of the working plan for the betterment of the forests.

The present position is that all forest working is nationalised. This means that no private contractor may now enter the forests for felling and extraction of forest produce. The complete work of marking of timber designated for felling, actual felling and logging, transport of logged timber to depots, and sale of such extracted material is now done departmentally. With nationalisation the existing staff was called upon to undertake the functions of the contractor also.

The administrative set-up was revised and the reorganisation took place in the year 1976. In the field, the department was divided into three distinct wings (a) Conservation, (b) Lumber, (c) Marketing. The functions of territorial divisions were mainly conservation. In other words, the D.F.O. in charge of a territorial division had to perform more or less the functions that his pre-nationalisation predecessor performed. He had been in the overall charge of ensuring that the working plan was implemented, normal silvicultural operations carried on, plantations and improvement, protection from fire and theft and marking for felling as per the working plan were done. The lumber divisions had the specific function of taking over the forest from the territorial divisions at the stage where the territorial divisions had marked coupes for felling as per the working plan.
These divisions were required to fell scientifically and log the timber, ensure the most economical stacking and transportation, and deliver the maximum possible quantity in the most commercially viable sizes of logs, bamboos, etc. to the depots for sale. The functions of marketing division were to take over the forest produce on delivery at depots, grading of materials at the depots, stocking in lots to attract the best prices and boost up the spirit of salesmanship. They were also required to develop markets and to feed back information to the lumber and territorial divisions.

Present System of Organisation:

Again the setup was revised and the reorganisation took place in the year 1983. According to this new set-up in the field the department is divided into two distinct wings, (a) territorial, (b) production. The sales division was abolished in December 1982. As mentioned earlier the main function of the territorial division is conservation. The D.E.O. is in overall charge of ensuring that the working plan is implemented, normal silvicultural operations carried on, maintenance of forest roads and buildings, plantation and improvement, protection from fire and theft and marking for felling as per the working plan is done.

Now the efficiency of a territorial division is judged not by the number of trees felled but the manner in which the forest is conserved and improved. According to the new set-up, the old lumber and sale divisions are merged into the production division. The production division has the function of taking over
the forest from the territorial division at the stage where the territorial division has marked coupes for felling as per the working plan, scientifically felling and logging timber, grading of materials in depots, stacking in lots and aggressive salesmanship. The production division is also required to develop markets and to feed back information to the territorial division, so that the working of the forests can be suitably altered to meet the market requirements. Maximisation of income from forest produce is the norm by which the efficiency of these divisions is judged.

Present Administrative Set-up of Balaghat Circle:

The administrative head of the Balaghat forest circle is a conservator of forests. He works under the administrative control of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Madhya Pradesh, Bhopal. He is responsible for the protection, exploitation, regeneration, collection of forest revenue, and to control the expenditure on establishment and other works of the circle. The Conservator of Forests, Balaghat, is assisted by five Deputy Conservators of Forests (D.F.O.) with their independent Offices, besides one forest Ranger and three Forest-Guards (Flying squad) and usual staff in their offices.

As per the reorganised set-up of the forest department, two territorial and three production divisions are functioning at present in the Balaghat Forest Circle. The two territorial divisions are North Balaghat Territorial Division and South Balaghat Territorial Division. Each territorial division is
headed by a Deputy Conservator of forests (D.F.O.). A Divisional Forest Officer (D.F.O.) is the immediate Controlling and Executive Officer for his division. D.F.O., Territorial Division, is in the overall charge of implementation of working plan, carrying on silvicultural operations, maintenance of roads, buildings, boundary pillars and lines, protection from fire and theft, and marking for felling as per the Working Plan. Each territorial division is divided into the sub-divisions. Each sub-division is headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests (S.D.O.). He works under the administrative control of the D.F.O. Each territorial Sub-Division is divided into 4 to 5 ranges. Each range is headed by a Ranger. A Ranger has to tour the forests in his charge for about twenty days in a month to supervise various works such as plantation, construction, thinning and marking. Another important duty of the Range Officer is to detect forest offences and to hold inquiries therein and send his findings to the D.F.O. for levying compensation and then to recover it from the offenders. Indeed Forest Ranger is the backbone of the forest department. Each range is sub-divided into 3 to 5 sub-ranges (Range assistant circles) in the charge of Deputy Rangers. Their main work is to protect the forests, supervise the various works going on and register offences. Each sub-range is divided into 11 to 26 beats each in the charge of a Forest Guard. Finally the lowest rank of the forest department personnel is the Forest Guard. His primary duty is to patrol the 'beat' to see that it is not being damaged by pilferers or by graziers. In the fire season, he watches forests from towers to locate fires if any, informs his
superiors and organises labour to put it out. He checks removal of forest produce from the forests. There have been instances when intelligent forest-guards devised methods of planting, protection etc., which proved very useful.

As mentioned earlier there are three production divisions in Balaghat forest circle. These are North Balaghat Production Division, South Balaghat Production Division and West Balaghat Production Division, each headed by a Deputy Conservator of Forests or Divisional Forest Officer (D.F.O.). The D.F.O. is the immediate controlling and executive Officer for his production division. He works under the administrative control of Conservator of Forests, Balaghat. A D.F.O. Production supervises various works such as felling and logging the timber, bamboo and fuel wood, ensure the most economical stacking and transportation in the most commercially viable sizes of logs, bamboo etc. to the depots for sale. He invites tenders to sell timber, bamboo and fuelwood. He feeds back information to the territorial division so that the working of the forests can be suitably altered to meet the market requirements. Maximisation of income from forest produce is the norm by which the efficiency of a D.F.O. is judged. Each production division is divided into three sub-divisions, each headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests (S.D.O.). He works under the administrative control of the D.F.O. with his independent Office. Each production sub-division is divided into 2 to 5 ranges. Some depots are also opened in sub-divisions to store timber, bamboo and fuelwood. Each range and depot is
headed by a Ranger. He is responsible for various works such as felling and logging the timber bamboo and fuel wood. He is also responsible for the most economical-stacking and transportation in most commercially viable sizes of logs, bamboo etc. to the depots for sale. A Forest Ranger is assisted by Deputy Forest Ranger and Foresters. Finally the lowest rank of production division personnel is the Forest Guard or Coup Guard. He assists the Deputy Ranger and the Forester in various works such as felling, logging, stacking and transportation of timber, bamboo and fuel-wood etc.

Apart from the above Divisions, Lamta Project of the Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam is also functioning in Balaghat circle. The main function of this division is to raise large scale economic plantations of teak and bamboo. The Lamta Project is headed by Divisional Manager (D.F.O.). He is assisted by one Deputy Divisional Manager (S.D.O.), one Assistant Manager (A.C.F.) Seven T.A. (F.R.), 38 F.A. (Fr.) and 52 F.M. (Fgd.)

CLASSIFICATION OF FORESTS IN BALAGHAT DISTRICT:

According to the Revised Survey of the Forest Types of India by Champion and Seth, the district's forests can be classified as follows.

Common Types                  Champion and Seth Types
(A) Teak Forests              (i) Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Dry
                                Teak-5A/c1 b.
                                (ii) 3 B/C 1C = Slightly Moist Teak Forest
Common Types

Champion and Seth Types

(B) **Sal Forest**: North Indian Tropical Moist Deciduous
Sal-bearing Forest with the following sub classification.

(i) Moist Peninsular high level Sal Forest

\[ 3 \, c/C_2 \, e \, (i) \]

(ii) Moist Peninsular low level Sal Forest

\[ 3^C/C_2 \, e \, (ii) \]

(C) **Mixed Forest**: (i) North Indian Moist Mixed Deciduous
Forest (without Sal) 3 c/C_3

(ii) Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest

\[ 5 \, A/C_3 \]

**TEAK FOREST**: 

Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Teak Forest 5A/C_1 b.

"This occurs mainly along the Wainganga river, in south Lamta and North Lamta Ranges. Teak finds its best expression on the deep, well drained alluvium on the banks of the Wainganga- Pandratola Block, Titwa Block and larger streams like, Mankuar, Mahkari, Nahra and Kowha which are the tributaries of the Wainganga. Teak is generally sound but topdying and hollowness in higher age classes are commonly noticed. Teak is of II & III M.P. Quality, percentage varying from 20 to 80, the average being 60 per cent density varying from 0.5 to 0.3. Natural regeneration of teak is inadequate, however, young age class
Teak is very common.

Distribution:

As mentioned earlier, this type is restricted mainly along the bank of the Wainganga river as detailed below:

South Lamta Range:

In south Lamta range this sub-type is found in compartments 324, 331 of Pandratola block and 332, 334 compartments of Titwa block.

North Lamta Range:

It is found in 922, 30, 368, 369 compartments. However, teak occurs in the following compartments of other ranges too.

West Bainhar Range:

In the compartment number 276.

East Bainhar Range:

In the compartments 315, 316, 1093.

Garhi Range:

In the compartments 567, 568, 79 and 87.

Birsá-Damch Range

In the compartments 1225, 1240, 1241, 1251, 1254, 1257.

South Ukwa Range

In the compartment: 1350.

North Ukwa Range

In the compartments 1409, 1470, 1471.

Slightly Moist Teak Forest- 3 B /C1 C

This occurs in scattered patches of ten hectares along the Wainganga river and other water courses. The main characteristics of this sub-type are rain-fall of 1400 to 1600 mms., moderately deep loamy soils, medium percentage of teak (30 to 50 per cent) moderate undergrowth with or without bamboo and fair natural regeneration. The distribution of this sub-type is limited to the Kirnapur, Lalburra, Katangi and Lanji ranges. Isolated patches are met within other ranges also. Teak occupies principally the lower and middle slopes of the hills extending upto an elevation of about 600 meters. The Principal rock on which it occurs is schist of Chilpighat series. The soil is well drained sandy loam to heavy loam. The quality of the crop varies from M.P. II to IV, but more than 75 per cent of the area is under M.P. III Quality. M.P. I is found along water courses. On the lower and middle slopes, the quality is M.P. III while it deteriorates to quality IV on upper slopes. Proportion of teak
varies from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. The density of the crop also varies. It is good (0.8 and above) in the sheltered valleys and near water courses while it is poor (0.6 and below) on upper slopes. The bulk of the growing stock is middle aged or young. Trees upto 120 cms. girth are however fairly common. Fat trees are generally missing. The growing stock is healthy consisting of well grown sound trees.

**Sal Forests - 3C / C₂C** :

Sal Forest occurs on crystalline rocks with red soils. Soils and topography vary from area to area. This is helpful to differentiate the two sub-types, one found on hill tops and plateau and the other on lower hill slopes. Frost is common on both these sites. The sal is of II to III M.P. quality with inadequate natural regeneration.

C₂ e (i) **Moist Peninsular High Level Sal** :

This sub-type sal extends up over the hills on laterite trap and crystalline rocks. It is of average III M.P. quality. Due to frost and biotic interferences regeneration is inadequate. Sal occurs mostly pure forming 80 per cent and above of the crop, average density being 0.6 to 0.7. Unevenaged young age class sal predominates with unsound mature trees. Sal mortality in almost all age classes is noticed particularly in Garhi and East Bihara Range. Sal areas of Garhi range are found in compartments 125, 126, 138, 141 and 150 etc. In frosty areas, usually on black soils,
the often abundant regeneration is killed back annually by
the frost.

\( C_2e \) (ii) **Moist Peninsular Low Level Sal** :

This low level sal sub-type is, however, confined to
Baihar Plateau below Bhaisanghat slopes at an elevation of 513 m.
to 610 m. above mean sea level. The associates of sal are
generally the same as in high level sal. The habitat is slightly
drier than that of the high level sal. Average quality of sal is
III M.P. quality with patches of II M.P. quality. Sal occurs as
pure constituting 80 per cent and over of the crop. Density
varying from 0.7 to 0.8. Younger age class predominates with
unsound mature trees. Incidence of grazing is heavy. Regeneration
is inadequate, sal mortality is common. In North Balaghat
division sal is confined to East Baihar range in compartments,
33 to 47 and 49 to 61. In South Balaghat Division sal is confined
to only two compartments i.e. P 177 and P 202 on the northern
border of the Division adjoining the Birsa-Damoh range of the
North Balaghat Division. The patches in these compartments are
hardly 1 to 2 hectares and so small that they have not even been
shown on the map. The crop is mostly young to middle aged with
a fair number of fat trees. Sal was quite widespread in this
area in the past but due to repeated fires, bowar fellings and
consequent dry condition, it has gradually disappeared. It is
still present in the neighbouring forests of Birsa range.
Mixed Forests:

Mixed forests occupy over a considerable area of the district. They occur under a wide variety of geology soil and topography and as such correspondingly there is a wide diversity in their composition and condition. The Principal types of mixed forest met within the district are as under:

(1) North Indian Moist Mixed Deciduous Forest 3C/C3:

This type occurs over a major area of the district. The Principal rock is schist yielding deep loamy soil of reddish colour. The ground is hilly, elevation ranging between 40 to 600 metres. The general timber quality is M.P. III but patches of quality II are also met with. The density of the crop varies but in general it is 0.6 and above. The density also goes down on the higher hills where bamboo becomes more prominent in the understorey. The growing stock is essentially middle aged to mature and a large number of stems are well grown. Principal species are Saja, Bija and Tinsa. The main associates are:

Top Storey:

Saja, Bija, Dhaora, Lendia, Tendu, Padar, Mokha, Harra, Jamun, Kusum, Khaemes, Semal, Mahua, Haldu, Mundi, Dhooba, Kekad, Moyem, Kasai,

Middle Storey:

Tinsa Aonla, Dhamar, Gilchi, Tardri, Tondri, Baranga, Kunbhi, Bhilwa, etc.
Under Storey:

Bani, Ghont, Amaltas Safedphetra, Kalaphetra, Kurchi, Kakai, Maidu, Lakri, Harsingar, Dhawai, Jirola, Gursukri, etc.

The distribution of mixed forests is given below:

North Balaghat Division:

Mixed forests occur in the following ranges of North Balaghat Division.

Lamta Range:

The forests occur on hill slopes and streams in Dhansua and Paraswara blocks. The best development of this type is noticed along Bodalkasa nala and below Suriagarh hill. Typical examples are compartment 383 along Bodalkasa nala and compartment 466 at the base of Surigars hill.

West Baihar Range:

The forests occur along hadi and near phandki in Sarekha Block, along Jhamjhum nala in khalondi block. Parts of compartments 305 and 308, situated along Kisanadi and 266 and 267 near Phandki in Sarekha block, bear this type of forest. In khalondi block this sub-type occurs along Jhamjhum nala in compartment 407 which adjoins Sawarjhori forest village.

East Baihar Range:

Small patches occur in Sondhar and Bhaisanghat reserves.
The sub-type occurs in compartments, 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 21, 65 and 66.

**Supkhar Range** :

Mixed forest occurs through-out the Supkhar range as a strip above the sal crops. Mixed forests of compartments, 190, 191, 204, 210, 211 and 219 are examples of this type.

**Laugur area of Balaghat Range** :

In this area, mixed forest occurs extensively on good loam soils along streams like Uskal and Nahra in undulating areas and on moderate slopes (compartments 549 and 550) along Nahra river and in 615, 616 along Uskal nala and compartments 586, 557, 638 situated on moderately sloping areas have been good examples for forest of this sub-type.

**South Balaghat Division** :

They are spread over 92 per cent of the total area of south Balaghat division dealt with earlier and cover a wide range varying in altitude from 250 to 850 metres. The climate and composition of the crop is more or less identical and quite a number of species are ordinarily found in most of the localities. Mixed forests are distributed in all ranges and bamboo occurs extensively as understorey in most of these areas.

(ii) **Southern Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest 5 A/C3** :

"This type is restricted to the drier areas of the district
like south Lamta, North Lamta, Waraseoni, Katangi East and West Lanji ranges. It is characterised by preponderance of xerophytic species like, Bhirra, Gurari Salai, Kullu, Bel, etc. Thorny plants like Khair are seen as indicators of heavy grazing drier, degraded sites. Bamboos are often absent and usually of poor quality when present. Grass is conspicuous till it is grazed or burnt. Climbers are generally few, but may be heavy locally. Average crop quality being IV b, density varying from 0.5 to 0.6, mostly of young to middle aged. Regeneration is very poor. The forest floor generally remains devoid of any leaf litter or humus*.

**Occurrence** :

This type occurs mostly in South Lamta, North Lamta, Garhi, West Baihar, Waraseoni, Katangi, East Lanji and West Lanji ranges.

**Distribution** :

As mentioned earlier, this type is restricted mainly along the bank of the Wainganga as detailed below :-

**South Lamta Range** :

Pandratola block compts 324, 331 Titwa Block 332, 333 Compts.

North Lamta Range:
Compts. 922, 930, 368, 369. However, this type occurs in the following compartments of other ranges too.

West Baihar Range:
Compt. 276.

East Baihar Range:
Compts. 315, 316, 1093.

Garhi Range:
Compts. 567, 568, 79, 87,

Birsa-Damoh Range:
Compts. 1225, 1240, 1241, 1251, 1254, 1257.

South Ukwa Range:
Compt. 1350.

Existing Administrative set-up:

As per the reorganised set-up of the Forest Department, the following two territorial and three production divisions are functioning at present in Balaghat District.
Table No. 4.03

The Existing Administrative Set-up In Balaghat Circle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Territorial (T) Division with H.Q.</th>
<th>Name of the Production (P) Division with H.Q.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) North Balaghat Division H.Q. Balaghat</td>
<td>(1) North Balaghat Production Div. H.Q. Balaghat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) South Balaghat Division H.Q. Balaghat</td>
<td>(2) South Balaghat Production Div. H.Q. Balaghat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3) West Production Division H.Q. Balaghat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Conservator of Forests Office, Balaghat.

The present administrative set-up of the Sub Divisions, Ranges, Range Assistant's Circles and Forest Guards Beats for the two general or territorial divisions of Balaghat district is given below.

Table No. 4.04

The Present Administrative Set-up of Territorial Divisions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Division</th>
<th>Name of the Sub-Division with H.Q.</th>
<th>Name of the Range with H.Q.</th>
<th>No. of Range Assistant Circles</th>
<th>Number of Beats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. South Lamta</td>
<td>2. Lamta H.Q.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>3.</td>
<td>4.</td>
<td>5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baihar</td>
<td>Baihar</td>
<td>5. East Baihar H.Q. Baihar</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6. West Baihar H.Q. Baihar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7. Birsa-Damoh H.Q. Birsa</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8. Garhi H.Q. Garhi</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>1. Balaghat</td>
<td>1. Lougur H.Q. Balaghat</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.Q.</td>
<td>H.Q.</td>
<td>2. Balaghat H.Q. Balaghat</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balaghat</td>
<td>Balaghat</td>
<td>3. Waraseoni H.Q. Waraseoni</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Lalburra H.Q. Lalburra</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Katangi H.Q. Katangi</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanji H.Q.</td>
<td>Lanji</td>
<td>6. Hatta H.Q. Hatta</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lanji</td>
<td></td>
<td>7. Kirnapur H.Q. Kirnapur</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8. East Lanji H.Q. Lanji</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9. West Lanji H.Q. Lanji</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>363</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Conservator of Forests Office, Balaghat.
The administrative set-up of the three production divisions of Balaghat Circle is given below.

Table No. 4.05
The Administrative Set-up of Production Divisions of Balaghat Division

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Production Division</th>
<th>Name of Production Sub-Division with H.Q.</th>
<th>Name of Production Range with H.Q.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. North Balaghat Production Division</td>
<td>Lamta H.Q. Lamta</td>
<td>1. Lamta H.Q. Lamta</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| 2. South Balaghat Production Division | West Lanji H.Q. Lanji | Sitapala H.Q. Lanji |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1.</th>
<th>2.</th>
<th>3.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. West Balaghat Production Division</strong></td>
<td><strong>1. Ukwa H.Q. Balaghat</strong></td>
<td><strong>1. South Ukwa H.Q. Ukwa</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Dabri H.Q. Ukwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. Ukwa Depot H.Q. Ukwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2. Waraseoni H.Q. Balaghat</strong></td>
<td><strong>4. Lalburra H.Q. Lalburra</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Waraseoni H.Q. Waraseoni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>6. Katangi H.Q. Katangi</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7. Tirodi Depot H.Q. Tirodi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>8. Garra Depot H.Q. Garra</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>10. Lougur H.Q. Balaghat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>11. Jaitpuri H.Q. Balaghat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>12. Banjari H.Q. Balaghat</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13. Hatta H.Q. Hatta</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grand Total:** 9 29

**Source:** Office of the D.F.O., Conservator of Forests Balaghat.

Apart from the above Divisions, Lamta Project of the Madhya Pradesh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam, created vide Notification No. 5131-414-X (2) 75 dated 30.10.1975, is also functioning in
Balaghat District. This covers an area of 11,266.40 ha. of the North Lamta forest range of the Division. The main functions of this project is to raise large scale economic plantations of teak and bamboo. Out of the above mentioned area of 11,266.40 ha., the project has raised teak plantation in 3,235.60 ha. and bamboo in 247 ha. by the end of 1984.

Table No. 4.06

The Administrative Set-up of Lamta Project Balaghat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Division</th>
<th>Name of Sub-Division with H.Q.</th>
<th>Name of Range with H.Q.</th>
<th>Overlapping Territorial Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lamta Project Division Balaghat</td>
<td>Lamta H.Q. (i)</td>
<td>Lamta H.Q. Lamta Balaghat</td>
<td>North Lamta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(ii) Nagarwada H.Q. Lamta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(iii) Lamta Depot Lamta</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Office of the Lamta Project, Balaghat.

Administrative Problems of Balaghat Forest Circle:

With the nationalisation of various forest produce trades, the quantum of departmental work has increased several-folds and the staff employed has commensurately grown large. These new dimensions never existed before during the entire history of the Forest Department, spread over more than a century. Under the circumstances the following problems have been obvious
(1) **Lack of Adequate Staff** :

Due to nationalisation the quantum of departmental work has increased several folds but the staff has not increased commensurately. In the Balaghat Circle, the average area of range, sub-range and beat are 239, 68, and 11 sq.kms. respectively, but practically it is impossible to watch such a wide area for an incharge Officer/employee. The Divisional Forest Officer, (D.F.O.) Territorial Division performs many duties such as conservation, plantation, management of Nistar facilities, collection and the disposal of Minor Forest Products (M.F.P.). The D.F.O. Production Division, also performs many duties, such as felling, logging, stacking, transportation and marketing of Major Forest Products. Looking to the burden of work, it is quite clear that there is under staff in Balaghat Circle.

(2) **Delay in Decision Making** :

Delay in decision making is the most serious drawback of the present administrative system. Some decisions which could otherwise be taken at the circle level are taken by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Bhopal, in the field of forest management, which leads to delay in decision making. In 1984–85 the collection of tendu leaves was done in 37 units departmentally. The decision of departmental collection was taken very late, consequently the Balaghat Forest Circle could not make proper arrangements for their collection. Therefore, in 1985 the collection reduced by 62,969 standard bags in comparison to the previous year.
(3) **Deterioration of General Discipline** :

The higher officers such as D.F.O.S., and Conservator of Forests being busy in official work, detachment from the field staff is observed. Consequently, general discipline among the staff has deteriorated in recent years.

(4) **Problems of Illicit Felling and Theft** :

Illicit fellings and thefts are very common in Lamta, Waraseoni, Lalburra, Katangi, East Lanji and West Lanji ranges, while they are rare in Garhi range. Due to lack of adequate and well equipped staff illicit fellings and thefts are going-on on a large scale every year in the circle. The number of theft cases is increasing every year. In 1962-63 the number of theft cases was 913 and it increased to 2,075 in 1981-82.

(5) **Problem of Malpractices** :

Due to the absence of a 'Vigilance Cell' malpractices such as misappropriation of funds, maintenance of fictitious muster rolls at coupes, under payments, submission of false vouchers etc. are common practices in the circle. A case of misappropriation of funds was registered against a Ranger in Balaghat Circle in 1983. If intensive investigation is carried on many more cases may come to light and be registered.

(6) **Centralisation of Administrative Power** :

On account of centralisation of administrative power,
rangers and sub-divisional forest officers are helpless in controlling their sub-ordinate staff. The D.F.Os are overburdened with official work and are unable to pay the desired attention to the field work. The sub-divisional forest officer has no separate office, which shows his helplessness and centralisation of power in the hands of the D.F.O.

(7) **Lack of Communication and Vehicle Facilities in Range Offices:**

There are 17 range offices in the circle. There are no telephone and vehicle facilities with them. Hence a Ranger faces difficulty in controlling the forest offences. Therefore, illicit fellings and theft cases are increasing every year in the circle.

(8) **Inadequate Residential Quarters:**

Residential quarters for the subordinate staff, particularly forest-guards are woefully inadequate. There has been great expansion in the subordinate ranks in the recent past, but unfortunately the building programme has not kept pace with it. The number of foresters and forest-guards is 402 and 815 respectively but the residential quarters are 48 and 212 respectively, which shows a poor availability of residential quarters in the circle.

(9) **Lack of Permanent and Easy Flow of Labour:**

The lack of a permanent and easy flow of labour has stood in the way of optimum exploitation of forest resources in Balaghat
Circle, as an overwhelming majority of the population are agriculturists and consequently during the monsoon the entire activity on the forest front comes to a stands-till. The problem of labour scarcity is more acute in the protected forests (Fazil Areas) of the West Lanji, Hatta, West Baihar and Lamta ranges where there are no forest villages. Labourers are imported from the adjoining districts and their availability is most uncertain, consequently forestry work suffers.

(10) **Poor Working Conditions of Lower Staff** :

According to the forest manual a forest guard is expected to remain 24 hours on duty, which is practically impossible.

(11) **No set-up to Deal with the Public Complaints** :

There is no cell in the department to deal with the public complaints enquiries into the mis-deeds of staff and to bring alertness in all the departmental activities so extensively undertaken.

(12) **Inadequate Flying Squad** :

Presently there is only one 'Flying Squad' in Balaghat Circle, which is hardly effective in providing the constant vigil required.

(13) **Difficulty in Filing Cases in Courts** :

The present practice of the forest administration is to
file cases in courts and institute legal proceedings in respect of violation or alleged violation of forest laws. This leads to a lot of harassment of people. While the offences are petty in character, they have to run to the far off located courts for months and years.

Suggestions:

1. In view of the large scale departmental works introduced in the wake of nationalisation, it is desirable that action should be taken on the following points.

(1) Adequate Staff:

It is suggested that 25 per cent additional subordinate staff should be provided and the number of DFOs should be doubled in the circle. The Territorial Division should be divided into two wings, Conservation and Nistar and the Production Division should also be divided into two wings, Lumber and Marketing. Plantation work should be handed over to the M.P. Forest Development Corporation, so that a D.F.O. may pay more attention to field work, the burden of work may reduce and the efficiency of field staff increase.

(2) Decision Making:

Barring the policy matters the rest of the decisions may be taken by the conservator of forests at the circle level itself. A few examples where this may be done are fixing the upset price of
certain forest products, departmental collection of the same etc.

(3) **Improvement in General Discipline** :

To improve the general discipline among the staff, higher officers, such as DFCs' and Conservator of Forests should go on tour atleast twenty days in a month.

(4) **Check on Illicit Felling and Thefts** :

To have a check on illicit felling and thefts the average area of range sub-range and beat should be reduced to 75, 25 and 3 sq.kms. respectively. Rangers, Foresters and Forest Guards should be equipped with arms and the number of 'Flying Squards' should be increased.

(5) **Check on Malpractices** :

A well-constituted 'Vigilance Cell' consisting of senior and experienced Officers is necessary to ensure a healthy and honest atmosphere throughout the circle. Malpractices should be countered through education of the members of the organisation about their rights and responsibilities and appointment of better quality staff at various levels.

(6) **Decentralisation of Administrative Power** :

The Sub-Divisional Officer (S.D.O.) should be provided with more administrative powers. The following office staff and
other facilities are necessary to make the working of the Sub Division effective and properly operative.

1. A separate Office
2. Following Office staff
   (a) One accountant
   (b) One U.D.C.
   (c) One L.D.C.
   (d) One Peon
   (e) One Driver
   (f) One Typist
3. One independent vehicle for facilitating the inspections of the field work in the Sub-Division.
4. Government quarters for the S.D.O.

S.D.O. (Forest) is expected to carry out some important functions to relieve the Divisional Forest Officer (D.F.O.) of his Office work to some extent, so that the later may find more time for field work and other valuable technical guidance to the divisional staff. The main functions of the SDOs' may, however, be distinguished as shown below:

(1) Maintenance of all Service records of forest guards and sanction of all kinds of leave.
(2) Scrutinising the monthly cash accounts of the range officers in the Sub-Division and submission to D.F.O. for further action.
(3) Keeping the License Books and other forms and Books for issue when needed.
(4) Execution of all the field works as laid down in the Forest Manual.

(5) He will be incharge of Hammers.

(6) Posting and transfers of forest guards, coupe guards and foresters in the Sub-Division.

(7) Timber accounts of the Sub-Division.

(7) Communication and Vehicle Facilities :

A telephone or wireless set and vehicle facilities should be provided in every range office to make the working of the range more effective.

(8) Adequate Labour Supply :

To induce more labourers for forestry works, attractive wages and job rates may be paid. Permanent labour gangs may also be kept. More welfare facilities should be provided to the existing forest villages so that more and more labourers may be attracted. Various forestry operations should be so timely scheduled as to minimise the uncertainty of labour supply. To ensure timely labour supply, it is necessary to establish at least five new forest villages in the remote areas of the circle to meet the labour requirement during peak agricultural operations.

(9) Adequate Residential Quarters :

Sufficient residential quarters should be constructed for the subordinate staff, particularly for the forest guards.
Sufficient grants for annual maintenance should be allotted to repair and maintain the old buildings.

(10) **Improvement in Working Conditions of Lower Staff** :

The duties of forest guard and beat guard should be reduced to 8 hours per day, so that he may perform his duty well and efficiently.

(11) **To Minimise Court Cases** :

Many of the petty forest offences can be disposed with the help of the local community. This unpleasant part of the forest department could be shared by the local panchayats exercising moral authority over the people.

(12) **Reserve Staff** :

There should be 10 per cent reserve staff in the circle so that the departmental work may not suffer due to those employees who go for training and on long leave.

(13) **Training to Labourers** :

Short training for haulage and maintenance of tools and other equipment used for felling, logging and transport be given to forest labourers at suitable intervals of time.

The organisational efficiency has a great bearing on the performance of a particular organisation. The Government should assign the top priority to the improvement in the
functional efficiency of the forest department so that better financial results may be obtained. Aforesaid suggestions may help in raising the organisational efficiency of the forest department. An adequate provision of funds should be made available to this department for doing the required changes in the organisational set-up.