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Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 3431

DATED 7th July 1897

[Despatch Abstract.]

Referring to the Board of Revenue
for early remarks circular from the
Government of India containing proposals
for the curtailment of the length of some of
the returns furnished with Annual Forest
Administration Reports.

BACK PAPERS.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

Serial No. 1.

FORESTS.

To

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.

Circular No. $\frac{12}{245-1}$ F.

Dated Simla, the 25th June 1897.

Ex. No. 3431 d 7-7-97.

Referred to the Board
of Revenue for early
remarks after consultation
with the Conservators of
Forests.

(Intd) G.S.

SUBJECT. To the Board, d.R.

Proposals for the curtailment of the length of some of the returns furnished with
Annual Forest Administration Reports.

Circular No. $\frac{12}{245-1}$ -F.

FROM

DENZIL IBBETSON, Esq., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India,

To

Dept. of Rev. & Agri.
Forests.

Simla, the 25th June 1897.

SIR,

IN dealing with recent Annual Progress Reports upon Forest Administration, the Government of India have noticed that in several provinces the information included in some of the forms attached to the reports is given with what would seem to be an unnecessary degree of detail. They fully recognise the fact that these reports, with their appended tables, form useful books of ready reference, especially when statistics are required. But the detailed statistics are always available in the Divisional and Circle offices; and the Government of India think that only so much of them should be annually reproduced in print as is required, either to exhibit the working of the year for the information of Government, or for the purposes of constant reference. To do more than this involves considerable unnecessary expenditure in printing, and, by encumbering them with unnecessary detail, renders the tables themselves less really useful for the purpose for which they are intended. In one province, for instance, they cover no fewer than 146 foolscap pages of print!

2. The suggestions set forth below have been made with the view of reducing the bulk of the forms, of securing uniformity in their compilation, and of introducing some small improvements. Before, however, coming to any final conclusion in the matter, the Government of India would be glad to receive the opinions of Local Governments and Administrations, formed after consultation with their Conservators of Forests, regarding the proposals.

3. It will of course be understood that whatever instructions may be issued in this matter, they will in no way affect the prescriptions of the Forest Department Code regarding the manner in which the Code Forms are to be kept up in Divisional Offices; but will be intended solely for the guidance of Conservators in preparing for inclusion in their Annual Reports abstracts or summaries of the details furnished by Divisional Officers.

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Form No. 46 (Area of Reserved, Protected and Unclassed Forests).—As is at present generally done, the three classes of forests should be shown separately. But only those individual forests should be entered separately in which alterations in area have taken place during the year. For the rest, it will be sufficient to give totals for Divisions, Circles and Provinces. Where such alterations are caused by the mere rectification of previous area figures, it will be convenient to note the fact in a footnote, as is done in the Punjab Report for 1894-95. The form prepared in this manner should not occupy more than two pages for the largest Circle; whereas in the forms submitted with the Annual Report for 1894-95 for the Central Provinces, it occupies 26 pages of print for the Northern and the same for the Southern Circles, or 52 pages in all.

↓ *Form No. 47 (Progress made in, and expenditure incurred on, Forest-Settlements).*—As regard areas already settled at the commencement of the year under report, it would suffice if they were shown in columns 1 and 3 of this form in totals for Divisions only; the detailed information required by columns 2 to 15 being given only for those tracts in which settlement operations had been in progress during the year. In the "Remarks" column of this form, an estimate should invariably be given of the area in which settlement operations have not yet been begun.

Form No. 48 (Record of Demarcation and maintenance of Boundaries).—As already indicated by the heading of column 1, the information given in this form should be confined to totals for each Division, with a grand total for the Circle. In the returns accompanying the Annual Reports for 1894-95, considerable variety in the manner in which this form has been prepared is observable. It is noted that the entries in column 5 should equal the total of those in columns 2, 3 and 4; while the eighth column should be the total of columns 5, 6 and 7. The heading of column 6 is wrong, and will be corrected to "Length of boundaries still to be demarcated at close of year." This column is not intended to include any boundaries which do not require demarcation, as they will be shown in column 7. Where surveys have not been completed, the entries in columns 6 and 7 must be estimates.

Form No. 49 (Forest areas surveyed and under survey).—Here again the direction of the headings is not unfrequently disregarded. All that is required is Divisional totals for each of the three classes of forests separately. The form is, moreover, very differently and often inaccurately filled up in the various provinces; and for future guidance in its preparation it may here be noted that the totals of columns 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 and 21 should show the work done up to date, and this total, added to column 26 (work remaining to be done), should equal the total forest area shown in column 27. Boundary surveys should not be taken into account in calculating the figure to be entered in column 26. When a tract which has already been shown as surveyed is re-surveyed in a more elaborate manner, the area entered for the year under the head of the superior survey should be deducted from the area for previous years shown under the head of the inferior survey, the alteration being explained in the column of remarks.

Form No. 50 (Progress made in Working-Plans).—Here again the headings show that this form is required in Divisional abstract only for each of the three classes of forests separately. At present it is not uniformly prepared in the several

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provinces. Columns 2 and 3 are intended to show the area for which regular working-plans have been not only completely drawn up, but also sanctioned by the Local Government in accordance with the provisions of the Forest Department Code. It is not intended that areas for which working-plans, although completely prepared, have not yet been finally sanctioned, should be entered in these columns, as has been done in some provinces. Areas for which working-plans have been compiled should, until such plans have been approved and sanctioned by the Local Government, be entered in column 4 or 5. The headings of the columns, which are at present misleading, will be altered to make this clear.

Form No. 51 (Communications and Buildings).—The method followed in most provinces of furnishing a mass of figures exhibiting this information in minute detail for each Division, does not appear to serve any useful purpose. A divisional abstract seems to be all that is required; and this abstract might give the necessary particulars in five lines for each division, including the total, thus:—

<i>Buildings</i> (columns 2 and 8).	<i>Roads</i> (columns 4 and 10).
(a) Head-quarter houses.	(a) Cart roads.
(b) Rest-houses.	(b) Bridle paths.
(c) Houses for subordinate establishments.	(c) Others.
(a) Others.	Total
Total	

Form No. 52 (Register of breaches of Forest Rules).—This return is furnished in a clear and concise form, and should remain as at present in Divisional abstract, with three lines and a total for each division.

Form No. 53 (Area of forests protected from Fire).—The presence of column 3 in this form has rendered it needlessly cumbrous. As prepared for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh in 1894-95, it occupied 15 pages of print. Column 3 may be omitted, and the remaining information given for each Range only, with totals for Divisions and Circles. The heading of column 2 would then be altered to "Forest Ranges".

Form No. 54 (Area closed and open to Grazing).—This form should, as the headings indicate, be filled in by Divisions only for each of the three classes of forests separately.

Form No. 55 (Return of Grazing in State Forests).—This return, as at present furnished, meets all requirements; except that in some Circles the information is not shown separately, as it should be, for each of the three classes of forests.

Form No. 56 (Area of Plantations).—It would suffice if the information were given under the following heads:—

- (1) Regular Plantations;
- (2) Taungyas;
- (3) Cultural operations;

in Divisional totals only, with a grand total for the Circle. These heads should be shown in column 2, of which the heading would be altered to "Kind of Plantation."

Form No. 57 (Outturn of Timber and Fuel).—Here again Divisional totals for each of the three classes of forests separately, as prescribed by the headings, are all that is needed. It is not necessary to show separate figures for the several methods of treatment adopted in exploitation, as is done in some Circles.

Form No. 58 (Outturn of Minor Forest Produce).—Column 1 should be omitted; as an abstract for the whole Circle, showing the three classes of forests separately, but without details for Divisions, would suffice. The different kinds of produce to be shown separately would be left to Conservators, who would, apart from grazing receipts (which should invariably be shown separately), confine themselves to items of revenue which were important in their Circles, and show the rest in one entry under the head Miscellaneous.

Form No. 59 (Account of Timber and produce cut or collected by Government agency).—This form, as prescribed by the Code, shows greater detail than is required. Forms Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 8 give the details of all transactions connected with forest produce extracted by Government agency, as required in Divisional offices. From these forms, Form No. 59 is compiled; but though it gives great detail in one direction, it gives the information only for a number of forests and depôts collectively, and is therefore of no real practical use for controlling purposes. For all purposes of superior control and statistics, it will suffice if the opening balances, the receipts and disposals during the year (taking into account all the various sources as detailed in the existing form), and the closing balances are given in lump sums for each Division under the main heads of timber, firewood and minor forest produce only. Sections 271 and 272 of the Code, and the specimen form at page 182, will be modified accordingly. A copy of the specimen form as it is proposed that it should stand is appended to this letter.

Form No. 60 (Abstract showing the value of Timber and other Produce at Sale Depôts).—Here again the prescriptions of the Code are very generally disregarded. A concise abstract for the whole Circle, such as is given at page 184 of the Code, would meet all requirements. Two forms are required (see section 273 of the Code) showing respectively—

No. 60-A.—Timber and other Produce.

No. 60-B.—Live and Dead Stock.

In the latter the column headed "Cubic feet" should be omitted.

Forms Nos. 61 to 65.—These forms are already prepared in a sufficiently concise manner, and none of them can be dispensed with.

Appendices.—These as at present published are sometimes very interesting and useful; at other times, superfluous. In one Circle, for instance, a list of "buildings the cost of which exceeds Rs. 200," which extends to nine foolscap pages of print, and specifies separately the various "fuel-sheds," "charcoal godowns,"

and "kitchens," is annually published with the Report. These appendices should be strictly limited to the illustration of material points mentioned in the Reports.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

DENZIL IBBETSON,

Secretary to the Government of India.

[Sections 265, 267, 268, 271, 272.]

FORM No. 59.

FOREST DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Account of Timber and other produce cut or collected by Government agency and brought to depôts, sold locally, or otherwise disposed of during the year.

Name of Division.	Balance at commencement of the year in forests and sale depôts.	Received during the year.	Total.	Disposed of during the year.	Balance in hand at close of the year in forests and sale depôts.
TIMBER (Cubic feet).					
Darjeeling ...	206	2,631	2,837	1,980	857
Sundarbans ...	311	5,262	5,573	1,382	4,191
Chittagong ...	476	8,548	9,024	8,911	113
Total Timber	993	16,441	17,434	12,273	5,161
FUEL (Cubic feet).					
Kurseong ...	126	215	341	341	...
Singbhum ...	30	161	191	161	30
Jalpaiguri ...	...	6,150	6,150	6,150	...
Total Fuel	156	6,526	6,682	6,652	30
MINOR FOREST PRODUCE (Value).					
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Tista ...	9	350	359	359	...
Buxa ...	8	530	538	536	2
Puri ...	20	123	143	128	15
TOTAL MINOR PRODUCE	37	1,003	1,040	1,023	17

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HAD AGAIN G.O., No.

DATED

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CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO G. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPER NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
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