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Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Forest, Environment & Ecology Department
Civil Secretariat, J&K, Srinagar
www.jkforestadm.nic.in

Subject:- Devolution of Powers, Functions, Funds and Functions under Social Forestry schemes to the PRIs in pursuance to the provisions contained in the J&K Panchayati Raj Act, 1989 (Amended upto October, 2018).

Reference: State Administrative Council Decision No. 168/17/2019 dated:- 03.07.2019.

Government Order No:- 298 -FST of 2019

Dated:- 24 -09-2019

Whereas, the Department of Social Forestry undertakes afforestation under aforesaid schemes with active participation of people in terms of SRO-61 of 1992, SRO-17 of 1999 & SRO-143 of 2011.

Whereas, the Department of Social Forestry has since been actively undertaking planting activities under its flagship programmes of village wood lots, rehabilitation of degraded forests, strip plantations, farm forestry and institutional plantations.

Whereas, in partial modification of the above mentioned SROs, the functions related to planting activities under various schemes have been devolved to the PRIs as mentioned below:-

- i. The Sarpanch/Panch (as the case may be) will function as Ex-Officio Chairman of the Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committees.
- ii. The funds for labour work (wherever required as per the service), shall be placed at the disposal of the concerned Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committees by the Department of Social Forestry under relevant schemes/sectors.
- iii. The labour work from seasonal labourers will be hired exclusively by the concerned Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committees on day-to-day basis. However, no liability whatsoever will be created for the Department.

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- iv. Any Need based/Casual/Watch & Ward/Seasonal engagement for social forestry works transferred to the Gram Panchayats will be done by Village Plantation Committees.
- v. The maintenance and protection of plantation done shall be joint responsibility of the Department and concerned Village Panchayat (Plantation) Committees. The established units (VWL only) will be handed over to VPPC for further protection, care and maintenance.
- vi. The concerned Panchayats will encourage villagers to participate in establishing village wood lots by explaining the benefits to be obtained from community plantation and assist the Department in demarcating areas of wastelands on which plantation is to be done. They will also explain the advantages of the afforestation programs to the villagers in their respective areas and report their progress regularly.

All other activities shall continue to be governed by the aforementioned SROs which shall be suitably modified by the Department of Social Forestry incorporating relevant details.

By order of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sd/-

(Manoj Kumar Dwivedi) IAS

Commissioner/Secretary to Government,
Forest, Environment & Ecology Department

No. FST/SF/Gen/2019

Dated: 29-09-2019

Copy to the:-

1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, J&K Srinagar.
2. Director, Department of Social Forestry, J&K, Srinagar.
3. Director Archives & Archeology, J&K, Srinagar.
4. OSD to Advisor (K) to Hon'ble Governor.
5. Pvt. Secretary to Commissioner/Secretary to Government, General Administration Department.
6. Pvt. Secretary to Commissioner/Secretary to Government, Forest, Environment & Ecology Department.
7. Pvt. Secretary to Special Secretary (T), Forest, Environment & Ecology Department.
8. Government Order File (W.2.S.C.)

Under Secretary to Government
Forest, Environment & Ecology Department