

CHAPTER – VI

STAFF AND LABOUR SUPPLY

6.1. THE STAFF STRENGTH

Marayoor Sandal Division consists of two Ranges namely Kanthalloor and Marayoor. Unit of Administration is Range, which is divided into Forest Stations. Divisional Forest Office and Range establishments have the following staffs as on 31/03/2007 is given in **Table No. 17.**

Table – 17 – Details of sanctioned Staff strength

Sl.No	Marayoor Division	Division Office	Marayoor Range	Kanthalloor Range	Total
1	Divisional Forest Officer	1			1
2	Range Officer	1	1	1	3
3	Deputy Ranger		2	2	4
4	Jr. Superintendent	1			1
5	Head Accountant	1			1
6	Forester		8	7	15
7	Forest Guard		26	26	52
9	U.D. Clerk/ L.D.Clerk	4	2	2	8
9	Typist	1			1
10	Compiler				
11	D' Man				
12	Surveyor				
13	Driver	1	3	3	7
14	Peon	1	1	1	3
15	Forest Watcher				
16	P.T.Sweeper	1	1	1	3

Table – 18 – Officers who held charge of Marayoor Sandal Division

Sl.No	Name	From	To
1	T. Pradeepkumar	18/07/05	08/04/07
2	S. G. Maheshkumar	09/04/07	01/07/08
3	Raju K. Francis	02/07/08	24/06/09
4	N. T. Sajan	25/06/09	Till date

6.2 LABOUR

The Forestry operations are seasonal and Department does not retain any permanent labour force and the workers are engaged on daily wages whenever required. Supply of labour is not a problem for this Division. In this Division area, tribals are the traditional workers of sandal wood extraction. Villagers of Anjanad tract are readily available for Forestry Operations during nonagricultural season. Forestry works are executed through the Convener system, and the conveners are selected from among the workers. The Civil works are executed through tender system. The Contractors arrange labourers in the Contract system.

In Marayoor Sandal Division 152 numbers of daily wage mazdoors (watchers) are engaged for protection of sandal round the clock. The services of these daily wage mazdoors are important for protection of sandal from theft. Large majority of them are members of different VSS functioning in that area. Protection of sandal trees by engaging such a large force of daily wage watchers round the clock is not an economically sound proposition. Also, such hard work in a highly tense atmosphere has its adverse impact on the health of the regular staff and is noticed in the form of susceptibility to diseases like fever, emotional instability, low resistance to harsh situations etc. It is becoming difficult to find people for working in Marayoor since most of the people posted in Marayoor go on leave before joining.

In newly raised plantations mazdoors are engaged throughout the year for three years for the protection of plantations from cattle and fire. During this period these mazdoors will look after the growing seedlings by replacing casualties etc. They also protect the planted seedlings from suppression by weeds and climbers.

6.3. TRIBAL LABOUR

The tribes residing in Plan area are actively taking part in the execution of Forestry works. The Forestry operations like fire protection, planting, weeding, sandal extraction and conversion etc are done by the tribal people residing in the settlement and by the local people outside the tract area. Most of the tribals residing inside the settlements have their own agricultural lands. Hence the Forestry operations provide them additional employment opportunities. At present they are engaged in various planting activities under FDA. In Marayoor the tribals are engaged as protection watchers in sandalwood area. Providing employment for them may help to win the confidence of the tribals in the Forest Department and may also help to develop the feeling that the valuable sandal tonest is their own property

and it is their duty to protect it. Tribals are also engaged in collection of NWFP. In short, their main source of income arise from forestry operations and also through work done by other departments in the localities under different schemes.

6.4. WAGE RATES

This tract is considered as a very difficult area and the labourers of this tract are eligible for the highest wage rate. Statement showing fixation of basic wages for different categories of workers in different categories of area is shown in **Appendix-XXVI**.

6.5. INFRASTRUCTURE

6.5.1 Building: There are many buildings constructed in this Division for the stay of staff and running of Divisional Offices and sub-offices. Some of the buildings were constructed before the formation and re-organization of Divisions in High Range Circle. Some of the buildings are under construction. It is essential to assign and evaluate the condition of the old buildings and pursue action to write off the ones which are worn out beyond repair and to make the remaining ones usable after the requisite repairs. Numbers shall be allotted to all buildings for residential and non-residential purposes. The list of buildings in this Division is given in **Appendix-XXX**.

6.5.2 Camping grounds and Rest houses: There are two rest houses at Marayoor. One is managed by Wildlife Division and the other by Marayoor Sandal Division. Another rest house at Chinnar is also managed by Munnar Wildlife Division. The details regarding number of suites, distance by road, elevation etc. are given in **Appendix-XXXI**.

6.5.3 Roads: Most of the roads present in the Division areas are fair weather roads. The State Highway Munnar-Udumalpet is passing through the plan area. All other roads leading to various localities within the tract originate from these roads. Details of the roads within the tract are furnished in **Table No. 19**.

Table – 19 – Details of Roads in Marayoor Division

Sl. No	Road	Range	Tarred (Km)	Mettalled (Km)	Unmettalled (Km)	Total (Km)
1	Marayoor-Pothady	Marayoor	-	5	-	5
2	Marayoor-Koodakkadu	Marayoor	-	6	-	6

6.5.4 Vehicles: The departmental vehicles available in the Division using for protection and administration and their present condition is given in **Appendix-XXXII.**

6.5.5 Equipments: The plan areas is a remote tract and the communication facilities are very insufficient Even uninterrupted electric supply is not available in this tract, in order to overcome this difficulty and to make administartion easier and effective modern equipments like wireless sets, walkie-talkies, mobile sets, generators, computers etc are used. The list of equipments available in the Division are given in **Appendix-XXXIII.**