

Rajasthan Common Land Policy, 2010

(Draft)



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1. Background

Common lands in India are crucial sources of livelihood for rural households. In the context of villages in India, the common lands provide wide-ranging contributions to village economy – from food, fodder and timber to farming systems, animal husbandry, resource conservation, and recharge of ground water. Ecologically, the Commons play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance while providing important resources that sustain life - maintenance of hydrological cycles, conservation of biodiversity, serving as sinks for greenhouse gases (Qureshi and Kumar, 1998). Some benefits are perceived locally, as in the availability of water supplies and nutrients to local agriculture while others, such as biodiversity benefits, are perceived at a global level. Regenerated common lands present a significant global carbon stock and have a potentially critical role to play in climate change adaptation through maintaining ecosystem services and providing livelihood options. Common lands (mistakenly also referred to as ‘wastelands’) also provide a unique opportunity to act through a singular platform on issues of poverty alleviation, social justice and improving ecological health.

After independence the settlements of village lands in Rajasthan was decreed on more or less uniform patterns. Drawing largely on the model of colonial land settlements the lands under private possessions were referred to as “Khatadari” while the rest were referred to as “non-khatadari”. The classification of village pasture lands fell under this category of non-khatadari lands and was also referred to as “Village Commons” which formed a significant portion of the total geographical area of the state. The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, Section 2 (xx), defines “Public Land” or “Common Land” as land which is not in exclusive possession or use of any individual but is used by the inhabitants of a local area commonly.

Over the years there has been a steady decline both in the extent as well as the health of common lands. The primary reasons for the reduction in common lands are – lack of clarity on what constitutes CPR; absence of a long term perspective on land and land use; changes in land-use; a collapse in the governance mechanisms exacerbated by the lack of recognition of local institutions; absence of clear tenure and allocation of land for local needs such as grazing and firewood; multiple pressures of a growing populace; increasing impetus to bring more land under cultivation and popular politics of land distribution. Designated as

‘wastelands’, such lands are often diverted for other uses such as allocation for quarrying, industrial development, biofuel cultivation etc., thereby displacing local communities and depriving them of access to critical livelihood resources.

2. The Approach to the formulation of the Rajasthan Common Land Policy

Taking lead from the draft National Policy for Common Property Resource Lands (Common lands) 2002, the Government of Rajasthan has taken the initiative to come up with “Rajasthan Common Land Policy” which recognizes the importance of these “Village Common lands” in Rajasthan for the livelihood of the rural households and seeks to provide support to the people and their production systems through restoration, protection, regeneration, upkeep and development of common lands. The Policy, inter alia, aims to:

- 2.1** Involve communities/user groups in planning, regeneration and management of common lands, including distribution of benefits. The management and governance of common lands should be the responsibility of the Gram Panchayats and Ward sabhas/Gram Sabhas.
- 2.2** Make certain that the poorer sections of the community have special claim on the produce from common lands.
- 2.3** Ensure that social responsibility of the livelihood systems subsisting on the CPRs conform to norms of sustainability addressing the primary issues of sustainability-ecological balance-environmental safety.
- 2.4** Involve voluntary agencies, NGOs, academic and research institutes with established credibility and commitment to assist local village communities in the management and development of the common lands. They should, however, act as facilitators rather than implementers.
- 2.5** Stop privatization of commons lands, with exceptions being made only for very special and exceptional considerations. Requirements of common lands by Government departments and for other public needs need to be carefully vetted by the Gram Sabha.

It is desirable to look at all the issues explained above, falling within the purview of management of forest-agriculture-rural development, grazing, fodder and fuelwood

requirements, and long-term management of common lands through one single comprehensive policy.

RAJASTHAN COMMON LAND POLICY

3. Policy Objectives

The principal objectives of this policy are enumerated below:

- 3.1** To promote community institutions at hamlets/villages and Gram Panchayat level to strengthen decentralized governance of natural resources.
- 3.2** To protect and conserve commons lands, which are essential for the livelihood support, economic growth and for the overall well-being of humankind.
- 3.3** To ensure equitable access for all sections of society and the poor in particular, to the environmental services provided by these common lands.
- 3.4** To ensure sustainable use of environmental resources to meet the needs and aspirations of the present and future generations.
- 3.5** To restore ecological balance at village level and protect environment in rural Rajasthan.

4. Thrust areas of Rajasthan Common Land Policy

The thrust areas of the Rajasthan Common Land Policy are:

- 4.1** The major highlight of the Policy is to involve the **local community to play a central role** in determining the governance and development of common lands. It aims to enable the capacities of the community by facilitating the process of strengthening institutions for collective action around the Commons and build spaces that enable the poor and marginal groups.
- 4.2** The Policy aims at ecological restoration and collective management of natural resources founded on designing spaces of structure, time and access for the underprivileged, in particular will enable the poor and marginalized to assert their claims and entitlements on common lands.

- 4.3** The Policy supports revamping of the existing institutions and working with plurality of institutions at the local level to strengthen **decentralized governance** of natural resources. It attempts to harmonize the various institutions set up at the habitation/ village and nests them within Gram Panchayat level.
- 4.4** A **holistic view to “greening”** has been adopted wherein the scope of greening goes beyond trees and plantations. Emphasis is laid on natural regeneration and restoration of Commons, for example, grassland, pastures and other forms of common lands that are available. This will not only strive to restore degraded common lands, but will also contribute in restoration and regeneration of ecosystem functions and services.
- 4.5** **‘Vulnerability’ and ‘potential’** shall be the **criteria for intervention**. Common lands shall be identified on the basis of their significance from the ecosystem functions and services such as biodiversity and hydrological services.
- 4.6** The Policy fosters an **integrated approach using inter-sectoral convergence** (e.g., livestock, forest, agriculture, rural development, and energy).
- 4.7** A comprehensive, **robust and effective monitoring framework** at four different levels has been designed to monitor the development of common lands in the state.

5. POLICY OUTLINE

5.1. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMONS LANDS

The Gram Panchayat shall initiate the processes for management of common lands by constituting a Standing Committee for natural resource management and biodiversity management at the Gram Panchayat, Grazing Land Development Committee at village/ habitation level and shall strengthen the Ward Sabha to address the issues of governance of common land. The management of common lands shall be devolved to the village/ habitation level where the primary users of, and dependents on, common lands are located. Steps shall be taken to ensure coordination among the various village/ habitation level institutions and nest them within the Gram Panchayat. These institutions shall be supported within the Gram Panchayat to draw inter linkages with other developmental agenda as well.

5.1.1 Standing Committee at the Gram Panchayat addressing issues of Natural Resource Management & Biodiversity Management

The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 under Section 55 A, 1 (c), provides for a Standing Committee at the Gram Panchayat level for 'development and production programmes including those relating to agriculture, animal husbandry, minor irrigation, co-operation, cottage industries and other allied subjects'. This committee shall also look at the development and production functions related to common lands in addition to the existing allied subjects. This will help in mainstreaming the natural resource related issues within the functioning of Gram Panchayat, and contributing to Natural Resource and Biodiversity Management at the Gram Panchayat level. This will provide a ready platform for other institutions such as Watershed Development Committees (WDCs), Grazing Land Development Committees, Biodiversity Committees, Committees for management of minor irrigation tanks etc., to converge and strengthen local governance of natural resources. The Standing Committee shall also focus on various aspects relating to natural resources with a broad conservation mandate as mandated by the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the Biological Diversity Rules, 2004. It shall advise the Gram Panchayat with regard to the nature of bylaws that can be passed (Sec 104, Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act) regarding Natural Resource Management. These bylaws shall incorporate suggestions from the Standing Committee, the Ward Sabhas, the Grazing Land Development Committee and shall be approved at the Gram Sabha level.

The additional roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee for development and production programmes is to nest various institutions working on the issue of natural resources management under the ambit of the Gram Panchayat and to:

- i. Oversee execution of natural resource management plans through Grazing Land Development Committees formed at the village/ habitation level, Watershed Development Committees, Biodiversity Committees, Committees for management of minor irrigation tanks etc., suggest improvement in the plans and report to the Gram Panchayat about its functioning and implementation of the plans and programmes made there under.

- ii. Undertake physical inspection of any area in connection with the implementation of the Policy.
- iii. Champion natural resource conservation measures across the Gram Panchayat.
- iv. Advise the Gram Panchayat with regard to the nature of bylaws that can be passed for Natural Resource Management which promotes fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of common land.
- v. Collate and examine the resolutions of the concerned Ward Sabhas to ascertain the veracity of the community claims on common land and forward these to the Gram Panchayat.
- vi. Take steps to strengthen public dialogue across the Gram Panchayat to create an enabling environment where the people can state their collective rights over common land.
- vii. Ensure that all community rights over common land are registered in the Prohibitory Order Book.
- viii. Identify and enable capacities of community members/ leaders for the conservation of Common Property Resources and sustainable use of its resource units.
- ix. Engage technical support group comprising experts in the field of Natural Resource Management drawn from government agencies, non-government organizations, academic field, community and individuals to support the conservation of Common Property Resources.
- x. Collect information, manuals, to support the work of natural resource management and registering community rights over common land.
- xi. Seek support from the government functionaries at Gram Panchayat level such as agriculture department functionaries for the development of common lands.

5.1.2 Ward Sabha

The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, Section 12 (2) provisions for division of the Panchayat Circle into single member ward. Each ward of the Panchayat shall have a

Ward Sabha which shall perform the following functions with respect to the common land development in the area under the Ward Sabha:

- i. Rendering assistance to the Panchayat in collection and compilation of details required for formulation of the common land development plans.
- ii. Identifying community rights on the village common lands.
- iii. Rendering assistance in effective implementation of programmes for development of common land.
- iv. Endorsing the plans of the Watershed Development Committee/s, Grazing Land Development Committee/s, Biodiversity Committee/s, Committee/s for management of minor irrigation tanks etc.
- v. Exercising social audit in all the works in the Ward Sabha and awarding utilization and completion certificates for such works.
- vi. Monitoring the functioning of Watershed Development Committee/s, Grazing Land Development Committee/s, Biodiversity Committee/s, Committee/s for management of minor irrigation tanks etc.

However as per the **Rajasthan Panchayati (Modification of Provisions in Their Application to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1999**, the Gram Sabha at the village level will be responsible for execution of functions as detailed out in the functions of the Ward Sabha for the development of common lands.

In addition the Gram Sabha as may be prescribed, in a Scheduled Area, shall have –

- (ii) The ownership of minor forest produce subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the State Government as to control and management of minor forest produce;
- (iii) The power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action in accordance with laws in force in the State, to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe;
- (vii) The power to control over local plan and resources or such plans including tribal sub-plan to the extent and in the manner to be specified by the State Government from time to time.

5.1.3 Institutions at the Habitation Level

To strengthen the coordination between the village/ habitation and Gram Panchayat, for the development and governance of grazing lands, the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Rules, 1996 -Rule No. 170 provides for giving the 'control of Charagah

land of each village to a five men committee headed by a Ward Panch of the village concerned and four members to be elected by Gram Sabha.' To enable the participation of women in grazing land development, at least two women representatives shall be included in the Committee. In the event that the Ward Panch does not belong to the habitation, one of the four members of the Grazing Land Development Committee belonging to the Habitation shall Co Chair the Grazing Land Development Committee along with the Ward Panch. The roles and responsibilities of the Grazing Land Development Committee would be as follows:

- i. Evolve norms and sanctions for management and governance over the grazing lands.
- ii. Prepare grazing land development and management plans for the village/ habitation and integrate them into the perspective and annual plans of Gram Panchayat.
- iii. Facilitate execution of grazing land development and management plans.
- iv. Utilize the funds from different schemes and programmes through the respective Gram Panchayats for development of grazing land.
- v. Champion the cause of grazing land development within and across the habitations.
- vi. Assist the Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Gram Panchayat level in framing specific bylaws to promote conservation of natural resources of land, water and vegetation.

5.2 SECURING COMMON LANDS

The Rajasthan Common Land Policy would ensure that the common lands in the State are identified using a community driven identification process and addresses the issue with respect to securing them to support the livelihood needs of Rajasthan's rural population, especially those dependent on animal husbandry using the existing legal provisions in the acts. The process shall essentially be a community driven process where the local communities at habitation, revenue village and Gram Panchayat level are involved as per the process detailed below:

5.2.1 Survey and Data Base on Common lands

Inadequacy of data regarding common lands is a matter of concern as valuable resources are not factored in the development plan. Priority shall be accorded to completing the identification of common lands in the State. The exercise shall be implemented using multiple strategies employing data and information already available with the state, using spatial technologies and most importantly a community endorsed process, wherein the communities whose livelihoods depend on these common lands especially the poor livestock keepers, pastoralists validate the exercise and add layers describing their rights and nature of dependence on the common lands.

5.2.2 Prohibitory Order Book (POB)

A register called Prohibitory Order Book shall be maintained at the level of Gram Panchayat. The purpose of the POB shall be:

- (a) To register land as common land; and
- (b) To register community rights exercisable over land registered as common land.

The extent of common land/ Grazing land entered in to the POB shall be after taking in to account the community needs with respect to settlement and other public provisions based upon future projections. The Government of Rajasthan has already initiated the process of preparing village master plans which takes into account all these aspects. The Standing Committee for development and production programmes at Gram Panchayat shall ensure that the community rights over common lands are registered in the Prohibitory Order Book. Lands once entered in the Prohibitory Order Book can be allotted only for the purpose of public utility or public interest as per the circular issued by the Revenue Department no: F-10(3) Raj-6/2001/7 dated: 25-4-2011. These lands can be removed from the Prohibitory Order Book only after thoroughly examining with reference to the causes that led to the entry. In such case the Collector may send the proposals stating the importance and his recommendations to the State Government for approval.

5.2.3 Converting Revenue Wastelands into Grazing Land

The Rajasthan Tenancy Act, 1955, Section 5 (28) defines pasture-land (charagah) as 'land used for the grazing of the cattle of a village or villages or recorded in the settlement record'. The Act spells out a provision of reserving one-eighth of a hectare (half a *bigha*) per livestock unit for grazing purposes. To account for the increase in the livestock population, proportionate changes shall be made in the area available for grazing at the village/ Gram Panchayat level as per the Livestock Census which is undertaken on a periodic basis. The Panchayat as per Rule 6 of Rajasthan Tenancy (Government) Rules, 1955 and Section 92 under Rajasthan Land Revenue Act, 1956, shall request the District Collectors to transfer from other Revenue categories as grazing land and hand their custody to Panchayats for their improved management. Revenue wastelands as deemed necessary shall therefore be converted to grazing land.

5.2.4 Lease of Wastelands to the Gram Panchayats

Recognizing the importance of secure tenure as a strong motivational force for all the sections of the community to participate and invest in the village institution and work collectively for sustainable resource regeneration, the Government of Rajasthan in 1986 issued rules for allotment for uncultivable revenue wastelands known as "Niji Van Vikas Rule 1986". The Gram Panchayats shall henceforth, apply for land lease and work for the development of the common lands with financial resources under various government schemes and programs.

5.2.5 Diversion of common lands for other purposes

In a partial modification of the Revenue Rules 7, Rajasthan Tenancy (Government) Rules 1955, a circular issued by the Revenue Department no: F-10(3) Raj-6/2001/7 dated: 25-4-2011 states that pasture lands can only be allotted for the purpose of public utility or public interest. In such case the Collector may send the proposals stating the importance and his recommendations to the State Government for approval. In continuation to this order the state government also ensures that

- a) Alternate lands are being provided for grazing purposes.
- b) In addition Net Present Value (NPV) as Compensation (Source: Supreme Court Order in September, 2005 with respect to diversion of forest lands for

non-forest purposes) be paid to Gram Panchayat for the loss of their rights to the services that the regenerated common land earlier provided them, and towards the fundamental eco-system values, services that these developed lands provided. In case of Rajasthan Common Land Policy, the NPV as per the 'Guidelines for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 – guidelines for collection of Net Present Value (NPV)' shall be followed.

5.3 LEGAL ENABLEMENT

5.3.1 A critical review of the laws related to common lands shall be undertaken on a periodic basis to suggest amendments in the outdated laws to suit Rajasthan Common Land Policy.

5.3.2 The role, responsibility and authority of local bodies /groups shall be legally strengthened to enable and encourage governance and management of their common lands in the changing policy environment. Within this legislation, provision shall be made for social inclusion of groups such as farmers, the poor and women to have a substantive voice in the local bodies.

5.3.3 A legal framework will be developed to:

- i.** Regulate and manage common lands. Such legislation will also address the needs for the conservation of common lands.
- ii.** Deal with conflicts and their resolution. This will start from community resolution, with subsequent appeal mechanism at successive higher levels.
- iii.** Preserve the existing common lands from encroachment, unauthorized construction. In the event of encroachment or diversion of village common lands of other uses the appropriate department will provide necessary assistance to prevent such an occurrence.
- iv.** Ensure spaces of structure, time and access for the underprivileged, in particular, which will enable the poor and marginalized to assert their claims and entitlements on common lands.

5.4 ENABLING CAPACITIES OF INSTITUTIONS AT HAMLET AND GRAM PANCHAYAT LEVEL

5.4.1 Strengthening public dialogue: To create an enabling environment where people can

state their rights over the common lands based on their diverse interests and priorities, open public debate of the options at stake is essential to develop a locally-owned land rights agenda.

- 5.4.2** The state shall design new curriculum and encourage training programmes on natural resource management and decentralized governance. Concepts of natural resource management shall be integrated with the School curriculum starting with basic concepts at primary level.
- 5.4.3** Capacities of local communities, in particular, village leaders and rural volunteers shall be enhanced on legal provisions related to governance of common lands, to facilitate the process of identification, management and development of common lands.
- 5.4.4** Technical capacities shall be built at the local level in areas such as improved data collection, hydro-geology, preparing and reading GIS data base to improve the planning and monitoring of the natural resource management processes.
- 5.4.5** Institutional capacity building shall be implemented at community, mid level and the state level. Capacity building at all levels shall involve reorientation of the perception from the traditional land control approach of the state to a holistic participatory community based approach.
- 5.4.6** Capacity building at Government level shall be directed towards building skill base of government personnel, reorientation towards more strategic planning and watershed/landscape level resource assessment.

5.5 ENABLING PROGRAMMATIC ACTION

- 5.5.1** A critical review of the current programmes and schemes shall be periodically undertaken to understand their applicability for the development of common lands.
- 5.5.2** Energies shall be channelized towards leveraging the ongoing programmes like MGNREGA and Watershed development for developing common lands. Systematic, local-level, highly labour-intensive initiatives shall be facilitated to restore and sustain the productivity of common lands and to provide adequate access to drinking water in grazing tracts and at the villages. Besides, efforts shall also be made to incorporate

common land restoration in the existing ecological restoration programmes like Harit Rajasthan and Green India Mission.

5.5.3 Decentralized planning with the active involvement of community shall be facilitated for integrated common lands development.

5.5.4 Enabling programmes shall be launched to facilitate the development of common lands.

5.5.5 Gram Panchayats shall be allowed to receive fund from NGOs/ charitable organization for the development of village lands on a case by case basis.

5.6 RESEARCH

Rajasthan is a large state and harbours significant social and ecological diversity which can be classified into five major groups/zones. This classification represents not only agro-climatic/ecological differences but they correspond to distinct socio- cultural identities that also have components of natural resource management practices, beliefs and resource use. Marwar, Merwara, Mewar, Dhundar and Hadoti are the traditional socio-cultural identity which corresponds broadly to the classification based on ecological differences. These traditional identities are also associated with different economic structures and practices that have their roots in the ecological differences among the regions. The five regions in the classification are:

- Western Desert region
- North Aravali region
- Eastern Plains
- South Aravali Region and
- Southern Plateau and South-eastern Ravines of Chambal

Action Research for development of commons lands based on the regional variations shall be promoted between academic, non government sector, government institutions and an ethos of cooperation between these sectors shall be promoted to come up with context models for the development of common lands.

5.7 MONITORING

The Rajasthan Common Land Policy shall ensure systems for monitoring of the development of common lands in Rajasthan. This monitoring shall also help in proper planning and implementation of different programs across the state.

5.7.1 Monitoring outcomes /outputs

The monitoring shall be at four levels:

- Level 1: On ground self monitoring by the local communities, implementing organizations, forest department.
- Level 2: Field reviews by an external agency on randomly selected sites.
- Level 3: Development of common lands shall be monitored through remote sensing.
- Level 4: Selected areas shall be intensively monitored to assess the impact and efficiency of different old and new practices in tandem with the implementation agencies.

5.7.2 Social Audit by Gram Sabha

Social audits shall look into the aspects of common land management and development. These processes will also help in improving the planning and implementation processes at the habitation and Gram Panchayat level. The ward Sabha shall assist the gram Panchayat in exercising social audit in all the works in the area of the Ward Sabha.

ANNEXURE 1

Prohibitory Order Book

A register called Prohibitory Order Book shall be maintained at the level of Gram Panchayat.

The purpose of the POB shall be:

- (a) To register land as common land; and
- (b) To register community rights exercisable over land registered as common land.

The extent of common land/ Grazing land entered in to the POB shall be done after taking in to account the community needs with respect to settlement and other public provisions based upon future projections. The Government of Rajasthan has already initiated the process of preparing village master plans which takes into account all these aspects. The Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Gram Panchayat shall ensure that the community rights over common lands are registered in the Prohibitory Order Book.

1. Process for Registering Common Land in the Prohibitory Order Book

1.1 The Ward Sabha shall collate and examine the community claims on common land/grazing lands and forward these to the Gram Panchayat with recommendations.

1.2 The Gram Panchayat shall assign the responsibility of examining the resolutions of the concerned Ward

“Rights of common” will be rights as included under the Rajasthan Land Revenue Act 1955 in Rajasthan Land Revenue (Settlement Operation) (Board of Revenue) rules 1957 while the evidence for recognition and vesting of ‘rights of common’ shall, is as per the Scheduled Tribes And Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Rule 2007 , Rule 13.

Sabhas to the Standing Committee for development and production programmes to ascertain the veracity of the community claims on common land. The functions of the Standing Committee for development and production programmes would be to assist the Gram Sabha to:

- i. Create an enabling environment where people can state their collective rights over the common lands;

- ii. Ensure that the poor and dependent are not excluded from the committee;
- iii. Receive, acknowledge and retain the claims in the specified form and evidence in support of such claims;
- iv. Prepare a record of claims and evidence including maps;
- v. Verify the claims;
- vi. Present their findings on the nature and extent of the claims before the Gram Sabha for its consideration.

1.3 The Gram Sabha shall fix a date for initiating the process of determining the nature and extent of rights over the common lands and intimate the same to the communities who have stated their claims, the Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Gram Panchayat level, the adjoining Gram Sabhas (in case of substantial overlaps) and the concerned authorities of the Revenue Department.

1.4 A Gram Sabha meeting shall be organized within a period of three months from the date of initiating the process where the Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Gram Panchayat level would present the maps prepared along with the claims and evidences of such claims. The Gram Sabha shall pass a resolution acknowledging these claims on common lands. The Tehsildar in consultation with the Gram Panchayat would prepare a report along with the resolution of the Gram Sabha and forward it to the Sub-Divisional Officer.

1.5 The Sub-Divisional Officer shall, after due consideration of the resolution and report forward the same to the District Collector.

1.6 The District Collector shall then issue orders to the Tehsildar and Sub-Divisional Officer to enter these claims and the nature of rights over the common lands in the Prohibitory Order Book with details of claimants and their claims. Regular updating on an annual basis and monitoring of the Prohibitory Order Book should be the responsibility of the Tehsildar for which the duties and responsibilities of the Tehsildar needs to amended. The land records needs to be updated annually and the Tehsildar should issues a certificate that no land classification has been changed and the land records are in consonance with the POB.

- 1.7 If there are conflicting claims in respect of boundaries of the common land, the Ward members of the respective wards and the Standing Committee shall meet jointly to consider the nature of such claims and submit the findings to the Gram Sabha in writing. Provided that the Gram Sabha is not able to resolve the conflicting claims, it shall be referred to the Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad level for its resolution.

2. Process of addressal of grievances

- 2.1 Any person aggrieved by the resolution of the Gram Sabha may within a period of sixty days from the date of the resolution, file a petition to the Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad level.
- 2.2 The Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad level shall fix a date for the hearing and intimate the petitioner and the concerned Gram Sabha in writing as well as through notice at conspicuous places in the village of the petitioner at least fifteen days prior to the date fixed for the hearing.
- 2.3 The Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad may refer the petition to the concerned Gram Sabha for its reconsideration.
- 2.4 After receipt of such reference, the Gram Sabha shall meet within a period of thirty days, hear the petitioner, pass a resolution on that reference and forward the same to the Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad.
- 2.5 The Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad shall consider the resolution of the Gram Sabha and pass appropriate orders, either accepting or rejecting the petition.
- 2.6 Without prejudice to the pending petitions, the Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad shall examine and collate the records of rights of common of the other claimants and submit the same through the concerned SDO to the District Collector.

2.7 In case of a dispute between two or more Gram Sabhas and on application of any of the Gram Sabhas or the Standing Committee for development and production programmes at the Panchayat Samiti/ Zila Parishad on its own, shall call for a joint meeting of the concerned Gram Sabhas with a view to resolving the dispute and if no mutually agreed solution can be reached within a period of thirty days, the matter would be referred to the SDO.

Lands once entered in the Prohibitory Order Book can only be allotted only for the purpose of public utility or public interest as per the circular issued by the Revenue Department no: F-10(3) Raj-6/2001/7 dated: 25-4-2011. These lands can be removed from the Prohibitory Order Book only after thoroughly examining with reference to the causes that led to the entry. In such case the Collector may send the proposals stating the importance and his recommendations to the State Government for approval.