

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Divisional Commissioner Kashmir

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Subject:- Felling down of Russian Female Poplar Trees in Kashmir Valley in order to get rid the menace of Pollen in the wake of COVID-19.

A Meeting held under the chairmanship of Shri. Pandurang K. Pole (IAS) Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir on 02/04/2020 at 12.00 PM to discuss the pollen related infections in wake of already spread of COVID-19 to work out the strategy and measures to get rid of this menace before the onset of flowering season of Female Russian Poplar Trees.

The Officers participated in the meeting are appended as **Annexure-A**.

At the outset the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir was apprised that the population of the Russian female poplar trees in Kashmir Division is 1.80 to 2.00 Crores and there are various nurseries of this specie in the districts of Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag. It was further apprised that the department of Social Forestry has felled down 26000 out of 66444 Russian female poplar trees and the remaining 42000 trees need to be felled down in order to get rid of the menace of pollen bearing by this specie.

After threadbare deliberations and discussions the chair directed as under in compliance to the Hon'ble High Court order dated 05.06.2015 on the subject and in the interest of general public:-

S.No	Directions Passed	Action by
1.	Social Forestry Department, Kashmir shall immediately start the process of felling down of all 42000 female poplar trees of Russian species at different locations-avenues in the form of strips otherwise. The Department shall initially start lopping of the all such trees and shall furnish	All Deputy Commissioners/ SSPs / Social Forestry, Kashmir

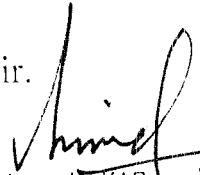
Shankar Singh

	action report within week's time. In order to facilitate the movement of the staff/trained manpower for this purpose respective Deputy Commissioners shall facilitate and monitor the work process in this regard.	
2.	All the Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Valley shall ensure the loping of female poplar trees by the private land owners within 1 weeks. In case of non compliance the Tehsildars in consultation with the SFC shall cut down the female Russian species poplar trees and the cost /charges on account of felling shall met out from the auction proceedings of the felled down trees and the remaining amount shall be remitted in the Government Treasury. The concerned SSP shall provide the necessary security arrangements to the teams of Revenue and Social Forestry.	All Dy. Commissioners/ SSPs /Social Forestry, Kashmir
3.	All Deputy Commissioners shall ensure that there shall be blanket ban on the plantation of the siblings/Nurseries of the Female Russian Poplar trees. Besides, there shall be complete ban on the sale and purchase of the female Russian poplar trees forthwith. However, the trees of other species like Almus, Rubania, etc and other fruit bearing plants shall continue in such private nurseries.	All Deputy Commissioners/ SSP Social Forestry, Kashmir
4.	In order to ensure required green cover in Kashmir Division, as a long term strategy the capacity of Social Forestry Department shall be increased so that instead of female poplar trees the department	All Deputy Commissioners/ Social Forestry, Kashmir)


Signature

	distributes the siblings/trees of the male poplar trees to the private land owners in order to get rid of this menace of pollen emanating from female Russian poplar trees in the valley.	
5.	Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioners of the respective district shall submit the information about the number of female poplar trees grown on state/ kacharai and proprietary lands within two days positively on the prescribed format which is enclosed as Annexure B".	All Deputy Commissioners/ Director Social Forestry, J&K/CCF, Kashmir)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to and from the Chair.


(Aziz Ahmad), KAS 2.04.20

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER (CENTRAL)
With Divisional Commissioner Kashmir

 Dated: 02 / 04 / 2020.

No: DivCom/Dev/ /2020/ 1

Copy to the:-

1. Financial Commissioner, H&ME, J&K, Jammu.
2. Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.
3. Commissioner/Secretary, Forest Department, J&K, Jammu.
4. All concerned for information and necessary action.
5. District Informatics Officer, NIC C/o DC Office, and Srinagar with the request to upload the minutes on the official website of this office.
6. Private Secretary to Chief Secretary for inf. Of worthy Chief Secretary.

Annexure “B”

No of Russian Popular Trees on the State Land	No of Russian Popular Trees on the Kachari Land	No of Russian Popular Trees on the Proprietary Land	Total No of Russian Popular Trees in the district