

Extract of the Minutes of the Proceedings of the meeting of the Chief Conservator of Forests of the Western Zone held at Ahmedabad on 7th September 1976.

The other issue which came up for discussion was the recent directive of Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation binding the States to take prior approval of the IGF for clear felling any area above 10 hectares for any purpose including raising of monoculture. Mr. Rashid Addl. C.C.F. Gujarat pointed out that the restriction might hamper their plantation programmes. IGF explained in detail as to why imposition of this restriction was considered desirable. He cited the example of Kerala, Karnataka, UP etc. where monoculture crops of Euc. Have suffered from one disease or the other. He informed the CCFS that inspite of the clear directive to leave strips of natural forests in between sizeable blocks of monoculture this has not been done. He cited the attack of Ganoderma sp. On Euc. Roots in UP as an example of neglecting the principle. The raising of ailanthus or even Melia and Brousonetia in strips would arrest disease as they are either immune to attack or act as a barrier. He therefore suggested that for raising monoculture plantations the blocks should not exceed 50-100 hectares. These should be further broken into 10 ha. Plots with bolts of fire retarding or other species in between. Mr. Rashid Addl. CC/CF pointed out that as far as Gujarat is concerned they are raising Euc. And they mishairas every fourth plant in a row of Khair. The IGF pointed out that this is better than raising monoculture crops but it also needs re-orientation in the light of the above suggestions. IGF tracing out the history of monoculture crops in Germany pointed out that Germany is now getting better economic return from recreational role of most of their forests than from the timber value. He therefore urged upon the State Chief Conservator of Forests to keep these points in view while planning for man made forests.

Sd/-

For Chief Conservator of Forests.

Endt. on FS-20-155/76 dated 18-11-1976

Copy with copy of enclosure to all contract sections, G1, G2, G3, PC sections for information TR section

Copy to Senior Superintendent, Administrative Assistant and stock file.

For Conservator of Forests
Trichur.