

Agenda for the 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting of the TNBB on 18.09.2019

**Agenda – 1**

The minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting held on 03.01.2019 communicated in Govt. letter No. 22794/FR.5/2018-2, dated 13.02.2019 was confirmed.

**Agenda – 2**

**Action taken on decisions of the 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting of TNBB held on 03.01.2019**

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Decision taken during 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting</b>	<b>Action taken</b>
1(b)	Formation of Biodiversity Heritage sites	Total 30 Nos of proposals for declaration as BD Heritage sites have been received. As decided in the 7 <sup>th</sup> Board meeting the committee under the PCCF & Chief Wild life Warden has been formed vide PCCF&CWLW Ref. No WL4/42542/2018 dated: 04.06.2019. In this regard action has been taken to process the BHS proposals and place before the committee for declaration of BHS.
1(c)	A brief coffee table book on "Biodiversity of Tamil Nadu"	Total 1000 no of books are printed and out of these 602 books are distributed to various Govt. Departments, Embassies and eminent personalities.
1(d)	Review of the Web-Pages developed for Website of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	Progress of updating the website is going on.
1(e)	Strengthening the functioning of the board	As decided in the 7 <sup>th</sup> board meeting, the proposal has been sent to Government for formation of Technical support Group including a Sociologist in every district of Tamil Nadu vide TNBB Ref. No. 183/2017 dated: 25.06.2019. The Government has suggested to include the Environmental expert in the Technical support Group vide Govt. letter No. 21502/FR.5/2018-4, dated.03.07.2019. The TNBB submitted its reply to the Government that “the members already proposed will be sufficient” vide TNBB Ref. No. 182/2017 dated: 01.08.2019. Pending with the Government. Similarly, a proposal has been submitted to the Government to designate FRO as BMC secretary and DFO as Dist Nodal Officer vide this office Ref. TNBB/90/2018 dated: 03.10.2018.
1(f)	List of Industries registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution control Board and Commissioner of Industries and commerce.	Lists of industries have been procured from TNPCB, Commissionerate of Industries & Commerce, and Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy, Chennai. 341 Compliance notices have been issued to companies registered under the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and Commissioner of Industries and Commerce using Bio-resources to follow the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules and the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017 from 27.07.2017 to as on date.
1(g)	List of Bio-Resource based industries / companies in the state that are registered in Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai.	26 Nos of Compliance notices have been issued to Bio-resources based industries / Companies registered at Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy, Chennai to follow the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act and Rules and the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017 from 27.07.2017 to as on date.

1(h)	Constitution of Block level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC)	Sl. No		Total No of BMCs in the State	Total No of BMC Formed as on date	Total No of BMCs to be formed
		1	Block level	385	385	
		2	Urban level Town Panchayat / Municipality/ Corporation	719	664	55
		3	Village Panchayat	12524	-	12524
			<b>Total</b>	<b>13628</b>	<b>1049</b>	<b>12579</b>
		Effective efforts have been taken to constitute Village level BMC's. The Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj department is addressed in this regards vide TNBB ref no. 25/2016 dated: 03.06.2019				
1(i)	Meeting with sector-wise industries to discuss the compliance under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and its Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) provisions	In this regard, action is being taken to conduct such meetings with other sectors have been planned.				
1(k)	Designing a logo for Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board	The TNBB Logo was launched in the event of IBD 2018 Celebration.				
3A	Proposal for salary and Non salary expenditure for 2018-19	A proposal sent to government an amount of Rs. 57.45 Lakhs for sanction as grant-in-aid for the payment of salary and allowances and non-salary expenditure for the year 2018-19 and that Rs. 42.12 Lakhs was sanctioned vide G.O. (D) No. 316 E&F (FR-5) Department dated 09.11.2018. As the expenditure incurred for the year 2018-19 was Rs. 39.84 lakhs, the un spend amount of Rs. 2.27 Lakhs was remitted in the government account in Chelan No. 129 (PAO- South) dated: 27.05.2019				
4	Appointing staff to Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board.	The sanctioned supporting staff for functioning of Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board is in the cadre of Administrative Officer / Personal Assistant (Cadre post) - 1, Superintendent - 1, Assistant - 3, Data Entry Operator / Console Operator - 1, Office Assistant-2. Presently, the posts of Assistant - 2, Data Entry Operator / Console Operator - 1, Office Assistant-2 still remain vacant. In this regard letters submit to PCCF (HoD) to depute necessary staff to the vacant posts in the Board.				

3 (2)	<p>The Board was requested the ACS, RD &amp; PR Department and the Principal Secretary, MA &amp; WS Department to direct the local bodies under their control to provide office premises for the BMCs.</p>	<p>In this regard the Secretary, TNBB have submitted a proposal to the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department and Municipal Administration &amp; Water Supply Department for provide and establish Office premises for every BMCs vide TNBB Ref Nxo.400/2018 Dated: 13.03.2019.</p>
4(a)	<p>As per Rule 20(9) of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017, the Government on the recommendation of the Board may designate an officer as the Secretary of the Biodiversity Management Committee. The Secretary of the BMC will assist/guide the BMC in the tasks/role listed out in Rule 21, 22 and 23 of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017. He also mentioned that as per the Director, Directorate of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Chennai Letter No. 8164/2018PRI 4-1 dated 07.02.2018, instructions were issued to all Collectors to form BMCs at the Block level with the Range Officer from Forest department functioning in the Block to act as Secretary of the BMC. The list of Range Officers to be designated as the Secretaries of the various block level BMCs was provided. The Board may recommend the Forest Range Officer functioning within/close to each Block to be designated as the Secretary of the concerned Biodiversity Management Committee. It was also decided that for the urban BMCs, the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Municipal Administration and Water Supply may be consulted to decide on the appropriate Secretary for the urban BMCs.</p>	<p>The Director, Town Panchayat, Chennai has reported about the appointment of secretaries from the department of Forest, Agricultural, Horticulture Municipal Administration and Executive Officer for various Town Panchayat BMC in his letter ref. C.No.5443/2018/E4 dt.28.08.2018.</p>
4(b)	<p>As per Rule 20(10) of the Tamil Nadu Biological Diversity Rules, 2017, the Government on the recommendation of the Board may designate Nodal officer for each district to oversee the various matters of the Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC) within the district. In this regard proposals have been submitted to the Government by PCCF &amp; CWLW in ref. No. WL4/37326/2016 dated 28.05.2018 with the list of District Forest Officers to be designated as Nodal Officers and their functions. In the Government letter No: 10464/FR.5/2018-2 E&amp;F Department dated: 06.08.2018, it has been directed to place this proposal before the Board</p>	<p>In this regard a proposal has been submitted to the Government through PCCF &amp; CWLW Chennai Vide this office Ref.No. TNBB/90/2018/ dated: 03.10.2018. Pending with the Government.</p>

	<p>during its meeting and send the recommendation of the board to the Government.</p> <p>The list of DFOs recommended as Nodal Officers by the PCCF was placed before the Board.</p> <p>The Board also conveyed its approval.</p>	
4(c)	<p><b>Formation of Technical Support Group (TSG) in each district consisting of people having vast expertise in the Biodiversity issues to guide Biodiversity Management Committees.</b></p> <p>That BMCs require considerable technical support in carrying out its functions and as suggested by NBA this can be mediated through Technical Support Groups (TSG). The TSG is expected to comprise officials/ institutions/ people of excellence and expertise in the biodiversity issues at local level and should guide the BMC in its operation. A Technical Support Group may be constituted with following members in each district:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nodal officer from the Forest Department.</li> <li>2. Joint Director, Agriculture Department</li> <li>3. Joint Director, Horticulture Department</li> <li>4. Joint Director, Fisheries Department</li> <li>5. Joint Director, Animal Husbandry Department</li> <li>6. Medical Officer, Siddha Medicines, Health Department</li> <li>7. District Sericulture Officer, Sericulture Department</li> <li>8. Senior Lecturer / Professor in Botany from local College / University</li> <li>9. Senior Lecturer / Professor Zoology from local College / University</li> </ol> <p>Accordingly, proposals have been sent to Government for the formation of Technical Support Group in each district vides PCCF and Chief Wildlife Warden Ref No. WL4/26945/2017 dt: 20.07.2017. In the Government letter No: 10464/FR.5/2018-2 E&amp;F Department dated: 06.08.2018, it has been directed to place this proposal before the Board during its meeting and send the recommendation of the board to the Government.</p> <p>In this regard the Board conveyed its approval and also decided that a Sociologist / Social Scientist or College lecturer with Sociology specialisation may be included in the TSG.</p>	<p>As decided in the 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting, a revised proposal including a Sociologist had been sent to Government for formation of Technical support Group in every district of Tamil Nadu vide TNBB Ref. No. 183/2017 dated: 25.06.2019. The Government has suggested that a Environmental expert may be included in the Technical support Group vide Govt. letter No. 21502/FR.5/2018-4, dated.03.07.2019. The TNBB submitted its reply to the Government that “the members already proposed will be sufficient” vide TNBB Ref. No. 182/2017 dated: 01.08.2019.</p>
5	<p>The Board is currently developing guidelines to guide the overall functioning of Biodiversity</p>	<p>In this regard 100 Nos Modal BMC are identified in the Block level.</p>

<p>Management Committees from an implementation perspective and the Standard Operating Procedures for activities to be undertaken by the BMCs. The Board in close coordination with the District Nodal Officers will be shortly undertaking infrastructural development and capacity building initiatives for at least one Biodiversity Management Committee in each district of the state to be developed as Model BMC using the funds provided by the Government, NBA as well as through the Access and Benefit sharing project being implemented with GIZ and NBA. This will help in streamlining the functioning of the BMCs and would encourage the other BMCs in the district to follow suit.</p> <p>This will involve direct engagement with BMC members on various operational aspects such as conducting meetings, maintenance of records, chronicling the knowledge related to the bio-resources of the area in the form of People's Biodiversity Registers (PBR) and implementation of the Access and Benefit Sharing provisions. In this regard, Nodal officers were requested to propose two or three potential BMCs in their district that could be developed as Model BMCs. The tentative model BMCs proposed in each district was placed before the Board.</p> <p><b>The Board may approve action to be taken to select one BMC for each district from the list and take further action in this regard.</b></p> <p>The Board conveyed its approval</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In this identified 100 Nos BMCs 10 Nos of BMCs were funded by GIZ and 90 Nos of BMCs were funded by NBA.</li> <li>2. As per BD Act works under progress for best functioning of this 100 Nos of Model BMCs.</li> </ol>
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6	<p>Biodiversity Heritage sites could be declared by the State Government under Section 37(1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, in consultation with the local bodies. He further briefed that a detailed format and information on Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) for the identification and declaration process of BHS has been sent to all Principal Secretaries of the stake holder departments, District Collectors, District Forest Officers and line departments besides ex-officio and Expert members of the board seeking proposals for Biodiversity Heritage Sites and that several proposals have been received in this regard.</p> <p>The Board conveyed its approval. The Board also appreciated the efforts taken by Dr. C.P. Rajkumar, Member TNBB, in sending several proposals for BHS sites. The Hon'ble Minister (Forests) &amp; Chairman of TNBB desired that speedy action may be taken to notify BHS.</p>	<p>Total 30 Nos of Heritage sites are identified. As decided in the 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting the committee under the PCCF and Chief Wild life Warden has been formed vide PCCF and CWLW Ref. No WL4/42542/2018 dated: 04.06.2019. In this regard action has been taken to place the BHS proposals before the committee for eventual declaration BHS.</p>
7	<p>TNBB briefly explained that compliance notices were issued to 328 companies in connection with the implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules and that some companies have already submitted Form 1 with requisite fees and several other companies have sought clarifications from the Board and the same are being processed.</p>	<p>After the 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting 39 Nos of compliance notices in connection with implementation of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and Rules have been issued.</p>
8	<p>Celebration of International Biodiversity Day 2018</p>	<p>The importance of Biodiversity and its sustainable use was emphasized by the various speakers during the state level function. Further it is informed to the Board that for the first time the IBD celebrations have been held in all districts of Tamil Nadu in well organized functions. Painting, Quiz, poster and debate competition have also been held for the students along with awareness and cleaning campaigns.</p>
9	<p>Workshops conducted to implement the Biodiversity Act and Access and Benefit Sharing provisions.</p>	<p>The Secretary, TNBB briefly explained about the various workshops/ activities conducted since the 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting primarily through the Access and Benefit sharing project being implemented with the support of GIZ and NBA.</p>
10	<p>Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund</p>	<p>As per this Government order, a Bank account was opened in the name "Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Fund" in Indian Bank, Medavakkam Branch.</p>

11	Granting permission for access to Bio-resources under Section 3 and 7 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002	The Secretary, TNBB briefly explained about the meetings of the Expert Sub-committee on ABS conducted on 15.03.2019, 10.09.2019 and 30.07.2019 to process 16 applications received from the National Biodiversity Authority & companies and the proceedings of the committee were placed before the Board.
12	Proposal sent to the Government for salary and Non Salary expenditure (2018-2019)	A proposal sent to government for sanction of an amount of Rs. 57.45 Lakhs as grant-in-aid for the payment of salary, allowances and non-salary expenditure for the year 2018-19 and that Rs. 42.12 Lakhs was sanctioned vide G.O. (D) No. 316 E&F (FR-5) Department dated 09.11.2018. As the expenditure incurred for the year 2018-19 was Rs. 39.84 lakhs, the un spend amount of Rs. 2.27 Lakhs was remitted in the government account in Chelan No. 129 (PAO-South) dated: 27.05.2019.
13	Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Project with GIZ and National Biodiversity Project	GIZ selected 10 Model villages and implementation of BD Act in those Villages under the (ABS) project is in progress.
14	Strengthening the Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board with additional administrative and technical capacity	In the 7 <sup>th</sup> Board Meeting the Board conveys its approval. Proposal preparation under progress.
15	Tamil Nadu Biodiversity Board 2016-17, 2017-18 financial statement.	No further action is required on this item
16	TA, DA & other allowances and sitting fees of non-official members of the board	The detailed proposal submitted to the Principal Secretary, E&F Department through PCCF & CWLW

**Agenda 3: Compliance of the National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi, Order dated 09.08.2019 in respect of OA No.347/2016 & I.A.No.471/2019 (enclosed in Annexure - 1).**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi, in its order cited above, has observed that there is non-compliance of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 by many States specifically with respect to the implementation of Section 41(1) of the Act and Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. Besides making several remarks, the NGT has set a time line to ensure compliance with 100% constitution of BMCs and documentation of PBRs by 31.01.2020 failing which coercive measures will be considered against the defaulting states. The Chief Secretaries, the RD & PR Departments and the State Biodiversity Boards of the concerned states to evolve mechanism to ensure compliance starting from September, 2019.

In view of the above cited order, the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of RD & PR, Chennai has initiated the process in consultation with the Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Biodiversity Board, to evolve mechanism for compliance of the said NGT order within the time line. (Agenda moved by the ACS, RD&PR Dept, Chennai)

**Agenda 4: Constitution, Strengthening and functioning of Biodiversity Management Committee (BMCs) & Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBR)**

The Rural Development & Panchayat Raj Department has taken effective action with the district level administration in the state to form BMCs at all the Blocks level and as a result 385 BMCs have been constituted in the state. Similarly, the actions initiated by the Principal Secretary to Government, Municipal Administration and Water Supply (MA&WS) Department, letter No. 7767/MA.IV(2)/2018-7, dated 10.10.2018, all the Urban Local Bodies (124 Municipalities, 11 Municipal Corporations, 528 Town Panchayats and one Greater Chennai Corporation) under control of the MA&WS Department, have completed the constitution of 664 BMCs as below. As on today, the preparation of PBRs has not yet started and the strategy and action plan has to be devised.

Sl. No	Unit	Total Numbers in the State	Total No of BMCs formed as on date	Total No of BMCs to be formed	Total No of PBRs to be prepared
1	Blocks	385	385	00	385
2	Urban Town Panchayat /Municipality/Corporation	664	664	00	664
3	Village Panchayats **	12524	-	12524	12524
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13573</b>	<b>1049</b>	<b>12524</b>	<b>13573</b>

\*\* The 5<sup>th</sup> TNBB meeting held on 21.04.2017 had resolved to have BMCs at the Block level only.

(Copy enclosed for reference)

**Agenda 5: Need for Technical & Administrative Officers at the office of the Secretary, TN State Biodiversity Board, Chennai, as per the agenda 14 of 7th Board meeting.**

The Secretary, TNBB office functioning at Chennai has to be supported by a set of subordinate officers from Forest, Agriculture, Horticulture, Ayush, etc departments who will assist the Board to implement all the provisions of the Biodiversity Act and Rules in an effective and time bound manner. Since this office is tasked to initiate, train, implement, regulate and monitor the proper implementation of the provisions of the Biodiversity Act and Rules in the entire state involving thousands of growers, processors, manufactures, traders etc., who are using various bio-resources for trade and commerce, the Board needs to have technical officers to carry out all the tasks in the entire state. In the absence of such a technical support, the Board may fall short of achieving its statutory



functions. At present, there are no technical and administrative officers in the TNBB office to perform day to day activities relating to implementation of the Act. Hence, the following proposal is made:

1. One post of State DCF (level 25) from the State Forest Department is necessary to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to monitoring/regulating the use of Bio-resources which constitute wild flora & fauna originating from forest and non-forest areas in the state.
2. One post of DD or AAO from the State Agriculture Department to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to monitoring/regulating the use of Bio-resources which constitute Agro-biodiversity in the state.
3. One post of DD or AHO from the State Horticulture Department to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to monitoring/regulating the use of Bio-resources which constitute Horticulture-biodiversity in the state.
4. One post of DD from the State Animal Husbandry Department to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to monitoring/regulating the use of Bio-resources which constitute Domestic faunal-biodiversity in the state.
5. One post of Assistant Conservator of Forests (level 22) from the State Forest Department to assist the Secretary, TNBB in the matters relating to day to day functioning of the Secretary's office in Chennai. He shall be in charge of the administrative and financial transaction involved in the office of the Secretary, TNBB. The present post of Administrative Officer (AO) in the office which is held by a PA ranked officer can be replaced with the new ACF rank officer.

The above mentioned arrangements are in practice in the state of Karnataka where they are able to perform the day to day functions smoothly, effectively and in a time bound manner. Hence, the proposal is made. The financial requirements for this purpose (salary, Vehicle and Non-salary) will be submitted to the government for consideration.

**Agenda 6: Hiring of technical staff at the TN State Board on a Contractual basis – as per the agenda 14 of 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.**

Due to pure technical nature of the tasks to be carried out in the Board, it is required to hire technical staff, technical executives to efficiently perform all mandated activities under the Act. Following contractual staff structure is proposed.

1. **One ABS Consultant** (full-time) – will be in charge of the ABS unit. Main duties will be to carry out technical and legal review of Form-1 applications submitted by the companies and answer queries raised by the applicants (viz., companies, bio-survey, bio-utilization for commercial utilization etc.,) on legal compliance, carrying out research on use of various bio-resources (listed or otherwise), taking necessary action to enlist all the users to comply with the relevant provisions of the BD Act and Rules in force. And perform such other function(s) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the TN Biodiversity Board from time to time.
2. **One BMC cum PBR Consultant** (full-time) – will be in charge of the BMC & PBR units. Will coordinate BMC constitution in the state, maintain database on BMCs, BMC members, conduct of meetings, etc. To Liaison with other departments, district officials and ensure compliance of Act. Also will coordinate with the BMCs and the Technical groups for documentation of quality PBRs in the state. And perform such other function(s) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the TN Biodiversity Board from time to time.
3. **One Legal Consultant** (Full Time) - To take care of the legal aspects of the implementation of the BD Act by all the relevant parties. And to represent the Board in all court cases that would arise as a consequence of enforcement/implementation of the BD Act. And perform such other function(s) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the TN Biodiversity Board from time to time, in the matters relating to legal/court/tribunal/any legal body involving TN Biodiversity Board, Chennai.
4. **Technical Executives (4 posts)** – Technical executives will support the Consultants of the ABS and the BMC/PBR units and to carry out field visits, collect field data, report the status of compliance on a weekly basis, etc. in their allotted jurisdiction. And perform such other function(s) as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the Act or as may be prescribed by the TN Biodiversity Board from time to time.

Above proposed staff structure is existing in many other State Biodiversity Boards such as Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala etc. and has been found to be necessary and effective.

Details of Qualification, mode of appointment, job description and the financial outlay will be prepared and submitted to the state government for consideration and fund allocation.

**Agenda 7: Progress of GIZ project.**

Access and Benefit Sharing –The project is in its final phase, will conclude in April 2020. The project has made significant contribution in capacity development through various trainings, workshops, exchange visits, Training of Trainers, documentation of PBRs etc.

The TNBB through GIZ project has collaborated with SIRD to train 50 trainers empanelled by RDPR for their development programme on various aspects of Biodiversity Act, including BMCs and PBR. It is proposed to increase the number to 150, to be trained as Trainers under the “Training of Trainers” so as to have at least 3 to 5 trained persons in each district to train, guide and monitor the works of preparation of PBRs in time. Additional funding may be obtained from RDPR.

**Agenda 8:** Coordinators in districts – Out of 150 persons trained under ToT, it is proposed to designate at least 2 persons as coordinators for each BMC trainings and documentation of PBRs. This is crucial to meet the deadline given by NGT. These numbers can be trimmed to required levels after the completion of the preparation of PBRs in due course of time.

**Agenda 9: Proposal to Designate Block Development Officer as the Secretary of the BMC in place of Forest Range Officers (FRO).**

It is seen from the field that the Panchayat level BMCs would be operating similar to the Village Forest Committees existing in the Forest Department. Now, since the BMCs are formed at the Block level only, one FRO may be having more than one Block/BMC in his jurisdiction and his active participation in ensuring timely and effective functioning of the BMCs may become difficult as the FRO has to primarily perform several Forest protection works and implement several developmental works in the TNFD. Whereas, the BDOs being the sole in-charge of their respective Blocks, would ensure compliance of the roles listed in the Rules 21, 22 and 23 of the TNBD Rules, 2017. Moreover, most of the ABS activities, bio-resources involved, the user agencies, processing/Value addition

works, etc., are non-forest, domestic species of flora and fauna which are being processed/manufactures away from the forest areas. This becomes difficult for the FROs to monitor and regulate on a regular basis, owing to his type and area of works in his parent department. The FROs shall be one of the invitees of the BMCs as per Rule 20 (6) of the TNBD Rules 2017. However, there shall be no change in designating the District Forest officers as the District Nodal Officers to oversee the matters relating to BMCs.

Hence, the decision made in the 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to designate FRO as the secretary of BMCs can be reconsidered for part modification. The letter addressed to the Government to designate the FRO as Secretary is still pending with the Government.

**Agenda 10: Any other item with the permission of the Chair.**