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# Forest Policy

## 1- National Forest Policy 1894 –

The national forest policy of 1884 was based on the Voelcker Report in 1893 on the improvement of Indian Agriculture. The policy placed forest Resources under state control with revenue generation as a major objective along with importance given to furthering greater agriculture. Through this policy the British Administration encouraged the zamindars to convert the open forest into agricultural land for enhancing the revenue earning of the state. Forest are treated as the source of revenue to state not to meet needs of the people. In this policy the forest were divided in four classes.

(a) Preservation forest – Forest whose preservation is required on climate and physical ground.

(b) Commercial forest – Forest are supplying valuable timber and other commercial products.

© Minor forest – Yields low quality timbers, fuel wood and fodder and for meeting the demands of local people.

(d) Pasture lands – Covered the pasture and grazing lands the local people were allowed to use them with restrictions.

This policy emphasis an permanent cultivation rather than shifting cultivation. It gives importance to the fulfillment of the basic need of the people. These policy are obtaining maximum revenue of conserving forest reserves.

### Draw backs –

- 1- It was formulated to satisfy the needs of the British Government.
- 2- It gives priority mainly to agriculture than forestry.
- 3- This faciliatates easy diversion of forest land for non forestry purpose.
- 4- No guidelines for research and training inforestry.
- 5- No guidelines an conservation and preservation of bio diversity.
- 6- No specific provisions for management of wild life.
- 7- Problems like shifting cultivation, forest fire etc.

## 2- National Forest Policy 1952:-

The first forest policy in India since independence was the Indian forest policy, 1952 in which it was argued that after the wide spread deforestation and forest degradation in the colonial era better forest management necessitated a comprehensive forest policy to check the exploitation of forest. Although the emphasis was on better management of forest resources than by the British, a low Priority given to local communities remained, this forest policy fixed a target in increasing the area under forest to about one-third of total land area. The policy understood forest management as a key concern and looked at controlling denudation in mountainous regions, invasion of sea sand in coastal tracts, erosion of river bank, shifting of sand dunes in desert area and so on.

The policy was also ensure a supply of small timber, fodder and fuel wood for local population. The forest is to be for the maintenance of physical conditions of the country.

The 1952 forest policy in India classified forests according to their distinct uses forest under this policy were classified as –

- (a) Protected Forest – are those forests which are essential for the preservation of physical and climatic condition of country.
- (b) National Forest – are those forests that are maintained and manage to meet the national needs (e.g. defence, communication industry and other purposes)
- (c) Village forest – are those forest which are maintain for providing fire wood, small timber, and other forest products to local peoples and grazing for people.
- (d) Tree lands – are those areas through which the scope of the ordinary peoples outside the forest satisfied these are essential for the amelioration of physical conditions of the country.

Encouraging tree lands wherever possible and increase area under forest cover to 60 percent in the hill and 20 percent in the plains and regulation of grazing.

- 3- National Forest Policy 1988:- The latest National Forest Policy of 1988 tried to redress the need of local populations in accessing and using forest resources in a regulated manner. The policy aimed to encourage the participation of local people in the protection and management of forests through the joint forest management programme. The programme envisages

a process of Joint Management of forest by the state Government and by local people. Under the programmes the protection and management of forests was entrusted to nearby village communities. The aim of this forest policy is to ensure environmental stability and maintenance of ecological balance for the sustenance of all life forms, humans, animal and plant. This national policy is enunciated due to the following needs –

- 1- To meet the increasing energy demands of the population.
- 2- Constitutional amendments of 1976 and its stress an environment.
- 3- Growth of forest based industries.
- 4- Need for the guidelines an conservation of wild life.

Objection:-

- 1- To maintain the environmental stability and ecological restoration through preservation.
- 2- To check soil erosion and denudation in the catchment areas and mitigation of floods.
- 3- To check the sand dune extension in desert and coastal lands.
- 4- To increase the forest and tree cover in the denuded and degraded lands.
- 5- Meeting the requirements of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of rural and tribal population.
- 6- Increasing the productivity of forest to meet essential national needs.
- 7- Creating massive people movement with the involvement of women for achieving there objectives and to minimise pressure an existing forests.
- 8- To canserve the natural heritage.
- 9- To increase the productivity of the forest to meet the various need.

Managemet strategy:-

- 1- The area under forest should be a minimum of  $1/3^{\text{rd}}$  of total geographical area. In which hills and mountainous region should have  $2/3^{\text{rd}}$  cover.
- 2- Afforestation, social forestry, forem forestry programme are encouraged.
- 3- Diversion of forest lands for non – forestry purpose is discouraged.
- 4- Wild life conservation is given more importance.
- 5- Shifting cultivation practices are discouraged and cultivation of perennial crops through Horticulture and tree forming is encouraged.
- 6- Fire and grazing management is given special consideration.
- 7- Forest extension, research and personal management are more emphasized.


8- Forest based industries are advised to meet their raw material requirement from outside the forest.

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