PART - I

SUMMARY OF FACTS ON WHICH THE PROPOSALS ARE BASED

CHAPTER - I

THE TRACT DEALT WITH

SECTION-1 : NAME AND SITUATION

1. The area of the Beed sub division extends over Beed district which is situated in the center of Aurangabad division of the state between 18^0 30' and 19^0 30' north latitude and 74^0 50' and 76^0 60' east longitude. It has an area of 10,615 square kilometers and a population of 327000 with 7 towns and 1495000 in 1280 villages out of which 11 are uninhabited. But for the westward part of the Ashti tahsil of the district that projects into the Ahmadanagar district, the shape of the district is broadly that of a trapezium, the northern and southern sides of which are nearly parallel. It is bounded by Auranagabad and Parbhani districts on the north, Parbhani and Osmanabad districts on the east, Osmanabad district on the South and Ahmadanagar district on the west.

SECTION-2 : CONFIGURATION OF THE GROUND

2. The district can be divided into three broad physiographic divisions viz. The low lying northern division forming a part of the Godavari valley which may be described as lowland Beed, the higher part in the south forming part of the Balaghat plateau which may be described as the highland Beed and a third low lying undulating area south west and west of the highland Beed comprising almost the whole of the Ashti tahsil lying mostly in the river Sina basin. The northern low land Beed has a general elevation from 550 meters in the west to a little under 400 meters in the east, interspersed with a number of residual hills of summits over 600 meters. The Northern low lands rise towards the South by a steep scarp to the next division, the highland Beed. The prominent heights on this range in order from west to east are 889 meters near Chincholi,846 meters near Supe,791 meters west of Limba Ganesh,765 meters west of Yevta,733 meters west of Eda and 697 meters west of Channi near Ambejogai.

3. The southern bounding scarp of this plateau divisions of Beed starts from Chincholi apex and runs first southwards and then in a southeasterly direction forming the boundary

between Ashti and Patoda tahsils of the district. The crest line of the southern scarp is lower than in the northern counterpart and includes features such as those west of Chikhali with a height of 853.8 meters, southwest of Jogdand with a height of 855.8 meters, west of Dukarwadi with height of 782.5 meters and Sautéed peak 792.44 kilometers southeast of Sautada village. Thus the triangular Balaghat plateau comprising the southern part of Beed district and most of Osmanabad district begins at the apex of Chinchilla in the northwest which is the highest part of the plateau and gradually widens south east words lowering also in elevation in that direction. In fact the highest elevations of the district are to be found in the northwestern end of this range and in a southern spur from it forming the dividing boundary between the districts of Beed and Ahmednagar. Here are the three highest peaks of the district 893.6 meters, 897.6 meters and 903.4 meters.

4. The third physiographical division comprising practically the whole of Ashti tehsil is in the Sina basin draining into that river. The elevation in this division varies between 600 meters in the south to about 750 meters in the north.

SECTION-3: GEOLOGY, ROCK AND SOIL

5. The district is underlain by the deccan trap of Cretaceous- Eocene age. The trap rocks belong to the type called 'Plateau Basalt' and are uniformed in composition corresponding that of dolerite or basalt with an average specific gravity of 2.9. They are dark gray or dark greenish gray in colour. The traps have been distinguished into the vesicular and non-vesicular types. The non-vesicular traps are hard, tough, and compact and medium to fine grained and break with a conchoidal fracture. The vesicular types are soft and tend to break with more ease Ash beds are common.

The deccan trap by decomposition under tropical conditions, give rise to a porous rock, laterite (of Pleistocene age) .The laterites from a thin cap over the Deccan traps at many places, and is at places rich in iron ore which was used by the primitive smelters.

Beds of gravel and clays of upper Pliocene to Pleistocene age containing fossil bones of extinct mamalia overlines the traps in the valleys of the Godavari and some of its tributaries.

The traps more often wither into a rich and fertile black cotton soil, which form vast spreads in different places in the district. Nodules of kankar are of frequent occurrences in the layer of black cotton soil. The later soils of the districts generally respond well to irrigation.

SECTION-4: CLIMATE

6. The entire tract situated in the tropics and has a hot and dry climate. The maximum temperature in May is about 40.7^0 Celsius and the minimum temperature is about 10^0 C in December(**Details given in Appendix No: I**). The average minimum temperature is 12^0 Celsius. The year may be divided into four seasons. The cold season from December to February is followed by hot season from March to May. June to September is the southwest monsoon season while October and November constitute the post monsoon season.

On an average there are 45 rainy days (i.e. days with rainfall of 2.5 mm to 10 cms or more) in a year. This number varies from 39 days at Roti to 45 days at Chausala. The heaviest rainfall recorded in 24 hours at any station in the district was at Ambejogai on 24th June, 1951.The normal rainfall of the district is 839 mm. **(Details given in Appendix No: II).**

The relative humidity is high during the southwest monsoon season. After September the humidity decrease gradually and in cold and summer seasons the air is dry, particularly in the afternoon when relative humidity may be less than 30%. Winds are moderate in strength in the later half of the summer and in southwest monsoon period and light in the rest of the year dust raising winds are common in the summer afternoons.

SECTION –5: WATER SUPPLY

7. The water table is generally low. The river Godavari forms the boundary between Beed and Aurangabad districts. All the water in the district is drained through the tributaries in Godavari River. There are two major irrigation projects, 16 medium irrigation projects and 80 minor irrigation projects in the district.

Due to the fact that the area is made up of Deccan trap it is not feasible to bore tubewells in the district as such the district is poorly served by tubewells. There are very few natural

sources of perennial water and most of the streams and wells dry up in summer. The tract is also poorly served with tanks and springs and in the summer months there is an acute shortage of water. Due to the massive deforestation and extensive cultivation the water situation has deteriorated in the recent past.

SECTION-6 : DISTRIBUTION OF AREA

8. The distribution of forest area in hectares under the plan as per legal classes is given in the following table: **(Details given in Appendix No: III).**

Range	Taluka	No. Of villages	Reserved Forests (Ha)	Protected Forests (Ha)	Non-Forest Land (Ha)	Total Forest Area (Ha)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ashti	Shirur	07	672.366	0.000	275.000	947.366
	Ashti	18	2695.760	0.000	480.000	3175.760
	Patoda	06	1682.360	0.000	159.570	1841.930
Beed	Beed	21	3610.121	251.066	596.270	4457.457
	Walvani	21	3478.290	403.745	545.360	4427.395
	Georai	05	0.000	0.000	155.000	155.000
Parli	Parli	09	1198.073	0.000	185.000	1383.073
	Ambejogai	06	2844.435	318.892	50.000	3213.327
	Kaij	01	0.000	0.000	35.000	35.000
	Dharur	08	1755.544	0.000	50.000	1805.544
	TOTAL	**101**	**17936.949**	**973.703**	**2531.200**	**21441.852**

9. There is a Naigaon Peacock sanctuary in Beed range of the division with 1993.967 ha of reserve forests and 712.692 ha of protected forest, total 2706.659 ha. Forest area constituted by GOM vide Notification No. WLP.1094/CR-236/F-1 Dated 8th December 1994.The area has been handed over to Dy.C.F. Wild Life Aurangabad as per CCF WL MS Nagpur's letter No. D-23(A) (1)/CN-2/3810 dated 26.1.98 and letter of CF Aurangabad circle No. D-7 /TA/sanctuary TRANSFER/1043 dt. 2.2.98 on the instructions of PCCF MS Nagpur on 8.1.1998 at Nashik. The management of the area under the sanctuary will be as per the prescriptions in the management plan prepared for the sanctuary. Hence this area is not covered under the plan.

SECTION-7: STATUS OF BOUNDARIES

10. The status of forest boundaries is highly unsatisfactory in this sub division. The boundaries between forests areas and gairans are not clear. The boundary pillars have not been maintained properly, therefore, the pillars are not found in proper shape or they are not found at all. The forest boundaries are not accurately represented on toposheets. In the previous plans the village maps 8"= 1 mile were used for preparing management maps.

SECTION-8: LEGAL POSITION

11. The Indian Forest Act 1927 and the Forest (conservation) Act 1980 govern the areas included in the tract. The rights existing in the protected forests and the unclassed forests are settled by the forest settlement officer Aurangabad. The distribution of forest areas as per Gazette Notification viz. Reserved forests and protected forests is given in **Appendix No: IV.** The areas allotted under various projects for compensatory afforestation is given in **Appendix No: V.**

SECTION-9: RIGHTS AND CONCESSIONS

12. The reserved forests are not burdened with any right except the right of way & watercourse. The only privileges granted are:

- Grazing of the cattle of the agriculturists at nominal rates.
- Free grant of timber and firewood to flood sufferers according to rules.