

Report of the

Grazing Advisory Committee

On

The Grazing Policy

in

HIMACHAL PRADESH

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REPORT OF THE GRAZING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE GRAZING POLICY OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

INTRODUCTION

National Forest Policy

Forests are a valuable and perpetually renewable natural resource, under scientific use. Rapacious use of forests by way of shifting cultivation, burning and unregulated removal of forest produce, and over-grazing has in the past been attended with the destruction of civilizations of which the Middle East is a typical example. The need of self sufficiency in forest products came to be recognised in Europe for the first time during the great War of 1914-18.

2. It was in 1894 that, for the first time, an All India Forest Policy was declared. This was done by the then Govt. of India, in the British regime. After Independence, the National Forest Policy was enunciated afresh in 1952. The foreword to this re-shaped National Forest Policy is worth reproduction in full and it is reproduced below :—

“The Govt. of India declared its Forest Policy in 1894. The revolutionary changes which have taken place during the interval in the physical, economic and political fields call for a re-orientation of the old policy.

The new policy formulated comprehensively to meet the needs of the country has been the co-operative work of the Centre and the States. It has had the benefit of the consideration by the Board of Forestry & represents the maximum agreement which has been possible to reach.

The final draft was approved by the Govt. of India on May 5 1952.

I hope it will be a landmark in the progress of the Nation towards all-sided self-sufficiency.

K. M. MUNSHI,

Queen Victoria Road,
New Delhi.

Minister for Food & Agr :

Dated the 9th May, 1952.

On referring to the percentage of forest area to the total land area, in other countries

of the World, the National Forest Policy of India lays down that we must have an over-all proportion of forest area 33.5% to the total land area. It also lays down that a much larger proportion of land should be kept under forests for protection against erosion, floods and denudation in the Himalayas and other mountainous regions. On no account should the forest area in such tracts fall below 60% and on steep slopes the continuity of the forests should not be disturbed. In the plains, where the configuration of the ground is gentle, the irreducible minimum fixed is 20%. The deficiency in the proportion of the forest area has to be made up by afforestation of waste and state lands, unfit for cultivation.

3. Section I, entitled 'The Background', in the book containing the National Forest Policy of India, opens with this sentence :—

"A National Forest Policy should necessarily be based on geophysical features as well as the vital needs of a country."

It will be seen that the geophysical features and the vital local needs have necessarily to be borne in mind. Speaking generally, all grazing in forests, particularly unlimited or uncontrolled grazing, is incompatible with scientific forestry. At the same time, the live stock population required for the essential needs of human beings, as also the cash-income needs of the ruling pattern of economy, has to be provided adequate grazing. For efficient forest management grazing has to be regulated as regards the time and place and also the number. And this regulations has to be dovetailed into and adjusted with the needs of such live stock population as that the maintenance of which is found indispensable.

4. The resolution passed by the Govt. of India on the 12th of May, 1952, on 'National Forest Policy' contains the following basic provisions :—

Vital National needs :—The National Forest Policy of India is formulated on the basis of six paramount needs of the Country, namely :—

- (1) the need for evolving a system of balanced and complementary land-use, under which each type of land is allotted to that form of use under which it would produce most and deteriorate least ;
- (2) the need for checking :—
 - (a) denudation in mountainous regions on which depends the perennial water supply of the river system whose basins constitute the fertile core of the country ;
 - (b) the erosion progressing apace along the treeless banks of the great rivers leading to ravine formation, and on vast stretches of undulating waste-lands depriving the adjoining fields of their fertility ;
 - (c) the invasion of sea-sands on coastal tracts, & the shifting of sand dunes; more particularly in the Rajputana desert;

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- (3) the need for establishing tree-lands, wherever possible for the amelioration of physical and climatic conditions promoting the general well being of the people;
- (4) the need for ensuring progressively increasing supplies of grazing, small wood for agricultural implements, and in particular of firewood to release the cattle dung for manure to step up food production;
- (5) the need for sustained supply of timber and other forest produce required for defence, communications & industry;
- (6) the need for the realisation of the maximum annual revenue in perpetuity consistent with the fulfilment of the needs enumerated above.

These vital needs indicate the functions forests are to fulfil, and provide the fundamental basis of the policy governing their future.

For the formulation of grazing policy in the country as a whole, the following cardinal principles have been laid down in the National Forest Policy :—

- (a) Continuous grazing on the same areas by large herds is destructive of the better strains of grasses and leads to a deterioration of the grass complex. Thus rotational grazing has to be introduced.
- (b) Cheap forest grazing has a demoralizing effect and leads to the vicious spiral and reckless increase in the population of live stock, inadequate forest grazing and reduced quality of the herds. Free and indiscriminate grazing has, therefore, to be restricted;
- (c) The fees levied for grazing should aim at regulating & controlling grazing as also improving the quality both of grazing and cattle themselves.
- (d) Grazing incidence should be kept minimum in protection forests and it should be completely eliminated from regeneration areas.
- (e) Experience gained in India and elsewhere points to the imposition of restrictions on Sheep grazing in forests and the total exclusion of goats there from. The damage to the young plants caused by the browsing of these animals is often irreparable & their admission into the forest is incompatible with the aims and objects of forest management. The creation of special fodder reserves under strict rotational control is the only answer.

The Problem of Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh constitutes a hilly State in the Himalayan Region of India. This

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high land territory is the land of snow and mountains with the altitude varying from 300 metres to 6,500 metres above sea-level. The climate varies with altitude from semi-tropical to semi-arctic. The forests occur at all levels. The low undulating and rolling hills carry scrub growth mainly straggling and emaciated due to heavy burden of men and animals. Sal grows in the Dun forests of Nahan Forest Division. Chir pine extends from 800 to 1800 metres; deodar and blue pine occur between 1800-3000 metres whereas silver fir and spruce with some admixture of broad leaved trees grow from 2500-3500 metres. The zone from 3500-4000 metres bears bird cherry, kharsu oak and other associate broad leaved species. Above this lie the extensive alpine pastures upto the limit of perennial snow line.

6. Out of the total land area of 56,43,000 hec. of the Pradesh, the area under forests is only 19,19,000 hec. which gives a percentage of 34% only of the total geographical area. According to 1966 census figures 95 percent of the total population of 30 lakhs people reside in the villages. Thus the bulk of the population of the State is dependent upon agricultural and pastoral pursuits. The forests form an integral part of the economic fabric of the populace as the rural population which comprises the bulk, have to depend on them for the daily requirements of timber, agriculture implements, fuel and fodder. In addition to meeting the daily requirements of the people, forests have other manifold functions as they conserve soil and water and prevent erosion. Since the catchments of some very important rivers of Northern India namely Yamuna, Sutlej, Beas, Ravi and the Chenab lie in Himachal Pradesh, the vast fertile plains of the States of Punjab, Haryana and Western U.P. are, therefore, dependent on the waters of these rivers. The costly multipurpose projects like Bhakra Dam built on river Sutlej and the multipurpose Hydro-electric projects in hand on rivers Yamuna and Beas further enhance the importance of scientific management of forests of this Pradesh which are not only locally important but also have national importance. Management of forests in the catchment areas does not only prolong the economic life of various dams and irrigation canals but also has a direct bearing on the frequency and magnitude of floods.

7. It has been mentioned above that Himachal Pradesh is a mountainous region on which depends the perennial water supply of the river systems whose basins constitute the fertile core of the country. The Himalayan forests are among the greatest of national assets. To them we owe much of the richness of the country. The denudation and under development of the Himalayan slopes will lead to a greater intensity and frequency of floods and recurrent erosion and to coarse detritus being deposited on the fertile submontane tracts. This process is bound to inflict immeasurable loss and misery on the unsuspecting millions in the plains and will bring about a progressive and premanent impairment of soil fertility, and a cumulative reduction in the agriculture, potential of the country.

8. On the other hand the rearing of live stock continues indispensably to be the chief source of livelihood, next only to agriculture, throughout most parts of Himachal

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Pradesh and, in some areas, it is more important even than agriculture. When the word 'livelihood' is used in this context, it means the direct fulfilment of domestic needs as well as the earning of cash income with which to satisfy the needs that can not be met with domestic production. When we think, talk and act in terms of national interests, with reference to floods, dams and the lake, we cannot afford to overlook the essential life requirements of the poor local inhabitants of these mountains who have nothing else to fall back upon. Moreover, national interests are involved even in Animal Husbandry.

9. Whether we refer to the National Forest Policy or to the Govt. of India's letters No. 2-32/69-LDT dated February, 1970 and No. 2-3/70-LDT dated 1-2-1970 (Appendices D & E) or we deliberate in the light of the economy of Himachal Pradesh as it continues today and promises to continue till atleast the end of the current century the basic features to be recognized emerge as follows :-

- (a) Forests and live stock both are essential.
- (b) There is a clash of interests between the two.
- (c) The wisdom and the skill both in the framing of the policy and in the implementation thereof consist in so adjusting and dovetailing the requirements of the two as to minimise the conflict and to produce the optimum net result of good to the community and to the State.
- (d) If jolts, jerks, setbacks and dislocations to the economy, frustrations, resentments, heart-burnings & agitations against the Government and heavy expenditure in compensations, relief and rehabilitation costs, and such other undesirable developments are to be avoided then the transitional period will necessarily have to be spread over a number of years. Meanwhile the march of times will also automatically produce helpful conditions, besides the calculated moves and measures of the Government.

10. Grazing in a hilly State like Himachal Pradesh vis-a-vis the preservation of its forests is a very complex problem bristling with numerous difficulties. In spite of best efforts in the past, no satisfactory solution has so far been found out and it still continues to be a baffling question. Grazing is one of the principal recognised rights of the rural population which stand embodied in the various settlement reports and the basic documents of land administration. Available records show that even a century ago much greater percentage of the tract was covered with forests. Mature and big sized trees were enough and grazing grounds sufficient. With the increase of population, both human and cattle, more and more areas were brought under cultivation and with the expansion of the commercial utilisation of forest produce more and more trees came to be felled and more

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and more of the other produce to be exploited. Artificial and natural regeneration have lagged behind. Due to steep slopes and limited holdings, the population can not live on agriculture alone, inspite of the fact that almost all the culturable land has been brought under plough. This has lead to their keeping larger herds of cattle and flocks of sheep and goats. Large numbers of them move down with the flocks during winter and to alpine pastures during summer in search of grazing, to augment their living reserves. Grazing grounds in general have deteriorated in quality and the hunger for more and more land for cultivation and pasturage continues. Such areas need not only to be saved from further deterioration but also have got to be recuperated by clothing them again with vegetation. The balance of vegetation has been upset by increase in the proportion of agricultural fields, decrease in forests, unregulated fellings, unrestricted grazing and the results can only be disastrous.

11. This thorny problem of grazing vis-a-vis preservation of forests has been engaging the serious attention of the Himachal Pradesh Government since the very creation of the State. As early as 1951, a special Forest Officer was posted to study this problem and to submit a detailed report on the policy to be followed to tackle the problem. It was felt in this report that the source of greatest damage to forests and other vegetation of the State are the buffalo herds of nomadic gujjars and the flocks of Sheep and goats of migratory graziers. A decision to settle nomadic gujjars at different places like Aurangabad at Nahan, and to ameliorate their conditions, was taken and its implementation was also started. A Conference of migratory graziers from Kangra, Kulu and H. P. was also held at Bilaspur from 6th to 8th March, 1966 in which the Lt. Governor, the Chief Minister, Development Minister, M. Ps., M. L. As. and officials of various departments connected with this problem participated. Great emphasis was laid on behalf of the Government on the damage done to forests by unrestricted grazing with special reference to goat grazing and on the futility of keeping flocks of poor quality. A decision was taken in the Conference to progressively reduce the goat by 20% every year. Graziers were, however, permitted to increase one sheep for every 5 goats so reduced. Due to the difficulties which cropped up in implementing this decision It was cancelled vide Nos. Ft. 784-2/64-III (M) dated 14-4-1967 and the 16th March, 1968 restricting any further increase over the number permitted to each grazier in 1966-67. For copies of these two letters, please see appendices 'A' and 'B'.

Corresponding to the report prepared on the subject by Shri B. S. Parmar for old Himachal areas, a report had been prepared by Shri G. S. Dhillon in 1964 for Punjab. When the hilly areas of Punjab were merged with Himachal Pradesh in 1966, the problem again engaged the serious attention of the Government who felt that a decision for having a sound and uniform grazing policy was strongly called for in the interest of the preservation of forests as well as the conservation of live stock in this hilly State.

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Formation of & Brief Resune of Work Done by the Grazing Advisory Committee

12. In view of the importance of forests brought out above as also of providing adequate grazing to the cattle wealth of the Pradesh, the Himachal Pradesh Government vide notification No. Ft. 784-13/66 (M) dated 29-2-1968 (Copy enclosed as annexure 'A'), appointed a high level Grazing Advisory Committee to review the entire Grazing policy of the Pradesh. As the notification clearly suggests, this Committee was required to submit its report within three months of its constitution. It could not, however, do full justice to such a difficult problem in any shorter period than that in which it has been possible for it to put up this report. The members had a heavy load of other public duties calling their attention.

13. In all, the Forest Advisory Committee, held five meetings. Its first meeting was held on 4th May, 1968 when the Chief Conservator of Forests, H. P. in his capacity as Secretary of the Committee, placed the problem of grazing especially migratory grazing before the members and requested them to suggest ways and means for the solution of the same. Hon'ble Forest Minister in his capacity as Chairman of Committee observed that whereas the number of domestic animals of all kinds was increasing, every year, the area under forests and pastures was gradually shrinking owing to various causes viz; construction of irrigation and power dams, expansion of cantonments for Defence, construction of motor roads, acquisition of lands for development projects, grant of nautors, erosion and land slides, and in the lower hills, the spreading of abnoxious weeds like Lantana etc. He observed that, whereas we have to preserve our forests and grazing lands, we cannot ignore the socio-economic problems of the local people.

As such the grazing requirements of the cattle wealth, which provide milk, mutton, wool, manure and agricultural draft animals, have also to be met with adequately. Shri T. S. Negi, M. L. A. was of the view that the grazing problems relating to Kinnaur and other migratory graziers needed a considerable study and so he desired that Sub-Committees be formed to go to different places to study the problems and the view-points of the people of those areas, including the areas of winter pasturage. After a good deal of discussions the Committee agreed : (i) to hold a number of conferences in Kinnaur, Bharmour and Lahaul Spiti as also in lower areas like Bilaspur, Nahan and Kangra and (ii) that the Department should prepare a questionnaire on grazing problem for circulation to the Panchayats and others for written replies as also for verbal replies at the time of the local Conferences, as necessary.

14. The Committee toured the Kinnaur District during June, 1968. It could not visit any other areas, whether as home lands of the graziers or as the scenes of winter grazing of the migratory flocks. However, a questionnaire as decided in the 1st meeting (copy enclosed as annexure 'B') was circulated and the Committee has had before it the answers furnished to the questionnaire.

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15. The 2nd meeting of the Committee was held on 7-12-1968 and it examined various public representations and the answers to questionnaire. Of various resolutions, the one received from Shri Balwant Singh Negi, President Kinnaur Pashu-Palak Sansatha, was found to contain some very useful suggestions which the Committee desired to be examined in detail. Interalia, the Committee took special note of (i) the difficulties encountered by the Himachal graziers taking their flocks to U. P. (ii) the problems of flock grazing in the private forests of the Sirmur District, (iii) the levy of Rahdari fees by certain Panchayats on the Simla-Kalka routes in the face of uniform grazing fees levied all over the Pradesh, (iv) the desirability of throwing open the reserved forests, especially those of the Sirmur District, to flock grazing on permit system and (v) the old Sarahan Kanda buffalo grazing dispute of Kinnaur District. The Committee desired close study of the various problems by the Forest Department and reports to the Committee. It also enjoined the Divisional Forest Officer, Kinnaur to thoroughly scrutinize the buffalo grazing dispute of Sarahan Kanda and prepare a comprehensive note for the Committee. The Committee agreed that in all matters status quo should be maintained till the recommendations of the Committee are finalised and decisions taken on them.

16. The 3rd meeting of the Committee took place on the 2nd of September, 1969. In this meeting the Minister, in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee, reviewed the work so far done and quoting statistics of total geographical area, net area available for grazing and the existing cattle population of the Pradesh, desired that the Committee may make bold and progressive recommendations to the State Government so that, within our available resources of land, optimum grazing conditions are provided to the absolutely necessary number of animals of various kinds and the excess cattle population is reduced over a period of time and in such a manner as would cause the least hardship to the people. The Chairman pointed out that the Committee had available to it two reports on the subject viz; 'Report on The Grazing Problems and Policy of Himachal Pradesh' by Shri B. S. Parmar in respect of the old Himachal Pradesh areas and, 'Report on The Grazing Problem in Panjab State and Proposals for Future Grazing Policy' by Shri G. S. Dhillon, in respect of the new H. P. areas. In addition to these whatever data the Committee may require could be compiled and supplied to it by the Forest and the Animal Husbandry Departments. With such exhaustive material at its disposal, it should not be difficult for the Committee to visualize the problem in its right perspective and to come out with suitable recommendations on the subject for consideration of the Government. With this background the Chairman desired the Forest Department to circulate an exhaustive note bringing out all the necessary statistics of interest.

17. The Fourth meeting of the Committee took place at Simla on 24th February, 1970. Addressing the meeting, the Forest Minister in his capacity as the Chairman, apart

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from the brief resume of the past work, in particular read out recommendations No. 24 of the Estimate Committee of the Parliament as contained in their 76th Report and again emphasized that the Committee should be bold in making suitable recommendations to the Government. The contents of the recommendation No. 24 referred to here, are reproduced below :—

"The Committee realise that the very large livestock population in the country is the main obstacle in controlling grazing in the forests. Further liberal concessions and cheap forest grazing fees as low as 0.25 P. per animal per annum are not only detrimental to forests, but are primarily responsible for the present low-utility value of the stock. The Committee, therefore, felt that while the fundamental principles hold good, it would be desirable to find out ways and means to regulate the number of livestock and carry out studies to determine (i) the best method of grazing viz; rotational, intermittent, etc., (ii) present and future grazing potentials, and (iii) possibilities of implications of increasing fee and of categorising the livestock for assigning priority for admission to grazing."

Discussing the agenda items, the Committee felt that the Gujjars cannot be allowed to increase the number of buffaloes over and above the number entered in their present grazing permits. The fact that the alpine pastures have deteriorated and are decreasing day by day on account of erosion and the share of the buffaloes in the blame for all this cannot be overlooked. The Committee observed that the only way to solve the issue of grazing right of people of Kinnaur in Spiti area in accordance with 'Pattas' granted by None of Spiti, is the law of rationality by giving preference to the patta holding graziers of longer stay. Talking about the problems of Gaddi & Kinnaura graziers taking their flocks to Bilaspur and Sirmur Districts, the Committee felt that it is sad that we have failed to impose a uniform policy in the Pradesh in the course of past 22 years. Almost all the members present disclosed that they had not received the relevant important literature that had so far been issued in connection with the affairs of the Committee. The Chairman desired that fresh copies of all the notes and extracts be circulated immediately to all the members so that the recommendations could be finalised in the next and final meeting of the Committee which was fixed at Simla from 8th to 10th April, 1970.

18. The Fifth and last meeting of the Committee was then held at Simla on 8-4-1970. Addressing the meeting the Chairman brought out the revolutionary changes that have taken place in the fields of agriculture and animal husbandry in the country in general and in Himachal Pradesh in particular. It was appreciated that grazing is not just an individual and personal problem of the stock breeders. It is as much a national problem and a matter of vital interest to the whole community. Provision of adequate grazing to graziers of all categories was a must. Whereas the flocks increase, the grazing grounds are on—the decrease on account of the inroads by nautors, encroachments and erosion etc. The

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Committee decided to constitute a sub-committee of the following members to finalize the draft proposals on behalf of the Committee :—

1. Shri T. S. Negi, M. L. A.
 2. Shri Guman Singh, M. L. A.
 3. Shri Devi Singh, M. L. A.
 4. Shri Bansri Ram, Ex-M. L. A.
 5. Shri S. C. Gaur, IFS; C. F. Simla Circle, Simla
 6. Shri P. N. Sharma, Dy. Director, Animal Husbandry
- Chairman
Member
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Joint Secretary
Member
19. The Sub-Committee as constituted above conducted its meetings from 8-4-1970 to 10-4-1970. The deliberations of the Sub-Committee covered the following important/decisions :—

- (a) The Sub-Committee was of the unanimous opinion that the problem of grazing, which is inseparably connected with animal husbandry, is not a problem of the individual breeders but is very much a national problem. In a high lying territory like Himachal Pradesh, while animal husbandry is a very important source of livelihood, forests are among the most important sources of revenue of the Pradesh. Closures against grazing, with a view to re-stocking of the felled forest areas as also for executing the large scale soil conservation and afforestation works in the River Valley Projects, are necessary. This being the position, we have to strike a balance between the requirements of animal husbandry and the necessity of preservation, extension and regeneration of our forest wealth.
- (b) The statistics of the live stock population of the Pradesh for the census year 1966 are tabulated below :—

Breeds	No
Buffaloes	4,15,356
Cattle	18,91,584
Sheep	10,48,917
Goats	8,13,041
Equines	25,625
Pigs	2,869
Others (Yaks, camels etc.)	3,896
	42,01,288

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The Sub-Committee decided to adopt the census figures of 1966 as given above.

- (c) The Sub-Committee also decided to have a unit approach with reference to the grazing incidence. Keeping in view the weight and feeding habits of various animals, the following units were adopted :—

Type of animal	No. of units
Sheep	1
Goat	1.5
Buffaloe	6
Kine	4
Horse	4
Mule	5
Donkey	3

The Sub-Committee further decided to base its grazing proposals on the assumption that we need for optimum grazing an area of 0.5 hectare per unit of animals. It was also decided that the live stock population must be controlled with respect to the available grazing area. If the present number of animals is more, it must be reduced; if it is optimum, the same should be frozen; but in any case, once we decide upon a certain limit in the matter that limited number must be provided adequate grazing facilities on permanent footing so that the animal breeders are not vexed every year with the grazing difficulties as at present.

- (d) After a good deal of discussion with regard to the goat economy (mothering of lambs; food for the shepherd & his dogs leaders of the flocks; and local bias for its meat etc.) the Committee felt that total elimination of the goat will not be advisable. Even in the ultimate phase about 10% of the total flock might have to be tolerated in goats. The number of goats should be reduced in a phased manner over a period and a corresponding increase in the sheep allowed.

The Committee felt that maximum damage to forest growth and land in the high hills is done by buffaloes, which is a heavy footed animal. The goats are undoubtedly harmful to forest growth and have often been styled as fire-mouths but to class them as the most damaging type of live stock is to make them a scape goat.

- (e) The Sub-Committee further emphasized the basic importance of such measures as the enumeration and registration of graziers; fixation of routes; check posts

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and stages; pasture improvement work; increase in taxation; strict control on buffalo grazing and deciding of the optimum of live stock population.

20. The Sub-Committee held two more meetings, on 20th and the 30th June, 1970. Copies of the note dated 5-6-1970 of the Animal Husbandry Department along with the comments of the Forest Department on the same, were supplied to Shri T. S. Negi and Shri Guman Singh who were present on 30-6-1970. Discussing the gist of the note of Animal Husbandry Department, it was pointed out by Shri S. C. Gaur, Joint Secretary of the of the Committee, that the Animal Husbandry Department anticipated increase in cattle population by 60% by 2000 A. D. This would require additional pasture lands to the extent of 32 lacs hectares. Shri T. S. Negi expressed himself against there being, at present any thinking in terms of increasing the net unit strength of the live-stock population. He felt that the present number might be maintained by gradually reducing the number of goats with a corresponding increase in the number of sheep of improved breeds. The breed of the existing number of livestock population should, however, be improved alongwith an intensive management of pasture lands.

Shri Guman Singh, M. L. A. expressed the view that buffaloes and cattle can graze only on easier areas, whereas sheep and goat can browse even in difficult areas. This factor requires earmarking of different areas for grazing of buffalo and cattle and browsing of sheep and goats.

It was decided in the last meeting of the Sub-Committee to base the proposals on district-wise statistics of category-wise cattle population as also of the pasture areas.

DRAFT PROPOSALS

Types of Grazing :-

21. Before any attempt is made to formulate any grazing policy for the State, it is necessary to describe the habits, economy and requirements of the graziers. The graziers of Himachal Pradesh are grouped under the following three categories :-

- (1) Local graziers.
- (2) Migratory graziers.
- (3) Nomadic graziers.

(1) Local graziers :-

They live in the villages and hamlets all over the State, stay there throughout the year and are almost entirely agriculturists. They keep buffaloes and cows for milk and manure, bullocks for traction, mules and ponies for transport and sheep and goats for wool,

goats graze the forests and a rightholder agricultural resources tremendously since population. A and buffaloes in working cattle are there is universal cut fields, wastelands about the grazing otherwise idle & combined with use or of no use, except the ego of the owner a menace to the herds animals are alleged proportion of the collected during the pastures do benefit

Generally forests are extensive animals which are below 1500 metres, vegetation can support eroding slopes and

(2) Migratory Graziers

These graze limited period only search of seasonal outside their homes Chamba and Kangra from certain parts of goats as their holding

The flocks are during the summer

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goat hair, meat and manure and, in some areas, for milk and milk products also. They graze the livestock in the village waste-lands, unclassified, demarcated and undemarcated forests and even in reserve forests. According to the rights recorded in the Forest Settlements, a rightholder can graze any number of head of livestock required for bonafide domestic and agricultural requirements. The result has been that the population of livestock has increased tremendously since the settlements were carried out, mainly due to increase in human population. A good deal of care is taken of the milch and working cattle and buffaloes in that category, which, in several cases are stall-fed. In case of non-working cattle and buffaloes which are kept for stud purposes or for manuring purposes, there is universal lack of stall feeding. They are herded together along the road-side, into cut fields, wastelands and forests to pick up whatever feed they can. They are made to roam about the grazing grounds in the charge of children, old men and women or those who are otherwise idle & unoccupied. They breed promiscuously and result of this semi-starvation, combined with un-controlled breeding is a race of thin undersized animals which are of little or of no use, except as inefficient manure producers and as satisfying numerical material for the ego of the owner of the flock. The large number of such unfit and sickly animals are also a menace to the better and more healthy livestock. The purpose of manure for which these animals are allegedly to be kept is also defeated so far as agriculture goes, as very high proportion of the dung is lost when the cattle wander about during the day & whatever is collected during night is made into dung cakes in areas where wood fuel is deficient. The pastures do benefit but only in a wasteful manner and, therefore, in a small measure.

Generally speaking the villages near forests above 1500 metres are small. The forests are extensive and climatic conditions favour the growth of grass. Local domestic animals which are allowed to graze free in such forests do little damage. But in the tract below 1500 metres, the number of animals that graze in the forests is far greater than the vegetation can support and the result is the ghastly sight of vanishing fodder, denuded hills, eroding slopes and extensive slips.

(2) Migratory Graziers :—

These graziers belong to the higher hills of the State. They stay in their homes for a limited period only and migrate to other places with their flocks of sheep and goats in search of seasonal pastures and, for the greater part of the year, their flocks graze in areas outside their domestic bartan lands. They are Kanawars of Kinnaur District, Gaddies of Chamba and Kangra, Laholas of Lahaul and Spiti, Kolas of Kulu and sundry individuals from certain parts of the Mahasu District. They keep large flocks of migratory sheep and goats as their holdings are insufficient to support them.

The flocks are on the move throughout the year. They are taken to alpine ranges during the summer and to low hills scrub areas in the winter. They follow numerous routes.

Their winter grazing grounds overflow Himachal low lands out into pastures in the Dehra-Dun District of Uttar Pradesh. Some of them have got recorded runs in these low hills and others have not. The low hills, in many places, afford insufficient grazing with the result that such areas are fast deteriorating. Even the summer alpine pastures which are over-run by these migratory flocks are showing signs of deterioration because of irregular and concentrated grazing.

The worst difficulty with these graziers is that they do not allow their flocks to be enumerated correctly. It is, therefore, necessary to fix their routes and impose restrictions on their movements.

The damage done to the forests and other vegetative growth, during the movements of these migratory flocks, from alpine pastures to winter grazing grounds and viceversa, if uncontrolled, is very considerable. Not only the almost entire absence of undergrowth & natural regeneration in such forests is attributed to them, but the main damage within the closed (duly fenced) areas is also done by the migratory flocks.

The plight of those forests, through which thousands of these flocks pass in spring and autumn, year after year, if unregulated, can better be imagined than described.

(3) Nomadic Graziers :—

This category of graziers have no hearths and homes within the borders of Himachal Pradesh. They belong to places outside or do not really belong to any place at all. They go on moving about with their animals kept for trade purposes from place to place throughout the year. In this state they consist of Ban Gujjars, Khampas, Bhotes, Lahulas and Gaddies of Kangra and Kulu.

(a) Ban Gujjars :—

Are a purely pastoral race owning large herds of buffaloes. Their presence in the different units, now forming Himachal Pradesh, has been acknowledged for the last hundred years or so. Some of them have now acquired petty holdings often just to evade payment of tax and acquire rights like other owners of cultivated holdings. The number of buffaloes has increased from 1,00,036 in 1949-50 to 4,15,356 in 1966.

The animals of the Gujjars are more notoriously destructive to the growth and conservancy of forests than the migratory flocks are. The damage done to the vegetation by the buffaloes is universally known and acknowledged. With their heavy hoofs they trample down the ground, in addition to deundation through mere grazing, and on steep slopes cause sheet erosion and give rise to ravines. Herds of these buffaloes are taken to the alpine ranges in summer and are brought down in winter. Not only do they graze in the alpine pastures but also throughout the high lying undemarcated forests where very heavy damage is done

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both by lopping and overgrazing. The damage done by these herds to the forests enroute while going up to or coming down from alpine pastures is in no way less serious. The worst damage on this account has been recorded in the forests of Chamba low hills, elsewhere also it is appreciable.

(b) Other nomadic graziers :—

As has been stated above, these are Khampas, Bhotes, Lahulas and Gaddies of Kangra District. The Kangra Gaddies and Lahulas are identical to the migratory graziers in habits and otherwise. The peculiar feature of the Lahulas is that some of them possess large numbers of ponies which they bring to Mahasu District for the transport of potatoes etc., They not only let loose their ponies for grazing in the forests but also cut grass from the forests to feed them.

The most notorious are the Khampas and Bhotes. Their ancestors probably came down from Tibet or Bhutan. They are purely nomadic tribes and own large number of ponies, donkeys, sheep and goats. These large numbers of animals are kept exclusively for trade purposes. Like other migratory flocks they go to alpine pastures and higher regions to graze their animals in summer. In winter they descend to the lower valleys. The damage done to the forests by these animals has so far continued un-assessed and also unguarded against.

STATISTICS

22. Grazing is done in all the forest areas including reserve forests, demarcated protected forests, undemarcated protected forests, unclassed forests and private areas, within the restrictions and limitations imposed by existing revenue and forest settlements. Grazing is one of the main inhibiting factors for afforestation. It is necessary to devetail the grazing and the afforestation policies.

According to classification of forests, areas under 'Reserved' and 'Demarcated Protected' forests are required to be maintained as forests permanently. Ordinarily no grazing, unless required for a specific silvicultural need, is to be allowed in such areas. Similarly a part of the un-demarcated protected forests is to be left apart for afforestation to meet the growing needs of the rightholders and future forest-based industries planned for the general development of the area.

Keeping in view the above facts it is estimated by the Forest Department that following areas are available for grazing in Himachal Pradesh :—

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Classification of area	Hectares
(a) Total geographical area	56,43,000
(b) Areas not available for grazing :—	
(1) Area under agriculture (net area sown and fallow land)	5,23,000
(2) Area under perpetual snow and precipices	7,60,950
(3) Area under reserved forests	1,86,200
(4) 40% of the total area of D. P. Fs. (5,62,800 hec).	2,25,120
(5) Part area under U. P. Fs. (About 30%)	3,18,000
(6) Area covered by nallas, villages and roads etc.	4,29,700
	<u>TOTAL 24,42,970</u>
(c) Net area available for grazing	32,00,030
	or say 32 lacs hectars.

Against this, the number of units of live stock which graze are tabulated below on the basis of census figures of 1966 which census has been adopted for the purpose of this report :—

Breeds	No. of Units	No. of animals	Total No. of Units	Remarks
Buffaloes	6	4,15,356	24,92,136	The formula given below has been followed to work out these Units.
Cattle	4	18,91,584	75,66,336	
Sheep	1	10,48,917	10,48,917	
Goats	1.5	8,13,041	12,19,561	
Equines	4	25,625	1,02,500	
Pigs	4	2,869	11,476	
Others	5	3,896	19,480	
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>42,01,288</u>	<u>1,24,60,406</u>	

The Formula :—

Keeping in view the weight and feeding habits of various animals, the following units have been adopted :—

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23. Pastur

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Type of animal	No. of Units
Sheep	1
Goate	1.5
Donkey	3
Kine & Horse	4 each
Mules	5
Buffaloes	6

This gives a grazing incidence of 0.25 hectare per unit against 0.5 hectare considered necessary as the bare minimum per unit by this Committee on the strength of the technical opinion of the Forest Department.

The district-wise live stock population and its equivalent unit are given in Annexure 'C'. The areas available for grazing, as also the incidence of grazing, in each district are not available.

23. Pasture Improvement Works

The National Forest Policy lays down that one of the vital national needs is ensuring progressively increasing supplies of grazing and small wood, in particular firewood, to release the cattle dung for manure to step up food production. Consistent with this vital need, the Government of India, Ministry of Food & Agriculture, vide their letter No. 2-32/69-LDT of February, 1970, have laid great stress on a co-ordinated programme to be implemented by the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Forest Departments for the development of fodder resources both in grass and leaf. A substantial part of the budget should be exclusively made available for for pasture improvement work to cover the following aspects :—

- (a) Enforcing stall feeding and substituting grazing by grass cutting, by a wide-spread and continuous programme of publicity amongst cattle breeders simultaneously with the provision of adequate resources and facilities for stall feeding.
- (b) Permanent or periodic closure of areas under erosion, gully formation or slips where grass cutting, though not grazing, should be permitted as soon as permissible by the soil conditions. Fodder trees rather than timber trees should form the bulk of anti-erosion afforestations and should figure prominently among the species chosen for farm forestry also.

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- (c) Rotational closures for giving rest to the pastures and increasing their productive capacity by natural as well as artificial effort.
- (d) Eradication of obnoxious weeds and unpalatable grasses and introduction of more nutritious fodder grasses suiting the locality.
- (e) Introduction of leguminous crops like lupines, clovers and alfalfa in natural pastures to build up soil fertility and to increase nutritive value of the pastures. The Animal Husbandry Department should prepare a list of such nutritious fodders for each region on the following proforma :—

Sl. No.	Local name	Botanical name	Remarks
1	2	3	4

- (f) Application of fertilisers in the form of lime, ammonium sulphate, super-phosphate etc., to the grazing grounds.
- (g) Supplying chemical manures to the farmers to dissuade them from keeping non-working cattle for manure supply only.
- (h) Fodder research, seed farms & incentives :—

In view of the above requirements, it is essential to initiate research work on various aspects of fodders. For this purpose it is necessary to set up Fodder Research & Seed production Stations in suitable regions. To initiate and augment fodder development programmes it is necessary to involve the farmer increasingly and to create a desire in him to grow fodders. This is a programme that has to be tackled from long term point of view and in the initial stages to provide an element of subsidy to elicit the desired response from the farmers. The subsidy shall be not in the form of money but in kind like fertilizer, seed etc., (G. O. I. Ministry of Food & Agriculture's letter No. 2-3-70-LDT dated 1-2-70 refers).

24. Improvement of Breeds

Promiscuous breeding of herds of useless should be discouraged by castration of scrub bulls, male goats and rams. Animal Husbandry Department should implement an intensive programme for improving the breeds. As an incentive for improving breeds of sheep, there should always be a preference in favour of improved breeds in the matter of grazing facilities and there should also be exemption from grazing taxation during the first ten years. In this behalf a certificate of atleast Vety. Assistant Surgeon be considered as valid.

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In reserved forests or thrown open such forests or 35% of the total ment and is immodated by surrounding G pay heavily to is also not rule

Shri Gu graziers (Kinna much deteriora eager to preserv cultivated land ownerships. T Gaddi graziers On the other mind the only had given a sug in District Sirm Village should l eted within the

The Prac as against 60% of areas which low. As such d However, there reserved forest. all these genera Forest Departm aspect has to be next five years. thorough re-exa the Governmen

26. Gaddi & Presently

25. Flock grazing in Shamlatdeh areas of Sirmur District

In view of the paucity of grazing grounds, the Sub-Committee explored whether the reserved forests of the Civil District of Sirmur (Nahan & Rajgarh Forest Divisions) could be thrown open to winter flock grazing of Kinnaura & Gaddi graziers either by dereservation of such forests or by admitting flock grazing rights of outside migratory graziers therein. About 35% of the total forest area in District Sirmur is not under the control of the Forest Department and is in private ownership. Presently Kinnaura & Gaddi graziers who are accommodated by private forest owners for winter grazing perhaps do illicit grazing in the surrounding Government forests for which they pay nothing to the Government but probably pay heavily to the private forest owners in which the connivance of the forest subordinates is also not ruled out.

Shri Guman Singh, M. L. A. pointed out that the practice of admitting outside graziers (Kinnauras & Gaddies) by the people of Sirmur District has in course of time very much deteriorated these areas. Lately the people have become conscious of this fact so are eager to preserve these areas which are all assessed to land revenue, either as forests or as cultivated lands. For this the people are eager to have these areas sub-divided in individual ownerships. This will undoubtedly upset, unsettle and throw into lurch the Kinnaura and Gaddi graziers who have hitherto been for generations grazing their flocks in such lands. On the other hand Shri Guman-Singh felt the sub-division of Shamlat Deh areas was to his mind the only way to save them from complete destruction. To this end he divulged that he had given a suggestion to the authorities that in all the 40 (out of a total of 84) Patwar-Circles in District Sirmur, where Shamlat Deh areas are confined the Shamlat-Deh of atleast one Village should be sub-divided by the Patwaries concerned each year so that the work is completed within the next 5 years.

The Pradesh is already very much short of the total area under forests viz; only 34% as against 60% contemplated in the National Forest Policy. Even this much area is inclusive of areas which are forests only in name, the forest area of reserved forests being miserably low. As such dereservation of the reserved forests of Sirmur District will be a retrograde step. However, there is the example of Chamba where regulated grazing is allowed in some reserved forest. If the graziers have in fact been taking advantage of the reserved forests all these generations, even if illicitly with the connivance of the subordinate staff of the Forest Department, but on regular Rahadari Permits issued by the Forest Department, that aspect has to be faced sincerely and candidly. The status quo might be maintained for the next five years. By the end of that period the Government might restate the policy after a thorough re-examination of the whole matter. Meanwhile grazing fees may be charged by the Government from those grazing in the reserved forests.

26. Gaddi & Kinnaura Grazing Rights in Bilaspur :—

Presently about 125 Kinnaura and Gaddi graziers take their flocks for winter grazing

to the lower hills of Bilaspur District which is coterminous with the Bilaspur Forest Division as also the erstwhile Bilaspur State. These graziers are admitted as per provisions of Forest Settlement Report of erstwhile Bilaspur State compiled in 1912-15. Since the coming into being of the costly and multipurpose Bhakra Dam over the river Sutlej, great stress has come to be laid on Soil conservation and afforestation measures on almost every inch of land in Bilaspur District which constitutes the immediate surroundings of the Gobind Sagar Lake. As a result an area of 500-1000 hectares is closed every year under various soil conservation & afforestation schemes. Such a pace of closure is proving too hard on local as well as as migratory graziers.

At the time of closures the local Panchayats & the local M. L. As' are invariably consulted and taken into confidence, without which no closure can be enforced. The local people are somewhat rewarded by such closures by way of free grass cutting from the closed areas and so they feel contented with the programme of soil conservation closures of the Forest Department. This is, however not the case with the migratory graziers who find it difficult to adjust in the following years with the reduced grazing grounds made available to them. Such a reduction in the area of available grazing grounds, however, stands foreseen and fully taken care of in para 13 on page 53 of Forest Settlement Report which read as under :-

"It depends on the will of the Raja Sahib to allow gaddies and Kinnaura graziers to graze their cattle, but the time has come when the pasturage is becoming scarce. If nothing is done in connection with grazing, the grazing, the progress of the forest will be impeded. Regarding the order of the Punjab Government is that the Gaddies and Kinnauras should be ejected from grazing by giving them two year's notice. This order has not been complied with upto this day."

It is, therefore, a question of restricting denying grazing to the migratory graziers in the interest of not only the local forests and Dehat lands, but the larger national interest in view of the necessity of preserving & prolonging the life of the mighty Bhakra Dam. In other words by serving a two Years' notice on a particular migratory grazier to the effect that no grazing or only reduced grazing will be available to him in the following years, the requirements of law will have been satisfied. The Sub-Committee felt that such a recourse is perhaps not advisable, firstly because Bilaspur is no longer a separate princely State, but is a part of Himachal Pradesh, to which Pradesh also belong the districts from which are the Gaddies and the Kinnaura Graziers and, secondly, because animal husbandry is a national interest and benefits the whole community and not only a profession of the private individuals. In view of the foregoing, it is felt that (1) not more than 1/3rd of any grazing area allotted to any particular person persons should ordinarily be closed and (2) even for such closures advance notice should be given to the graziers concerned before their next arrival for winter grazing and alternative grazing provided. If no alternative

ing is to be provided, the notice should be of five years during which period status quo should be maintained and the whole matter re-examined to provide grazing in other districts, if necessity to such of the livestock as must be allowed to be kept and as cannot be admitted in Bilaspur.

27. Taxation

According to the National Forest Policy of India, the sole object with which State forests are administered is the public interest. According to this policy, the forests of the State have been divided into four classes for the sake of management. The 1st Class forests are generally situated on hill slopes and their preservation is of national importance. The second class forests supply valuable timber and these are encumbered with rights of users. Every reasonable facility is afforded to the communities dwelling on the margin of such forests to the full satisfaction of their requirements; if not free, at low concessional rates. The 3rd & 4th class forests which comprise such tracts as produce inferior sort of timber, and are useful chiefly for the supply of fuel, fodder or grazing for local consumption are managed mainly in the interest of the population of the tract. The necessities of the people, which are to be treated as paramount, are to be not at moderate rates. In pastures which afford grazing to the migratory & nomadic pastoral population, the Govt. can reap fair income from its property, after studiously considering the convenience and advantages of graziers, at 'rates materially lower than those in the open market'. As for cattle to graze free, it has been stated, such cattle should include not only the oxen which are actually employed on plough but also a reasonable number of milch cattle and calves.

The State forests of Himachal Pradesh can reasonably be allocated to all these classes. Hence an increase in taxation would be fully justifiable. The use of the word taxation for charge on cattle is a misnomer. It is actually a price charged from the individuals for the forest produce utilized in the shape of grazing, grass cutting and lopping. It is as good a charge as water tax of a municipality. The grazing fee was extremely nominal to start with. The result of this has been steady and tremendous increase in the number of local, migratory and nomadic herds and flocks as has been stated above. While revising the forest policy in 1952, it was realized that cheap forest grazing has had a demoralizing effect and has led to the vicious spiral of reckless increase in the number of cattle, inadequate forest grazing, reduced quality of the herds and further fall in quality. Free and indiscriminate forest grazing, is therefore a serious disservice to cattle breeding itself.

28. Problem of Gujjar Grazing & their rehabilitation with special reference to Kinnaur :—

Buffaloe grazing is one of the very important aspects of the complex problem of grazing in Himachal Pradesh and is very intimately connected with the welfare and settlement of Gujjars who have carried on this profession for centuries. Of late, the question of Gujjar welfare has attracted the attention of Govt. of India & gained considerable

importance for various reasons. As a result of this huge amounts of funds have been spent on the welfare of Gujjars in Himachal Pradesh, during the last ten years. The ultimate solution is the settlement of Gujjars in well planned colonies like Aurangabad in Nahan Forest Division and the complete elimination of Gujjar grazing in large in the open by 2000 A. D.

The sub-Committee also considered the specific problem of Kinnaur District, in the light of the detailed note submitted by D. F. O. Kinnaur. The dispute between the Gujjars who have been grazing their buffaloes in Kinnaur for over 35 years, and the local villagers of Taranda, Chaura and Bari etc., who have all along been resenting and objecting, dates back to the erstwhile Bushahr State rule. Before 1929, there was no buffalo grazing in Upper Bushahr Forest Division. Under the 1929 lease all forests between 'Manioti dhar' boundary of Kinnaur and Kochi tracts on the one side and the Manglad Gad on the other and all forests between Barauni Gad and Khopri were reserved (as per Appendix I of the lease) for the use of the Raja of Bushahr. Buffaloes were permitted by the Raja in these forests immediately after the execution of the Agreement of 1929 lease. The local villagers raised strong protest against this. Under the terms of this lease, the Raja retained the full powers of control and mangement of forests and grazing between Dharan Ridge and Manioti Dhar, which area falls outside Kinnaur. His right to permit grazing by buffaloes in these areas was also recorded in the lease deed and it was provided that the number was to be reduced to 150 buffaloes plus their calves and that no buffalo were to be allowed east of Manioti Dhar. In other words, no buffalo grazing by Gujjars was to be allowed in Kinnaur. An area of 400 acres was earmarked for the purpose in 'Sarhan Kanda' between Dharan Ridge & Manioti Dhar i. e. outside Kinnaur. The area was to be demarcted on the ground clearly to confine buffalo grazing. The Raja Bushahr represented that the area was not at all sufficient for 150 buffaloes. This area was increased to 1447 acres vide Punjab Government's letter No. 1607 Ft. dated 8-11-1944. This area of 1447 acres, like the 400 acres originally provided, was never demarcated and this has been the cause for the continuing dispute.

During 1968, when the grazing Advisory Committee visited Nichar. the villagers of Taranda, Chaura and Bari etc. represented on the issue to the Committee. As a result of this, the issue was thrashed out in detail and steps have been taken by the Forest Department to demaracte area of 1447 acres. The demarcation shall have to be carried out on the spot. The past error shall have to be rectified. This becomes all the more imperative in the interest of soil conservation, apart from the resentment and objections of the people. If the 1447 acres are found all outside Kinnaur, (as the case should be since the word Monioti Dhar is clearly mentioned as the limit) the Gujjars whould have no right of grazing in Kinnaur. In case these 1447 acres be found insufficient for 150 buffaloes and calves of the permissible age, a herd of such a size may have to be tolerated for five years even if there is an overflow (to be kept to the minimum considerable) in to Kinnaur, unless this

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The existing number of 150 buffaloes shall have to be frozen for the next 5 years as in case of all other animals. After this phase the recommendation of this Committee to gradually reduce the buffalo grazing and to completely eliminate it by 2000 A. D. should apply to Kinnaur District also.

29. Outsiders grazing in Spiti Valley-Complaint of Kinnaura graziers :—

The Nono administered areas in Spiti Valley on behalf of the British Government in the pre-Independence era. No authority on rights have anywhere been defined. It appears that the Nono had assigned to himself the rights to issue grazing pattas at will without keeping any record. The Nono has since died and the authenticity of the Pattas cannot be got confirmed personally by him at this stage. Unless challenged successfully, every Patta shall have to be preserved to be genuine even if legally questionable on the ground that the Nono had no authority. On the suggestions of the Forest Department, the Sub-Committee took the following views :—

- (1) The areas where grazing could be permitted in favour of outsider graziers should be listed and mapped.
- (2) Fresh permits should be granted for grazing by outsiders.
- (3) As a rational approach, preference should be given to those graziers who have visited these areas during the last three years, especially those holding pattas not successfully challenged by any one. The person visiting for all the three years should get first priority, and those for two years, the second priority and those for one year, the priority and others the last priority.

P A R A G R A P H - 3 0

GRAZING RIGHTS OF HIMACHALI FLOCK-OWNERS IN UTTAR PRADESH.

For generations, owners of live-stock belonging to Himachal Pradesh, chiefly to the Kinnaur District, have been exercising rights of grazing during the winter months in certain areas of Uttar Pradesh, particularly the Dehradun District. Some of them are believed to own or hold, in occupancy tenancy, landed property also. Last year, Forest Authorities of the concerned Division at first refused the exercise of these rights to the graziers. On intervention of higher levels on the part of the Himachal Pradesh Government, the graziers were allowed last winter to exercise the rights as before. However, this permission has been subject to the condition that, unless a clear decision in

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favour of the grazing rights is taken at Governmental levels for the future, the refusal shall be renewed during the coming winter. The Government of Himachal Pradesh is understood to intend high level talks with the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The sooner these talks are held, the better will it be so that the required decision is taken in time for the grazing rights to be allowed during the coming winter and for the future thereafter without any repetition of the last year's bitter experience.

31. The position from the point of view of the Department of Animal Husbandry has been summed up by the department in the following words in its communication to the Committee :—

"Cattle Development"

The cattle population of the Pradesh as per 1966 census is 18,91,584 animals, out of which 4,79,600 are the milch animals and 11 lakhs are Bullocks. The Intensive Cattle Development Programme was started in the Pradesh by introducing superior breeds like Jersey, Germal High Land, Red Sindhi and Tharparkar etc. Three Cattle Breeding Farms are functioning in the Pradesh at Kamand in Mandi District, Kothipura in Bilaspur District and Palampur in Kangra District where improved breeds of animals are being produced for distribution to the breeders for upgrading their stock. Under the key village Programme which is spread all over the Pradesh, Artificial Insemination Programme has been introduced besides locating bulls of superior breeds for natural services at various other places. The livestock Improvement Act has also been promulgated at various places which provides for castration of scrub bulls. This is gradually being introduced all over the Pradesh, so that the Live stock Development programme may be implemented more effectively and with authority.

The Cattle development measures being adopted has got mainly two fold objectives, i.e. to produce high milch yield cows and breeding bullock power for the Agriculture needs. The present cattle population of the Pradesh is fairly a good number to meet the needs of the milch cattle and bullock power, but they need to be improved so as to yield better results and also to minimise the number of uneconomical cattle. Out of the existing cattle population of 18,91,514 animals, 11 lakhs are bullocks, 4.795 lakhs are milch cows and the remaining are un-productive animals. Assuming requirements 1 pair of bullock for 4 acres of land, existing population of 11 lakh of bullocks will be sufficient to meet our need of bullock power for 961900 hectares of land.

The milch population is of course on the low side and with a very poor yield of milk in the local cows their number is insufficient.

The present human population of the Pradesh is 30 lakh people. Considering the bare minimum requirement of 500 ml of milk per day, the annual requirement will be to the tune

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of 54 lakh quintals whereas the present resources hardly are 16.66 lakh quintals per annum, which is based on the following calculation :—

	Cows in milk.	Bufs. in milk
Old Himachal.	1-54-480	61-108
New Himachal.	1-80-700	83-300
	3-35-180	1-44-408
Average milk yield.....	500 grms	2 Kg.
	1-67-590 Kgs. 2-88-806Kgs	
	i. e. 4-56-396 Kgs per day or say	
	16-66 quintals per annum.	

By the end of 2000 A.D., the human population is likely to go upto 45 lakhs and as such the requirements of milk would be to the tune of 82 lakhs quintals per annum. The existing resources of the milk (i. e. 4-796 cows/buffaloes yielding 1/2 Kg and 2 Kg respectively) it is hoped will yield 1.5 time more milk which may further narrow the margin of the requirements for milk sufficiently. However, to meet the minimum need of 500 ml of milk daily, the milch cattle population may have to be increased to 7.5 lakh to meet the present requirements and to 9 lakh of milch animals by the end of the century. The over-all cattle population of the Pradesh, if properly maintained and superior breeds introduced, may be able to meet the both milch and bullock power needs of the Pradesh and the number of the un-productive cattle may have to be reduced substantially. Since there could be no out-let for these un-productive cattle but for their natural death, therefore it will be fairly along drawn process to minimise this number. It may not be out of place to mention here that in various tracts of the place, there is already much awakening amongst the masses to maintain minimum number of quality animals. As and when this programme further gains momentum, we would create similar incentive elsewhere too and the cattle population of the Pradesh even at the end of 2000 A.D. may be around the figure of 200,00,000 Animals.

Sheep And Goat Development.

As per 1966 census, the sheep and goat population of the Pradesh is as under :—

Sheep	10,48,917
Goat	8,13,041

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In the recent meeting of the Forest Grazing Advisory Committee, the unanimous opinion of the members was that goat population may be reduced gradually and by the end of the century only 10% of the goats should remain and the remaining number replaced by the equal number replaced by the equal number of sheep. While this will reduce to much extent the grazing incidence, at the same time 'goat' which is considered as a menace for soil erosion will be eliminated without much dis-advantage to the breeders. In the direction of sheep development, efforts are already afoot to upgrade the existing indigenous stock by introducing exotic breeds imported from Australia, Spain, USSR and USA. The local sheep of the Pradesh are very poor yielder in wool with coarse quality and their body size is also very small. Average wool yield per animal per year in the local sheep is 1 Kg with body size between 15 to 25 Kg. The introduction of superior germ-plasm aims at producing better quality animals both in terms of qualitative and quantitative aspect. The wool yield in the 1/2 bred progeny is expected to yield 1.5 to 2 Kg of wool per animal per annum and in 3/4 progeny carrying 75% merino blood, this increase in the quantity of wool is likely to rise upto 2 to 2.5 Kg of wool per annum, per sheep. Besides this in quantity, the quality of wool produced will be much better which could be utilised for the production of worsted material. Again the increase in body-weight of these animals will make another gain by providing more mutton for human consumption.

The rearing of sheep have got two fold objectives, i.e. to increase the wool yield of finer quality so as to earn better profits to the breeders and to provide more mutton to the consumers. besides to serve as one of the winners of the cash income. In our future planning, this aspect has to be kept in view and the sheep development programme may have to be re-oriented in its light.

Out of the total human population of 30 lakhs it is estimated that about 25 lakh may be meat-eater. The minimum requirement of meat per head per day is roughly estimated at 100 grams each per day. Therefore, our requirement of meat for the population of Rs. 25 lakh at present would be to the tune of about 9 lakh quintals per annum and with the growth of population to about 45 lakhs by the end of the century this increase would also go up as high as 14.40 lakh quintals. The present mutton resources from sheep and goat alone is to the tune of about 1.20 lakh quintals per annum and from other resources the annual availability position for animal protein is assessed as under :-

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Wild life | 600 quintals. |
| 2. Fish | 20,000 quintals. |
| 3. Poultry | 2,000 quintals. |

Thus the total existing resources for animal protein production may be estimated at about 1,42,600 quintals per annum which fall short by 7.57 lakh quintals per annum. The other resources of mutton production may not be so easy to be increased and that emphasis may therefore have to be given mainly on sheep husbandry to fill up this gap.

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1. Mahasu
2. Kinnaur
3. Mandi
4. Chamba
5. Simla
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7. Kulu
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Another factor of producing more wool for home consumption and as also to reach income may be reviewed on the basis of the following figures of district wise human population where wollen clothing from this local produce is made :—

Name of Distt.	District-wise human population consuming wool locally.
1. Mahasu.	3,58,969
2. Kinnaur.	40,980
3. Mandi.	1,50,000 (Excluding Jogindernagar Sarkaghat & Mandi Sadar).
4. Chamba.	2,10,000
5. Simla.	58,364 (Excluding 2/3 population)
6. Kangra.	2,00,000
7. Kulu.	1,00,000
8. Lahaul & Spiti.	20,453
9. Sirmur.	44,400 (Excluding Paonta, 1/2 Renuka and 1/2 Nahan).
Total :—	11,83,166
	or say 12 lakh people.

With the present growth rate of population this number by the end of the century may reach the ceiling of about 20 lakh people.

Therefore, considering as 12 lakh people consuming wool for clothing at present and 20 lakh at the end of the century in the sex ratio of 50:50 (Male and female) this requirement may be roughly estimated as under :—

Present population.		Population after 2000 A. D.	
Male	Female.	Male	Female
12 lakh		20 lakh	
6 lakh	6 lakh	10 lakh	10 lakh

(342)

Requirement of wool per annum
per head.

	3 Kg.	4 Kg.	3 Kg.	4 Kg.	32.
	18 lakh	24 lakh	30 lakh	40 lakh	
	42 lakh Kg.		70 lakh Kg.		
Average wool production	1 Kg. per annum.		2 Kg. per annum		

From these above sets of figures conclusion may be derived that by the end of the Century, to meet alone the internal need of the wool, we will require sheep population numbering about 35 lakh although according to the present need for wollein purposes, the sheep population requirement is estimated at about 42 lakh. This high number of sheep is because of low yield of wool in the native sheep. This does not provide any margin for earning cash income form the sale of the increased wool, neither it will be possible nor it will be in conformity to the carrying capacity of the land to increase the number of sheep more than 35 lakhs by the end of the Century. The average wool yield even after the century we have estimated at 2 Kg. per annum per sheep, but it is hoped that proper feeding management would substantially raise this ceiling and this may pave the way for earning cash income by sale of wool in the open market.

Now, therefore, considering this over-all expected increase and decrease in the population of livestock, which may have to be maintained in relation to carrying capacity of the land and thier requirements for domestic purposes, the specie-wise livestock population by the end of 2000 A. D. is expected to be as under :—

1. Cattle.	20,00,000
2. Sheep.	35,00,000
3. Goats.	1,00,000
4. Buffaloes.	2,00,000
5. Equines.	15,000
6. Other livestock (Yaks & Camels)	2,000
7. Pigs.	2,000

In terms of units, the livestock population comes to about 1.29 crores for which 64 lakhs hectares of grazing area would be required. Taking bonus from the fodder available from the area under plough which may be able to feed another about 15 lakh units of animal per annum, the net grazing area thus required would be approximately 37 lakh hectre.

Para 22 of this Report envisages only 32,00,000 hectares as against 38,00,000 hectares assumed by the Animal Husbandry Department. This discrepancy has to be reconciled.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are made, inspired by the outlook, the approach and attitude summed up paragraph-9 of this Report :—

- (1) The restoration of the status quo, as it obtained during the season 1966-67, ended 31-3-67, ordered by the Government vide Memoranda No. Ft. 784-2/64-III (M), dated the 14th April, 1967 and the 16th March, 1968, from the Chief Conservator of Forests to all territorial Conservators of Forests and Divisional Forest Officers, which orders have been referred to in paragraph-2 of this Report and of which orders copies are appended as appendices (5) & (6), should be reviewed at the end of the season 1975-76. In other words, the numbers should be frozen for the future five years, counting the five years from the end of the ensuing season, i. e. the season 1970-71. This freezing of the numbers will be subject to the accommodation already permissible under rules to young ones up to the prescribed age limits of the different species.
- (2) Three particular cases will need special treatment during this interval. These cases and the respective treatments are dealt with below :—

(a) Flock Grazing in Sirmur District (Paragraph-25 of the Report)

Reservation of forests in the Sirmur District has been made on a much larger scale than in the other districts. So much so that, like the complications pertaining to grazing, there have been complications with regard to NAUTOR also. De-reservation would be a retrograde step. However, a few relaxations within appropriate limits should be considered by the Government. Of course, the laws and the rules would have to be amended suitably for that purpose. For example, in the Chamba District regulated grazing is allowed even in some of the reserved forests. Whatever livestock belonging to outsiders has been let into the Sirmur District for grazing purposes over the past generations, in particular after the birth of Himachal Pradesh, the system of the *Rahdari Permits* has been in force. These permits are issued as a regular routine under the rules and they imply authorisation by the Forest Department. Even if the grazing in the reserved forests has been theoretically illicit, the subordinate staff of the Forest Deptt. could not have been unaware of it, if this illicit grazing has indeed been going on for so many years on such a large scale. And, in any case, there was nothing illicit and there was nothing of connivance with regard to the *Rahdari Permits*. The Forest Authorities concerned are presumed to have known the extent of pasturage available whether in private forests or in Government forests, when they issued the *Rahdari Permits*. To that extent there is clearly a commitment. Therefore, till the review in the calendar year 1976, the status quo should be maintained. If, after that review, the future policy comes to be a total stoppage of grazing, there will be an end to any grazing in these forests.

Should the policy settle down to the relaxation to the extent of regulated grazing

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within these reserved forests, the preference will, naturally, rank first in favour of the local livestock and then and thereafter only in favour of outsiders.

Consistent with the overall policy of reconciling the needs forestry and those of Animal Husbandry, such requirements of livestock, as have to be shut out from the reserved forests of Sirmur and as must still be kept, should be satisfied elsewhere.

While maintaining the status quo during the interval, the Government may consider the aspect of realisation on account of the grazing done within the reserved forests or un-reserved forests of the Government by the flocks being allowed under Rahdari Permits.

Whether it is total stoppage or a partial restriction through regulation, no preference should be shown in favour of buffalo-grazing.

(h) Gaddi and Kinnaura grazing rights in Bilaspur (Paragraph 26 of the Report)

Not more than 1/3rd of any grazing area allotted to any particular person/persons should ordinarily be closed. Even for such closures, advance notice should be given to the graziers concerned before their next arrival for winter grazing but alternative grazing should be provided, in case the balance 2/3rd does not suffice. If no alternative grazing is to be provided, then the status quo should be maintained till the end of the grazing season 1975-76. Arrangements to provide grazing elsewhere should be made for whatever livestock has to be excluded from any Bilaspur grazing area but has to be allowed under the dovetailed policy of Forestry and Animal Husbandry.

(c) Gujjar grazing in Kinnaur (Paragraph 28 of the Report)

The past error should be rectified. The area of 1447 acres should be demarcated on the spot before the grazing season commences in 1971. Since the Manioli Dhar specifically mentioned in the forest lease, is the well known boundary between the Kinnaur District and the Rampur tehsil of the Mahasu District the objective should be not to allow buffalo grazing in the Kinnaur District. This is dictated by the interests of soil-erosion no less than by the interests of the villagers affected by buffalo grazing. However, if it is the categorical finding of the Forest Department that the area of 1447 acres, originally judged to be sufficient for 150 buffaloes plus calves of the permissible age is in actual fact insufficient for a herd of that size then the minimum unavoidable overflow of buffalo grazing into the Kinnaur District should be tolerated during the interval, if such overflow cannot be accommodated elsewhere outside Kinnaur.

While dealing with buffalo-grazing, it should be remembered that the Government has spent lakhs of rupees and still proposes douring so far the re-settlement of Gujjars, whereas, there neither has been nor is intended for future any such expenditure on the other categories of live-stock owners. In their own way and in their own right, the other species of live-stock are as important to the community as the buffaloes are. And restrictions on or

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page of grazing unsettles and dislocates the others no less than the Gujjars.

During the next years there will be no compulsory decrease in any species, not even in goats and buffaloes. If however, by free will of any grazier he reduces the number of goats increase of equal number of sheep of improved breed will be allowed. During this interval, the Government should re-examine the whole matter in much greater detail and far more systematically and scientifically than ever done before. Some of the basic factors need to be re-defined and re-spelled. For example, they are :—

- (1) The extent of summer as well as winter pasture actually available.
- (2) The carrying capacity of the pastures.
- (3) The conversion formula for reduction of the various species to a unit basis and the area of pasturage per unit.
- (4) The sources of fodder and other feeds than the open grazing areas.
- (5) The relative importance of Forestry and Animal Husbandry within the composite overall economy of the Pradesh.
- (6) The exact manner in which the interest of Forestry and Animal Husbandry should be dovetailed in the light of that relative importance.
- (7) etc. etc.

Some of the assumptions made by the Committee for its deliberations, inferences and recommendation have not been as certain and as sure as the Committee would like.

The entire review should be completed by the end of the calendar year 1975 so that Government decisions are taken and all concerned informed well in time. To that end, steps should be initiated immediately.

4. The case concerning the grazing problem in Uttar Pradesh (paragraph-30 of the Report) should be taken up immediately with the U. P. Government at appropriate level and pursued vigorously so that, before the end of October this year, at the latest, orders of the Uttar Pradesh Government reach the Forest Authorities concerned at the divisional level and lower down, permitting the Continuance of the peaceful and un-interrupted exercise of the rights of grazing by all graziers in their respective areas.

5. Control of migratory and nomadic herds and flocks :—

The most important pre-requisite for the control of migratory and nomadic herds and flocks and management of pastures grazed by them is correct enumeration of these flocks and registration of their owners.

(a) Registration and enumeration :—

Registration, truly speaking, implies the preparation of a list of graziers together

with the grazing grounds and pastures showing also the recorded rights, if any to do so. In Himachal Pradesh records of rights exist only with respect to local people residing in the vicinity of particular forest areas. So far as the migratory and nomadic graziers are concerned, no where except in the settlement report 1912-15 of erstwhile Bilaspur state, have their grazing rights been recorded as a right. In almost all cases a particular pasture or grazing run has been made use of by a particular individual and his decedents by virtue of the right of easement simple usage. Now such rights should be formally recorded subject to appropriate terms and conditions.

(b) Fixation of routes and check posts :—

Another pre-requisite for the control of the migratory and nomadic graziers is the fixation of routes and establishment of check post on these routes at suitable places preferably at bridges or at such places on the border of a Forest Division through which the moving herds and flocks have perforce to pass. The graziers cannot be expected to form exception to the natural tendency of the people to evade as far as possible, the payment of taxes. It is also their tendency to avoid registration and correct enumeration of the flocks they actually possess. The fixation of routes and check posts is, therefore, absolutely necessary in the interest of perfect control.

The Sub-Committee therefore propose the following programme, the data of which should be collected within the next six months by respective DFOs in close collaboration with the Deputy Commissioners :—

Sl. No.	Name of graziers parentage and residence.	Name of the grazing ground:		Whether summer grazing grounds or winter grazing ground.
1.	2.	3.		4.
Area in hectares	Kind and No. of animals.	Routes	Stages	Duration of stay permissible for each stage.
5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
Prescribed check posts.		Remarks.		
10.				

As a result of this enumeration and registration each flock owner should be clearly and definitely allowed, as per optimum grazing unit of animals, his summer as well as winter grazing unit of animals, his summer as well as winter grazing with prescribed routes, stages and check posts.

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Composition of restrictions on the movements of migratory and nomadic graziers :—

After recording of grazing runs, fixation of routes and the establishment of checking posts, it is equally important to exercise control over the movements of herds and flocks during transit from summer pastures to winter runs and vice versa. It is during these movements that maximum damage is done to forests including closed areas as these graziers try to prolong their stay in forest en-route. To control the movements following restrictions should be fixed :—

- (1) Period of entry in each forest division should be fixed.
- (2) The owner of all flocks and herds entering the territory of the Division must get a permit at the first entry checking post. Those who simply pass through will get rahdari permits and those who enter for grazing will get grazing permits.
- (3) Each permit will bear the period of transit both through the Division and to the grazing ground inside the Division. Any over-stay should be treated as 'trees-pass' under the Forest Act.
- (4) Minimum period of transit through the Division should be fixed. The graziers should not be allowed to halt their flocks for longer than one night at any single halting place in any forest in which they have not a right of grazing. Halting places should be at least 10 Kms. apart. Under exception/unavoidable circumstances halt may be allowed for two nights.
- (5) All herds and flocks must stick to the fixed routes and must not be allowed a deviation of more than 5 K. M. on each side of the fixed route.

6. Uniform grazing fee

The taxation rates should be uniform throughout the state for all species of live stock.

7. Closures :—

In order to implement various soil conservation afforestation and pasture improvement programmes more and more areas will be closed every year. It may not be already possible to provide alternative grazing areas in exchange of those which are closed. However, the Sub-Committee is of the opinion that not more than 1/3rd of grazing area allotted to any particular grazier/graziers should ordinarily be closed and for such closures, advance intimation should be given to the grazier/graziers concerned and every effort should be made to provide alternative grazing. The Sub-Committee also agreed that contracts for supply of grass should not be given where such contracts interfere with grazing rights of the people.

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8. Grazing fee/Rahdari realised by Panchayats :

Once the State Government has enforced uniform annual grazing fees for different kinds of animals throughout the Pradesh, the graziers should be free from any additional levies by whatever name and authority. For instance the Rahdari fees presently charged by certain Panchayats on Simla-Kalka route, notwithstanding a uniform annual grazing fee of 19 paise per sheep and 37 paise per goat (increased in the proposals of this policy to 50 paise per goat and 20 paise per sheep) realised by the Forest Department are certainly not in order and should be done away with by suitable Government directions in the matter. For the above mentioned period of 5 years of status quo, Govt. should by appropriate methods ensure that no Panchayat and no private individual raises any existing charges, whatever, whether by auction or competitive tenders or otherwise.

9. Taxation :

Even for the first five years after 1970 winter season, when no compulsory reduction is to be imposed, the tax on goats and buffaloes should be increased; in the case of goats nominally and in the case of buffaloes substantially. The tax on goats may be raised from 37 paise to 50 paise and that on buffaloes from Rs. 6.00 to Rs. 15.00. For facility in accounting, existing rate of 19 paise per sheep may be rounded off to 20 paise.

10. Long term proposals for reduction of excess number of goats and buffaloes :

- (a) Ultimately, the number of goats in a flock may have to be limited to 10 percent of the total strength, by 2000 A.D. The excess number of goats shall have to be reduced in a phased annual programme to bring the number to the optimum limit fixed by 2000 A.D. In the meanwhile intensive programmes of improvement of breeds as also the improvement of pastures should be implemented.
- (b) Maximum damage to forests growth and land in high hills is done by buffaloes which are heavy footed animals. It is recommended to completely eliminate the nomadic Gujjars from free of open grazing by confining them to permanent settlements like Aurangabad in Nahar Forest Division, in an annually phased programme to complete the elimination of buffalo grazing at large and in the open, by 2000 A.D.
- (c) For the purposes of the work to be done during the five year interval, the grazing Advisory Committee might be re-constituted to be more suitable for these purposes and entrusted with that work.

11. The subject of grazing being vast and complicated, the work should be entrusted to a separate Range Management Circle, to be created within the frame-work of the Forest Department. Inter alia the functions of this circle, which can also be called 'Pasture improvement and grazing land management circle' should be as under :—

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- (a) To earmark the grazing lands, assess and improve their grazing potential.
 - (b) To assess the requirements of live stock population; introduce better breeds and impart necessary awakening in this regard.
 - (c) To help establish industries which would depend on the live stock for their raw-material.
 - (d) All matters connected with forest grazing and scientific management of Pasture lands.

12. The Forest Department may undertake pilot programmes in certain selected localities of the Pradesh to carry out works within the framework of the recommendations of this report during the five year's period of status quo as recommended by the Committee. It is hoped that the results of such Pilot programmes will help substantiate the soundness of various recommendations of the Committee as also enable us to undertake similar works on a much larger scale with requisite confidence in the results thereof.

13. The entry of buffaloes of nomadic gujjars (Fan Gujjars) in the Kulu Valley should be controlled strictly as per provisions of the Anderson's Forest Settlement Report & Deputy Commissioner Kulu should be enjoined not to permit buffalo grazing the valley beyond the provisions of the Settlements and against the recommendations of the Forest Officer & objections by the local right holders.

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APPENDIX-a

No. Ft. 784-2/64-IH (M)
H. P. Forest Department
Dated Simla-4, the 14th April, 1967

From : C. C. F., H. P.

To :— All Territorial C. Fs. & D. F. Os
in H. P.

Subject :— Grazing policy in respect of migratory sheep and goats.

Government have considered the policy of sheep and goat grazing by migratory flocks involving reduction in the number of goats, and charging uniform grazing fee for migratory goats and sheep in H. P. It has now been decided by Government that 19 paise per sheep and 37 paise per goat will be charged from migratory grazers throughout the Pradesh once in a year at the first check post.

2. It has also been decided to cancel the decision of Bilaspur conference regarding annual reduction of goats conveyed vide this office memo. of even number dated 22.3.1965 as subsequently amended vide endorsement of even number dated 15.3.1966.

3. These decisions take effect from April 1st, 1967. Kindly acknowledge receipt of this communication and act accordingly at once. Extra copies of this for the territorial R. Os are enclosed herewith.

Sd/- (V.P. Agrawala)
Chief Conservator of Forests,
Himachal Pradesh Simla.

From :— C.C.F.

Subject :—

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APPENDIX-b

No. Ft. 784-2/64- III (M)
H. P. Forest Department
Dated Simla-4, the 6.3.1968.

From :— C.C.F. H. P.

To :— All Territorial C. Fs and D.F.-Os in H.P.

Subject :—

Grazing policy in respect of migratory sheep and goats in Himachal Pradesh.

Memo.

Continuation this office memorandum of even number dated 14th April, 1967 on the Subject noted above.

2. To set at rest any doubts in connection with the implementation of the orders in the matter I am directed so clarify the positifon as under :—

1. For the season 1967-68 onwards only goats and sheep which were permitted during the preceeding year 1966-67 ending 31.3.1967 will be admitted.

2. The penalty for extra sheep and goats will continue to be Rs. 5/- per head as decided in the Bilaspur graziers conference during March 1965.

Sd/
for C.C.F. H.P.

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APPENDIX-(c)

No. Ft. 784-2/64-III (M)

H.P. Forest Department

Dated Simla-1, the

From : C.C.F. H.P.

To :-All territorial C. Fs. and
D.F. Os in Himachal Pradesh

Subject :- Grazing policy in respect of Migratory sheep and goats in
Himachal Pradesh.

Memo:-

Reference this office memorandum of even number dated the 16th March, 1968 on the subject cited above.

2. Please delete the word "Sheep and" appearing in the 1st Line of Item 2 of para 2 this office memo. of even number dated 16.3.1968.

Sd/
for C.C.F.- H.P.

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APPENDIX (d)

No. 2-32/69-LDT
Government of India
Ministry of Food Agriculture
Community Development and Cooperation,
(Department of Agriculture).
New Delhi, dated Feb, 1970.

To
The State Governments and Union Territories.

Subject :- Development of fodder, grass and leaf fodder resources.

Sir,

I am directed to state that the programmes for the development of fodder grass and leaf fodder resources have been assuming an increasing importance in view of the need to step up the production of milk, meat, wool etc. rapidly so as to be able to meet the nutritional and woollen, clothing requirements of the people to a satisfactory level. At present the production of milk, meat and wool is very much below the minimum requirements recommended for proper nutrition and woollen clothing needs of the people. Cattle and buffaloes are the main producers of milk; goats are an important source for meat and also milk and sheep provide mutton and wool. Although programmes for development of these species of livestock have been taken up by the State Government, adequate attention has however, not so far been given to the development of fodder and grass resources so as to ensure proper feeding of livestock. It is, therefore, necessary that this aspect may be given higher priority under the Fourth Five Year Plan.

I am further to state that while cattle and buffaloes have to depend increasingly on cultivated fodder crops, sheep and goats on the other hand would continue to depend mainly on grazing. It is therefore, necessary to take up programmes for the development grazing areas, introduction of improved varieties of fodder crops, grasses and legumes encouraging use of fertilisers for stepping up yield and nutritive quality of forage; planting of fodder tree, controlled utilisation of grazing and proper conservation and utilization of seasonal surpluses of forage. A coordinated programme in this regard could be drawn up and implemented jointly by the Agricultural, Animal Husbandry and Forests Departments.

The action already taken and that proposed to be taken in these matters may kindly be communicated to this Ministry in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/

(C. Krishana Rao)

Animal Husbandry Commissioner.

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APPENDIX (e)

No: 2-3/70-LDT
Government of India
Ministry of Food, Agriculture, CD & Coop.
(Department of Agriculture).
New Delhi, the 1st February, 1970

To All Directors of Animal Husbandry,
All Principals/Deans of Veterinary Colleges.

Subject :— Fodder Development—Measures for intensification of programmes.

Sir,

Talks about Fodder Development of decade ago were purely of academic importance. However, during the last five year interest in fodder development has been mounted substantially and in the wake of cross-breeding of cattle and intensification of dairy development programme, farmers have taken the initiative in fodder cultivation. The time has now come when the farmers need high-yielding and highly nutritious fodder crops to improve the productive efficiency of his cattle and his overall economy. While a great deal of research work has been done during the last two decade in this field in several Research Institutes, the results of such work have not gone beyond the portals of these institutes. In the context of intensive crop production, animal production programmes are bound to get a boost and there are already hopeful signs of this. It is, therefore, essential that all workers in the field of fodder development and animal production become conscious about the vital role of fodder in economic animal production. It is also necessary that we bring together all the work done in the field of fodder research and fodder development and pass this on to field worker and to farmers. The following are some guide-lines to meet the challenge of fodder production which may be given immediate attention and suitable action launched without further loss of time.

1. Administrative organisation :—

In most States, the staff on the Fodder Development side consist of a single feed and fodder Development Officer with little or no field staff. It is now necessary to provide the basic, essential infrastructure to take up a massive development programme on a State-wide basis. At the State headquarters there should be a Feed and Fodder Development Officer of the rank of Deputy Director supported by Regional Fodder Development Officers at the rate of one for every 4 or 5 districts, who in turn should be supported by a Fodder Assistant at the rate of one for every District. These Fodder Assistant should be supported by 4 or 5 Agricultural Fieldmen depending on the intensity of the programme in

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the area. At all levels, the staff working in the fodder sector should belong to the Agricultural discipline for obvious reasons. The Deputy Director (Fodder) should be fully charged with responsibility of developing and controlling the fodder development programme on a State-wide basis. The cropping programme for all Livestock Farms should be drawn up by him. This staff that is proposed is the barest minimum needed to stimulate fodder development programmes and to provide the technical expertise. At the same time, it is absolutely essential to involve every one of the Vety. Asstt. Surgeons Livestock Inspectors and Stockmen in this programme to expand the same and to infiltrate in to every village. The staff of the Agricultural Department and V.L.Ws. in the P.S. Blocks should also be fully exploited to launch a massive drive for fodder production.

2. Training Programme :—

The staff engaged in this programme at all levels should be fully trained in all aspects of the subject to provide them the required knowledge and experience to attack the problem with full confidence. The Deputy Director (F) should be trained at Centres like Central Grassland and Fodder Research Institute, Jhansi. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, Arid Zone Research Centre, Jodhpur, etc., for a suitable length of time and should be in touch with the work going on at these Centres. The question of arranging training facilities for the fodder development staff is being looked into from this end. They should also be provided adequate opportunity to study fodder development programme in action in developed countries. At the junior level, the Agricultural Assistants should also under go a similar pattern of training of a lesser intensity outside the State. The Agricultural Fieldmen should be trained in the State Livestock Farms or Fodder Farms. The V.A.Ps., V.A.Is., and stockmen should receive a brief training in this aspect within the State.

3. Fodder Research and Seed Farms :—

In view of the increasing tempo of fodder development, to find the answers to the many questions that lurk in our minds and that may come up from the farmers, it is essential to initiate applied research work on certain aspect of fodder crops. For this purpose it is necessary for every State to set up 2 to 4 Fodder Research and seed production Stations.

If fodder development in every State is to go on smoothly & without interruption it is essential that immediate action has to be taken in the matter of seed production. A few high-yielding varieties which are popular in the State have to be identified and measures taken to multiply the same in a big way in the Government Fodder Farms. Beside, it is also essential to involve progressive farmers in the matter of seed production to stimulate the interest of farmers and overcome financial bottleneck. Certain safeguards have to be taken, to ensure that only quality seed is produced at all these Centres.

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It is also necessary to involve National Seeds Corporation in this programme which will relieve the Animal Husbandry Departments of lot of troubles. The N. S. C. can be induced to take this work on regional basis to meet local specific needs if the types are identified, pure seeds supplied to them and the quantities of seed required intimated at least one year in advance to start with. Once the programme is in motion, the entire seed production and distribution programmes can be streamlined. In the initial stages the are bound to be some difficulties and for this reason Government Fodder Farms should take up the burden of seed production with the support of progressive farmers.

While we talk about fodder we should also be conscious about the vast fodder potential in the form of "Fodder Trees", Forages farmers are used to feeding their sheep and goats on leaf fodder. This can be equally good for cattle. Considerable work on leaf fodder has been done at Research Centres but little is known by the Officers concerned with livestock development and action in this field negligible. It is necessary in the first instance to get a list of all such fodder trees from the forest and Agriculture Departments and raise nurseries of such trees in all Government Livestock Farms. Every year before the monsoon season, the seedlings should be distributed to the field staff for planting in rural areas. At the time of the monsoons a massive campaign should be launched to plant fodder trees in rural areas and around the houses of farmers. In the forest areas also such trees should be given some attention by Forest Department staff.

4. Fodder Conservation :—

Considerable quantity of fodder is wasted in the case of millet straw due to the thick stem and so also in the case of paddy straw. Every effort has to be made to utilise the fodder to the fullest extent by chaffing. Chaff cutters are of different type power. Chaff-cutters for commercial operation, rotary chaff-cutters for the small farmer. Considerable publicity has to be made on the advantage of chaffing, and a campaign has to be launched to introduce chaff-cutters in rural areas. These should be utilised even for chaffing green fodder. Efforts have also to be made to improve the design of these chaff-cutters.

While India is short of fodder the utilisation of green fodder particularly is not rational. In developed areas with irrigation facilities and good rainfall during winter months there is plenty of green fodder available which is used up entirely for cattle feeding, while in summer months not a blade of green grass is given to the cattle. This results in lower productivity and lower fertility from the overall point of view. On the other hand, if farmers are trained to carry over the surplus green fodder of the flush season to the lean months in the form of silage or hay the available fodder resources can be better utilised to great economic advantage. This will also slightly narrow the gap between flush and lean season milk production. It should also be realised that leaf fodder can also be ensiled. A combination of water hyacinth and paddy straw can be converted into good silage.

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Research work on silage making with different types of fodder crops, different combinations of fodder crops and different treatments during silage making etc. has to be taken up in all States. Economics involved in different methods of silage making and hay making has also to be taken up.

5. Incentives :—

To initiate and augment fodder development programme it is necessary to involve the farmer increasingly and to create a desire in him to grow fodder. This is a programme that has to be tackled from the long-range point of view and in the initial stages it is essential to provide an element of subsidy to elicit the desired response from the farmers. The subsidy shall be not in the form of money but in kind like fertilizer seed, etc. As the programme gains momentum the subsidy should be progressively reduced and finally eliminated. To ensure a good start for this programme, It should be taken up in the milk shed areas and in progressive areas where superior type of cattle are raised and there is demand for milk and dairy products. When the programme becomes normalised it would be the responsibility of the department to provide seed material and fertilizer on no profit no loss basis. The provision of loans for digging wells or deepening old wells and for purchase of pumpsets for fodder cultivation is also a matter that will help in augmenting the programme. Subsidies for digging silage pits also requires consideration till this programme fits in the normal farm operations.

6. Extension Programme :—

A new programme like fodder development which has to face fierce competition from cereal crops and commercial crops requires lot of publicity to find a place in the farm plans. The economics of fodder production in terms of milk production and the other advantages in the form of better health and better reproductive efficiency need to be undertaken in a systematic manner and this should be given the top-most attention. In fact there is urgent need for a film on all aspect of fodder Development. In the above lines an efforts has been made to high light the various aspects of the fodder development programme requiring immediate attention to support the advancing animal production plans. Any comments on this circular will be deeply appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

(C. Krishana Rao)

Animal Husbandry Commissioner,
Govt. of India.

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ANNEXURE (A)
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

"FOREST DEPARTMENT"

NOTIFICATION

No. Ft. 784-13/66 (M)

Dated Simla-4, the 29 Feb., 1968.

Whereas Himachal Pradesh forms catchments of important rivers like Sutlej, Beas, Ravi and Jamuna and whereas on all these Rivers, Multipurpose Projects of Irrigation and power involving heavy investments are being raised.

There is very heavy incidence of grazing by Buffaloes, Sheep and Goats throughout Himachal Pradesh, which is causing serious erosion leading to heavy silt loads, thus the attening the very existence of the dams.

Whereas in the context of general and larger interests, it is necessary to review the entire grazing policy in Himachal Pradesh.

Now therefore the Lt. Governor, Himachal Pradesh, is pleased to constitute and appoint a high level committee to be known as grazing advisory committee with the composition of the following to look into the problems of grazing by migratory as well as by local graziers in its varied aspects and to submit their report to the State Government within 3 months :—

1. Hon'ble the Forest Minister	Chairman
2. Hon'ble Dy. Forest Minister	Vice-Chairman
3. Shri T.S. Negi, M.L.A.	Member
4. Shri Kultar Chand, M.L.A.	Member
5. Shri Devi Singh, M.L.A.	Member
6. Shri Ram Chand, M.L.A.	Member
7. Shri Guman Singh, M.L.A.	Member
8. Shri Khazan Singh, M.L.A.	Member
9. Shri Bansri Ram, Ex., M.L.A. Banjar	Member
10. Shri Nihal Chand, Ex., M.L.A. Lahaul Spiti	Member
11. Bakhasi Partap Singh, Ex., Minister, H. P.	Member
12. Dewan Man Chander Uppal Advocate Dharamsala	Member
13. Judicial Secretary, H. P.	Member
14. Finance Secretary, H. P.	Member
15. Director of Animal Husbandry, H.P.	Member
16. Director of Welfare, H.P.	Member

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The Chief Conservator of Forests-Cum-Secretary (Forests) to Himachal Pradesh Government will be the member Secretary and Shri B.S. Parmar, P.F.S.I. Conservator of Forests, Simla Circle will be Joint Secretary of the committee.

The high level committee may appoint sub-committees out of its own members to deal with specific subject concerning the grazing problems.

The committee and the Sub-Committees will be of temporary nature and the committee is purely of advisory capacity.

The non-official members of the Committee will be entitled to TA/DA etc. on the same terms and conditions as are specified in the annexure to this notification.

By Order,

Sd/-

(V. P. Agarwala)
Secretary (Forests) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

No. Ft. 784-13/66 (M)

Dt. Simla the 29th Feb., 1968

Copy forward to :—

1. The Manager, H.P. Press Simla for favour of information and publication in the official gazettee.
2. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and all official/Non official members of the committee on grazing problems for Himachal Pradesh.
3. All C.Fs in Himachal Pradesh.
4. All D.F.Os in Himachal Pradesh.

Sd/-

(V. P. Agarwala)
Secretary (Forests) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

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ANNEXURE

Travelling allowance to Members of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha who are non-official Members of the Committee on grazing problems on Forests for Himachal Pradesh.

1. Travelling allowance

- (a) They will be treated at par with Government servants of the first grade, and will be entitled to a single fare of the class of the accommodation actually used, but not exceeding the fare to which the Government servants of the First Grade are normally entitled, i.e. accommodation of the first class, plus an allowance for incidental expenses at the rate of 35 paise per every 10 Kilometers or part thereof the journey exceeds 5 Kilometers or one daily allowance at the ordinary rates prescribed in the T.A. Rules subject to a minimum of Rs. 3/- for every 24 hours of the railway or part thereof, whichever less.

(b) Journey by Road

In respect of journeys by road between places not connected by rail, a member will be entitled to road mileage admissible to an officer of the first Grade under the rules and at the rates as applicable to the employees of the Himachal Pradesh Government.

In a case where journey between two places connected by rail is performed by road, rail being the ordinary mode of travelling, the road mileage will be regulated as under :—

- (i) When a journey is performed by taking a single seat in a Public conveyance, he will be entitled to actual fare paid for a seat in the public conveyance plus incidental admissible as for a journey by rail or the lower rate of road mileage, prescribed in the T.A. rules, limited to rail mileage, whichever is less.
- (ii) When the journey is performed otherwise the higher rate or road mileage, but limited to rail mileage will apply. When the journey is performed by using a means of locomotion provided by the Government and the member does not pay cost of its use or propulsion he will be entitled to draw an allowance for incidental expenses at the rates admissible under S.R. 36 on the basis of of distance covered by road by the direct route and restricted to one daily allowance at the ordinary rate for every 24 hours of journey or part thereof. For this purpose, the forward and return journeys will be treated separately except when they fall on the same day.

2. Daily allowance.

- (a) The members will be entitled to a daily allowance for each day meeting except when the Vidhan Sabha or a Vidhan Sabha Committee on which the member is serving is in session at highest rate admissible to a Government servant of the 1st Grade for the respective locality.
- (b) In addition to the daily allowance for the day (s) of the meeting a member shall also be entitled to full daily allowance for the day proceeding and/or the day following the meeting if
 - 1. he arrives in the forenoon of the day proceeding the day of meeting or an earlier day; and/or
 - 2. he departs at 12 noon or in the afternoon of the day following the day of the meeting or on a later day.But he will be entitled to only half daily allowance for the day proceeding and/or for the day following the meeting if
 - (a) he arrives at 12-00 noon or in the afternoon of the day preceding the day of the meeting and/or
 - (b) he departs in the forenoon of the day following the day of the meeting
- (c) Daily allowance will be subject to the usual condition laid down in supplementary Rule 78, as amended from time to time.

(3) Conveyance Allowance.

A member, resident at a place where the meeting of the committee is held will not be entitled to travelling and daily allowances on the scales indicated above, but will be allowed only the actual cost of conveyance hire, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10/- per day. Before the claim is actually paid the controlling officer should verify the claim and satisfy himself after obtaining such details as may be considered necessary, that the actual expenditure was not less than the amount claimed. In cases, he is not satisfied with the details, he may at his discretion, limit the conveyance allowance to road mileage.

If such a member uses his own car, he will be granted mileage allowance at the rates admissible to officials of the first grade subject to a maximum of Rs. 10/- per day.

4. The travelling and daily allowances will be admissible to a member on production of a certificate by him to the effect that he has not drawn any travelling or daily allowance for the same journey and halts from any other Government Source.

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5. The member will be eligible for travelling allowance for the journeys actually performed in connection with the meeting of the Committee from and to the place of their permanent residence to be named in advance. If an member performs a journey from a place other than the place of his permanent residence to attend a meeting of the Committee or returns to the place of his permanent residence after the termination of the meeting, travelling allowance shall be worked out on the basis of the distance actually travelled or the distance between the place permanent residence and the venue of the meeting whichever is less.

6. The members will not be entitled to daily allowance in connection with their assignment when the Vidhan Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha Committee on which the members are serving is in session as they will be drawing their daily allowance under the *Salaries and Allowances of Members of the Legislative Assembly (Himachal Pradesh) Act, 1963*, from the Vidhan Sabha. However, if they certify that they were prevented from attending the Session or the House or the Vidhan Sabha Committee and did not draw any daily allowance from the Vidhan Sabha would be entitled to daily allowance at the rate as prescribed.

7. The provision of Rule 224, of the Central Treasury Rules will apply mutatis mutandis in the case of overpayment made on account of T.A. to non-official members.

8. Their members will also not draw T.A. and D.A. including conveyance allowance which will disqualify them from the Vidhan Sabha.

9. The Secretary (Forest Department to Himachal Pradesh) will be the Controlling officer in regard to countersigning the Travelling allowance bills of these members and the bills will be prepared by the office of the Secretary (Forests) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

10. The expenditure will be debitable to the Head 70-Forests.

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APPENDIX 'B'
QUESTIONNAIRE CONNECTED WITH GRAZING PROBLEM IN
HIMACHAL PRADESH

1. It is fact that the economy of local people of Himachal Pradesh is intimately connected with the continued existence of the forests ?
2. Is it a fact forests have considerably deteriorated from what they were 50 years ago and people are finding it difficult to meet their domestic requiremen's for timber, fire-wood, grass and grazing etc. ?
3. Is it fact that area of grazing grounds has considerably diminished during last 50 years as a result of grant of nauṭors and encroachments by the local people ?
4. Is it a fact that the cattle population of the State has been on the increase and it has almost more than doubled during the last 50 years ?
5. If the answer of the above is in affirmative then what is the effect on the quality and quantity of grazing grounds available at present. According to the statistics available area for grazing per unit is 0.101 hect. against 0.4 hect. necessary per unit of animals if the conditions of pastures are normal.
6. Is it not a fact that the rise in cattle population, shrinkage of grazing grounds and high incidence of grazing have led to wide spread ~~erosion~~ erosion in different forms all over the Pradesh ?
7. Is it not necessary to control this sad state of affairs and improve the conditions of grazing grounds in the interest of cattle grazing itself and the economy of the Pradesh in general ? If so, do you agree to bring down the number of cattle to the grazing capacity of grazing grounds and improve the conditions of the grazing and check their further deterioration ?
8. What measures do you suggest to achieve the above objects ?
9. Cattle are maintained for milk, manure and agriculture purposes. Are these purposes being obtained in full ?
10. Is it not a fact that breed of the cow being maintained gives very low yield of milk ?
11. Will you not like to have a cow which can yield 15 times the milk which is being obtained from the local breed cow and as such keep one good cow in place of local breed cow as at present ?

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12. Is it not a fact that most of the cow-dung is being lost in grazing grounds in which the cattle roam about for most part of the day in search of food?
13. If milch cattle are allowed to roam about in the grazing grounds for most part of the day, they yield less milk than the yield of the milk if they are stall fed. Do you agree with this observation?
14. Do you agree that goat is a voracious eater and causes lot of damage to the forests and the vegetation?
15. What are your views about buffalo grazing? Do you agree that these animals are too heavy and their grazing in these hills poses a serious problem of erosion? How would you like to solve this problem? In your view, is it not necessary to control and fix the number of buffaloes which can graze in various areas.
16. Do you agree that the conditions of grazing grounds have so deteriorated that they require immediate attention? If so, have you any objection if the Government, through legislation or other-wise, adopts the following measures to achieve object—
 - (i) Total eviction of the surplus livestock from the state.
 - (ii) Reduction of the surplus numbers in the manner as detailed below :—
 - (a) Charging of sufficiently high grazing fees.
 - (b) Granting of privileged rates to essential agricultural cattle and taxing the superfluous cattle heavily.
 - (c) Enforcing of stall-feeding and substituting grazing by grass cutting.
 - (d) Discouraging the promiscuous breeding of herds of useless cattle by castration of scrub bulls, male goats and rams.
 - (e) Control on migratory movements of herds and flocks and reduction in flocks by favouring sheep under the taxation system.
 - (f) Revision and curtailment of the grazing rights and concession provided in the forest settlement reports.
 - (g) Improvement in the breed of cattle so as to improve their quality and milk yield.
 - (h) Supply of suitable artificial manures to the agriculturists for improvement of pastures.
 - (iii) Settle the problem of migratory graziers by allotting them permanently suitable pieces of lands in the H.P. itself or get suitable pieces allotted in Rajasthan.

He was requested to send the same ^{as} early as possible.

ITEM NO.12(IV) SIMPLIFICATION OF GRAZING POLICY ABOUT GRAZING RIGHTS FOR SHEEP AND GOATS.

The item of simplification of procedure for issuing of permits was discussed in detail. Shri Dev Raj Negi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tribal Development and Forests pointed out that grazing fee is being collected at Wangtoo check post, this year although it was never done previously. It was decided that grazing fee if charged at one place will be considered valid for the whole of the State. Similarly Shri K.D. Himachali pointed out that "Tindi" is being collected from migratory graziers by the local right holders also in Kullu area. It was clarified that grazing fee is to be levied only once, every year and that this should be levied and collected in the division where the graziers go for summer grazing i.e. in the month of July every year. The grazing season will constitute the period from 1st July to 30th June as per the practice in vogue.

Further more it was reiterated that only the Forest Department has the authority to collect the grazing fee and this cannot be done by any other department/agency/Persons.

OTHER ITEMS: The non-official member pointed out that Shri Rattan Singh of Sunder Nagar is still being issued grazing permit even though a court case is in progress. The Chairman desired that the facts be re-verified from C.F. Mandi.

ITEM No.2. Shri Nehar Singh, MLA suggested that metal tags be attached on the ears of buffaloes at the time of enumeration. The Forest Department will examine the proposal and submit its report.

ITEM No. 3

Shri K.D. Himachali brought to the notice of the committee a case of Shri Jagarta Ram S/O Mahant Village Gandwari, Tehsil Palampur who brings his animals for grazing in Janta Range of Nahar Forest Division. The grazier is permitted to graze his animals in Kanoti DFF and Shilli Shaulat but is always charged penalty for excess animals due to some anomaly in the No. of animals mentioned in the permit issued by DFO. Palampur. The Committee desired that the facts be placed before it at its next meeting.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

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A case has been instituted in the competent Court of Dehradun (Uttar Pradesh) by some of the H.P. graziers against this decision and the Govt. of H.P. is following up the same. It was decided that Conservator of Forests, H.P. Shimla Circle, Shimla/Planning Officer O/O Pr. CCF HP should represent the Govt. of H.P. whenever the case comes up for hearing. Shri Dev Raj Negi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tribal Development and Forests, requested that the Govt. should provide monetary support to the petitioners i.e. graziers of H.P. in the instant case. It was decided that the Member Secretary will find out from D.C. Shimla whether he has extended any Monetary help.

ITEM NO.10(IV) SUGGESTION FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT OF MIGRATORY GRAZERS.

Since this matter has now been taken up by the Gujjar Welfare Board, H.P., it was decided that the Committee may be kept informed of the progress of Settlement of Gujjars from time to time by the Secretary (Forests) to H.P. Govt. who is also a member of the Gujjar Welfare Board.

ITEM No.11(V) RATES FOR GRAZING FEE-INCREASE THEREOF.

A reference has been made to the Govt. suggesting increase of grazing fee to the level of that charged in Uttar Pradesh i.e. Rupee-One per Sheep and Rs. Two per goat per season. This suggestion has not been approved by the Govt. However, the Committee desired to know under what authority the grazing rates for sheep and goats have been fixed at 20 paise and 50 paise respectively. This clarification would be put up in the next meeting.

The President H.P. Gaddi Union did not supply any list of persons for training in Angora breeding.

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C.F. S. Lakshmi
has been
written

A case regarding recovery of income tax in Bilaspur Circle, was also brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Forest Minister. The Hon'ble Forest Minister desired that the Pr. C.C.F.H.P. will look into these cases and issue suitable instructions to the field staff immediately.

ITEM NO.7 (4) PROBLEMS OF GADDIES OF KANGRA DISTT.

The President of the Gaddi Union has been asked to supply a list of areas required to be opened for grazing in Kangra Distt. but no list was sent by him. Since more areas are being closed for planting every year, it was decided that, where-ever such closures are enforced, old established plantations need to be opened up for migratory graziers. Plantations which are ten years old or those where the plants have grown beyond risk of damage by sheep and goats should be surveyed by the Forest Department and opened up for grazing. Consent of the local right holders for opening up of such areas need not be insisted upon by the field staff.

ITEM NO.8 ERADICATION OF LANTANA:

It was decided that the Conservators of Forests, should be asked to report on the progress of eradication of Lantana in their Circles. It was pointed out by Hon'ble Forest Minister that the H.P. Krishi Vishva Vidyalaya Palampur has taken up studies in this direction and that liaison be maintained with the University. At the same time the Forest Research Institute Dehradun be also contacted to give the technical advice in the matter.

C.F. S. Lakshmi
has been
written

ITEM NO.9(6) INTERSTATE GRAZING PROBLEMS:

The interstate grazing problems of the H.P. and U.P. graziers were discussed. Secretary (Forests) informed that the Forest Minister, U.P. had written a letter to the Forest Minister, H.P. on 23.3.88 stating therein that it was not possible for Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to provide grazing facilities to the Sheep and Goats of H.P.

Interstate
Grazing
Problems

No.C.IV-1/7505-18/
H.P. Forest Department.

Dated: Shimla, the 11th July, 99

From:

Member Secretary,
Grazing Advisory Review Committee-Cum-
Conservator of Forests, H.P.
Shimla Circle, Talland, Shimla-171001.

To:

1. Shri Thakur Singh, MLA
Village Sushuin, P.O. Bharmour,
Distt. Chamba, H.P.
2. Shri Nehar Singh, M.L.A.
Village Kaloti, PO Kaloti,
Tehsil Chirgaon, Distt. Shimla, H.P.
3. Shri Kush Parmar, M.L.A.
Village Devi Nagar, Tehsil Paonta,
Distt. Sirmour H.P.
4. Shri Brij Bihari Butail, M.L.A.
P.O. Palampur, Distt. Kangra, H.P.
5. Shri Jagdish Chand, Rana
H.P. Gaddi Union Village Kamlehar near
Kand Bari, Tehsil Palampur Distt. Kangra
H.P.
6. Shri Ajit Singh H.P. Gaddi Union
Head Office Deol, Tehsil Brijnath,
Distt. Kangra, H.P.
7. Shri Hari Singh Rana
Village Malkiti, P.O. and Teh. Bharmour,
Distt. Chamba H.P.
8. Shri Ranbir Singh,
Village Kehrion P.O. Teh. Jowall Distt.
Kangra.
9. Shri K.D. Kimochali,
Village Rajol P.O. Kotla, Teh. Mirpur
Distt. Kangra.
10. Shri Sardar Singh Vill. Shiladesh
B.P.O. Larote Tehsil Chirgaon Distt.
Shimla, H.P.
11. Shri Bhisham Singh, Vice Chairman
Block Samiti, Kalpa Distt. Kinnaur (HP)

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CP. Nalanda

10/8/99

- 12 The Secretary (Forests) to the H.P. Govt.
Shimla-2.
- 13 The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
H.P. Shimla.
- 14 The Director,
Animal Husbandry
H.P. Shimla.
- va*
The Chief Conservator of Forests,
(P&D) H.P. Shimla.

Subject:-

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAZING ADVISORY REVIEW
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20TH JUNE, 1989.
...

Sir,

A copy of the proceedings of the Grazing
Advisory Review Committee held under the Chairmanship of
Hon'ble Forest Minister H.P. on 20th June, 1989 is sent herewith
for favour of your kind information.

Yours faithfully,

P. Khullar
Member Secretary,
Grazing Advisory Review
Committee-Cum-Conservator of
Forests, H.P. Shimla Circle,
Shimla.

Endst.No.C.IV-1/7519-30 / Dated: Shimla, the 21st July, 89.
Copy alongwith six copies of the proceedings
forwarded to all CEs(T) for favour of information and to take
immediate necessary action on various items of the proceedings
through their DEOs. A report of the action taken may kindly
be sent to this office so that the Govt. is informed of the
same accordingly. The next meeting is to be held within
3 months period after 20.6.89 and therefore the information
must be available by 15th August, 1989. Insofar enumeration
of animals this must be supplied by 31st. July, 1989 for the
information of the Hon'ble Forest Minister H.P.

P. Khullar
Member Secretary,
Grazing Advisory Review Committee-
cum-Conservator of Forests,
H.P. Shimla Circle Shimla
Shimla.

The Hon'ble Forest Minister, H.P. welcomed the members of the Committee. Thereafter, the agenda items were accordingly taken up as under:-

ITEM NO.1

REVIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 8.4.87.

The progress of the decisions taken in the last meeting was reviewed and the Hon'ble Minister desired that the meeting should hence-forth be held quarterly.

ITEM NO.5(2)

AREA CLOSED TO GRAZING AFTER THE PREVIOUS
GRAZING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT WAS
SUBMITTED TO GOVT.

Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Solan, had been entrusted with the task of carrying out of studies on the carrying capacity of pastures and availability of fodder/grazing resources. The matter was discussed in detail and it was decided that efforts be made by the Forest Department to develop the existing pastures by improving the quality of the grasses growing therein.

It was further decided that the University be asked to account for any funds released to them for the purpose of research and no more funds be given to them on this account.

ITEM NO.6(3)

CONTROL OF MIGRATORY AND NOMADIC HERDS/FLOCKS

The Committee was informed that counting of sheep and goats of migratory graziers as well as that of buffaloes is in progress and final figures would be available by the end of July, 1989.

It was pointed out by some of the non-official members that penalty for excess No. of animals has been recovered from the graziers in some areas of the State even though the Pr.C.C.F.H.P. has issued instructions that this should not be done during the current year.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE GRAZING ADVISORY REVIEW
COMMITTEE HELD AT 3.00 PM. ON 20TH JUNE, 1989 AT SHIMLA
UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HON'BLE FOREST MINISTER, H.P.
.....

The following were present in the meeting:-
Shri Dev Raj Negi, Hon'ble Minister of State
for Tribal Welfare and Forests, Himachal Pradesh.

1.

NON-OFFICIAL

1. Shri Nehar Singh M.L.A. Member
2. Shri Thakur Singh, M.L.A. Member
3. Shri Jagdish Chand Rana, President, Member.
H.P. Gaddi Union. Village
Kamlehar near Kand-bari, Tehsil
Palampur Distt. Kangra, H.P.
4. Shri Hari Singh Rana, Vill. Malkoti, Member.
Member, P.O. and Tehsil Bharmour
Distt. Chamba.
5. Shri Ajit Singh Rana,
H.P. Gaddi Union. Headoffice
Deol, Tehsil Baijnath Distt.
Kangra. Member.
6. Shri K.D. Himachali, Village
Rajol. P.O. Kotla, Tehsil
Marpur. Distt. Kangra. H.P. Member.

OFFICIAL MEMBERS.

1. Shri S.S. Sidhu, IAS;
Commissioner-Cum-Secretary
(Forests) to the Govt. of
Himachal Pradesh. Member.
2. Shri V.P. Mohan, IFS;
Principal Chief Conservator
of Forests, H.P. Shimla. Member.
3. Shri A.K. Kapoor, Deputy
Secretary (Forests) to Govt. of H.P. Special Invitee
4. Shri P.S. Dulta,
Representative of Director,
Animal Husbandry. Member.
5. Shri P. Khullar, IFS;
Conservator of Forests,
H.P. Shimla Circle, Shimla. Member Secretary.

....p.2....

....

The Hon'ble Forest Minister, H.P. welcomed the members of the Committee. Thereafter, the agenda items were accordingly taken up as under:-

ITEM NO.1

REVIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING
HELD ON 8.4.87.

The progress of the decisions taken in the last meeting was reviewed and the Hon'ble Minister desired that the meeting should hence-forth be held quarterly.

ITEM NO.5(2)

AREA CLOSED TO GRAZING AFTER THE PREVIOUS
GRAZING ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT WAS
SUBMITTED TO GOVT.

Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Solan, had been entrusted with the task of carrying out of studies on the carrying capacity of pastures and availability of fodder/grazing resources. The matter was discussed in detail and it was decided that efforts be made by the Forest Department to develop the existing pastures by improving the quality of the grasses growing therein.

It was further decided that the University be asked to account for any funds released to them for the purpose of research and no more funds be given to them on this account.

ITEM NO.6(3)

CONTROL OF MIGRATORY AND NOMADIC HERDS/FLOCKS

The Committee was informed that counting of sheep and goats of migratory graziers as well as that of buffaloes is in progress and final figures would be available by the end of July, 1989.

It was pointed out by some of the non-official members that penalty for excess No. of animals has been recovered from the graziers in some areas of the State even though the Pr.C.C.F.H.P. has issued instructions that this should not be done during the current year.

No. KYX 384/75
Government of Himachal Pradesh.
Department of Forests, Farming & Conservation

From 1 Dated Shimla-2, the 7-12-89

To

the Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Forests) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Subject :-

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001.

Proceeding of the meeting of the aizing Advisory Review Committee held at Shimla 17.10.89 under the Chairmanship of Forest Minister, Himachal Pradesh.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. Ft.55-18/81(M) dated the 10th November, 1989 on the subject cited above and to return the proceedings duly approved for further necessary action under intimation to this Deptt.

Yours faithfully,

Arj

Deputy Secretary (Forests),
the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Original
Enclst No. Ft. 55-18/81(M) dated 10.11.89
Copy along with copy of proceedings of the meeting of the Advisory Committee held on 17.10.89 received vide this memo No. 10.11.89 is sent herewith to Mr. Shimla (member of the above Committee) for information duly approved. for information and taking further action.

Encl. As above.

to cc. f. 102

11.00 AM ON 17-10-1989 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE HON'BLE FOREST MINISTER, H.P. AT SHIMLA

The following were present in the meeting:-

1. Shri Dev Raj Negi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tribal Welfare and Forests, H.P.

NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS

1. Shri Jagdish Chand Rana, President, H.P. Gaddi Union, Vill: Kamlehar near Kand Bari, Tehsil Palampur, Distt. Kangra Member
2. Shri Ajit Singh, H.P. Gaddi Union, Head office Deol, Tehsil Baijnath, Distt. Kangra Member
3. Shri Hari Singh Rana, Village Malkoti P.O. & Tehsil, Bharmour, Distt. Chamba (HP) Member
4. Shri Ranbir Singh, Vill: Kohrian, P.O. & Tehsil Jawali, Distt. Kangra Member

OFFICIAL MEMBERS

1. Shri S.S. Sidhu, IAS, Commissioner cum Secretary (Forests) to the Govt. of HP Member
2. Shri H.C. Sharma, IFS, Addl. CCF HP (T) representative of Pr.C.C.F. HP Member
3. Shri R.C. Thakur, Agrostologist, representative of Director, Animal Husbandry, HP Member
4. Sh. A.K. Kapoor, Dy. Secretary (Forests) to the Govt. of H.P. Special Invitee.
5. Shri K.C. Sharma, IFS, Planning officer representative to CCF (P & D) H.P. Member
6. Shri P. Khullar, IFS, C.F. Shimla Member Secretary

....
The Hon'ble Forest Minister, H.P. welcomed the members of the Committee. Thereafter the Agenda Items were accordingly taken up as under :-

ITEM No.1: REVIEW OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26.6.1989

Item No. 5(2): AREA CLOSED TO GRAZING AFTER THE PREVIOUS GRAZING ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT WAS SUBMITTED TO GOVT.

The Hon'ble Chairman desired that the Dr. Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry Solan and H.P. K.V.V. P-2

Reply to 307

Palampur he asked to expedite submission of accounts and progress regarding studies of carrying capacity of pastures before the next meeting.

It was also decided to request the University authorities to deputise the concerned Scientists to attend the next meeting and explain the progress to the Committee in person.

ITEM No. 4(B) : Control of Migratory and Nomadic herds/flocks

The Committee has desired to be informed regarding variation in the No. of Sheep and Goats in the various Circles as per information submitted to the Pr. CCF, HP by the C.Fs. in the next meeting. The Committee also recommended that the No. of animals found grazing presently be frozen at the present level.

7(4): PROBLEMS OF GADDIES OF KANGRA DISTT.

The Committee has desired that whenever any new area is closed for planting, regeneration alternative area be provided to the graziers, right holders. It was also desired that a list of plantation areas in Kangra Distt. to be opened up for grazing in lieu of newly closed areas be made available in the next meeting.

ITEM No. 8: Eradication of Lantana: The Committee has desired that the programme for eradication of Lantana be chalked out and results achieved be made available at the earliest.

ITEM No. 9 (4) : INTERSTATE GRAZING PROBLEMS : Shri Rav Raj Nigri, Hon'ble Minister of State for Forests and Tribal Welfare, HP asserted that the Hon'ble Chief Minister of H.P. had promised monetary help at the meeting of Tribal Advisory Committee. The Chairman desired that a reference be made to the C.M's. Secretariat regarding provision of monetary help to the HP Graziers who have been debarred from grazing their flocks in U.P. and who have gone to Court in Dehradun against this decision of U.P. Govt. on their own.

ITEM No. 10 (iv) : SUGGESTIONS FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT OF MIGRATORY GRAZERS.

Since no officer of the Revenue Department was present at the meeting, this item could not be discussed. TH: Chairman desired that the FINANCIAL Commissioner (Revenue) and the Director WELFARE HP be requested to attend the next meeting as special invitees.

It was also desired that a meeting of the officers of the Revenue, Forest and the Animal Husbandry Departments be convened in the Chamber of the Forest Minister to discuss this matter within a month.

ITEM No. 11 (V) : RATE FOR GRAZING FEE - INCREASE THEREOF :

This item has been dropped.

ITEM NO. 12(iv)

SIMPLIFICATION OF GRAZING POLICY ABOUT GRAZING RIGHTS FOR SHEEP AND GOATS.

It was decided that the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, H.P. should issue instructions to the field officers that graziers who have paid the grazing fee (Tirmi) twice during 1989-90 should not be charged grazing fee during 1990-91 and the fee paid by them be adjusted in next financial year. This adjustment will be subject to the satisfaction of the DFOs by the graziers who will have to produce receipts of excess fee paid if any.

OTHER ITEMS:

(i) The Hon'ble Chairman desired that C.F. Mandi be asked to submit his detailed report whether Shri RATTAN Singh has any animals at the earliest. In case he does not own any animals no permit should be issued to him.

(ii) The Forest Department should expedite proposals for tagging of Buffaloes and the cost of Tags should be born by the Gujjars who own the animals.

(iii) C.F. Nahan be asked to expedite his report before the next meeting.

ITEM No. 11 (NEW ITEM) TRANSFER OF GRAZING RIGHTS.

S/Sr. Manshi Ram R/O Jiwari both R/O Village Kothi Kohar Teh. Baijnath who have purchased flocks along with grazing permits of S/Shri Inderjit Negi R/O Village Rarang Teh. Morang and Ram Kishan R/O Vill. Chuling P.O. Nango have applied for issue of grazing permits in their favour. The matter was placed before the Committee for decision.

The Committee decided that grazing rights can not be transferred by sale. The item was dropped.

O. 111 (New item) *

Regarding adjustment of Sheep and Goats which are not being allowed grazing in U.P. within H.O.

It was decided that the Forest Department will identify areas for adjustment of these 5,700 animals which have been denied grazing permission in U.P. at the earliest so that graziers do not face any problem during the coming winter months.

These Sheep
temporarily
adjusted in
Nahan Circle.

220
23/11/2012

(327)

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Forests

No. 38-6/75-SF-LX-L

Dated Shimla-2, the

2012.

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance to the decision taken in the meeting of state Level Grazing Advisory Review Committee held on 24.09.2011 regarding Issue of Grazing Permits to the Graziers, the Governor, Himachal Pradesh is pleased to order that grazing permit to the permit holders shall be renewed by the competent authorities up to a period of 3 years, if they so desire, after realizing permit fee for the entire period applied for. The above orders shall come into force with immediate effect.

BY ORDERS.

Addl Chief Secretary (Forests) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. 38-6/75-SF-LX-L

Dated Shimla-2, the,

21-1-2012

Copy forwarded to:-

1. The Pvt. Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, HP.
2. The Pvt. Secretaries to All Hon'ble Ministers HP.
3. All Deputy Commissioner in HP.
4. All Administrative Departments in HP.
5. Principal CCF HP (Territorial)/Principal CCF (Wild life) in HP.
6. The Managing Director, HP State Forest Corporation, HP.
7. All Addl. Principal CCFs/CCFs/CFs (T) & (Wild life) in HP.
8. All DFOs (T) & (Wild life) in HP.
9. Guard File.

slpm

CCF & FM

27/1/12

CCF & FM
24-1-12

Bondie

Under Secretary (Forests) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

28 JAN 2012

Endst No. Ph (PFM)-19/2010-GAR. H. Shimla-2, No.
Copy forwarded to All CCF (T) / WL & DFO (T) /
WL for information & necessary action.

CCF (PFM) H. Shimla
28/1

Attention Supdt Nurpur

Immediate

M. G. S. A.

31/1

No. 38-6/75-SF-VII
Government of Himachal Pradesh.
Department of Forest, Farming & Conservation.

Dated Shimla-2, the 24th January, 1990.

From

The Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Forests) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.

To

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests,
Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-171001.

Subject :-

Proceedings of the Grazing Advisory Review
Committee, meeting held on 17/10/1989.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.
Ft.55-18/81(M) dated the 6th January, 1990 on the subject cited above
and to say that it has been decided by the Government that the Number
of Sheep and Goats found grazing actually during the year 1989 may be
regularised. It is requested that necessary action in the matter may
kindly be taken immediately under intimation to this Department.

Yours faithfully,

डू. प्र. पाल हि. प्र. शिवराज
पावती संख्या. 19.0.91.11
दिनांक.....1.2.90

Joint Secretary (Forests) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh,

No. Ft. 55-18/81(M) Date.

Copy forwarded to all CRs
for information & necessary
action. They are requested to
submit report to the
Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Forests)
under intimation to this Department
for consideration.