

1.14 RIGHTS AND CONCESSIONS

1.14.1 There were no rights to forest produce in any of the Reserved Forests except in Budhighati covered by this Plan. Rights of way over roads, cart tracks and foot path, right to worship in shrines situated within Reserved Forests and right to use water of jungle streams wherever admitted are recorded in section 16 of notifications. A full list of rights and right holders is given in Appendix - V.

1.14.2 Several concessions like free removal of timber, dry firewood, bamboos, minor forest produce and free grazing were provided to the Kondh residents of villages located in Buguda, Sorada and Berhampur ranges. A list of villages and terms and conditions on which these grants were made is given in the Chief

Conservator's Proceedings No. 185 dated 25.02.1913 reproduced in Appendix - VI. These concessions were first introduced in 1906 with the purpose of securing active cooperation of the Kondhs in protecting the forests, particularly, against fires and for supply of labour for forest works. The conditions on which these concessions were granted further stipulated that they were liable to be withdrawn in case the Kondhs enjoying the concessions failed to render the required assistance, that there would be no formal agreement which would bind Government in any way, and that the arrangement decided may be given effect to, by an order in writing by the District Forest Officer. The Kondh population enjoying this concession is scattered over wide areas and thus the control over removal of produce is impossible. However, several villages have been abandoned or shifted. The practice of providing concessions have been given up since long. One of the factors responsible for doing away with the rights and concessions is the increase in the population of Kondhs and the depletion of forest resources. There is no need of reviving this concession.

1.14.3 From 1909 to 1927, bulls were being given free to the Kondhs of Pondakhhol with the purpose of inducing them to give up shifting cultivation. The grant of bulls was being regulated by the District Forest Officer. This practice stands discontinued since 1929 and there is no need to revive such a concession.

1.14.4 In 1914, the then Government had framed rules (G.O. No. 30073 dated 27.10.1914) to regulate the management of the forests and wastelands lying at their disposal within the Pondakhhol agency tracts and not included in any Reserved Forests. The details of such rules are given in Appendix - VII.

1.14.5 The rights and concessions allowed in non-reserved forest areas differ widely because these areas belonged to different ex - zamindaris. The details of these rights obtained from Forest Enquiry Committee report is given in Appendix - VIII. In most of the cases, many species have been classified as Reserved and Un-reserved with a view to give protection, to the species of timber value in the un-reserved land forest blocks. The classification into Reserved and Un-reserved species does not apply to the Reserved lands, where all the trees are considered to be reserved. In case of

un-reserved forest blocks, tenants were allowed to remove un-reserved species either free of cost or at concessional rates of royalty. However, in practice, these concessions were not provided to people because of the depletion of the forest resources. There is no need to revive these concessions because of the present degraded condition of the forests.