

CHAPTER-9

GREENBELT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

9.1 INTRODUCTION

The greenbelt development plan aims to overall improvement in the environmental conditions of the region. The plan with a five-fold objective addresses issues such as prevention of land degradation due to activities during construction phase; enhancing the forest cover for increasing the biodiversity of the region; providing aesthetic value to the project area and consequently inviting a proportionate tourist flux; enhancing the ecological equilibrium of the area; and to a large proportion in combating soil erosion. Although the forest loss due to reservoir submergence and other project appurtenances have been compensated as a part of compensatory afforestation. It is proposed to develop greenbelt around the periphery of various project appurtenances, selected stretches along reservoir periphery.

9.2 NEED FOR GREENBELT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Although the forest loss due to reservoir submergence and other project appurtenances have been compensated as a part of compensatory afforestation. However in addition to above, it is proposed to develop greenbelt around the perimeter of various project appurtenances, selected stretches along reservoir periphery, etc. The general consideration involved while developing the greenbelt are:

- Trees growing up to 10 m or above in height with perennial foliage should be planted around various appurtenances of the proposed project.
- Planting of trees should be undertaken in appropriate encircling rows around the project site.
- Generally fast growing trees should be planted
- Since, the tree trunk area is normally devoid of foliage upto a height of 3 m, it may be useful to have shrubbery in front of the trees so as to give coverage to this portion.

The details of Greenbelt development are given as below:

- Plantation will be done along the boundaries of project colony
- The inter-connecting/approach roads of various project components, within the colonies, working sites, etc. shall be covered with avenue plantation.

- Available space within the colonies will be brought under Greenbelt for plantation of fruit, ornamental and shade trees along with shrubs, climbers etc. Fruit trees can be protected with angle iron guards.
- During the initial phase of plantation and summer seasons, watering of plants can be done. In addition if required farm yard manure and agro-chemicals can also be applied.
- Along the road sides, 2 to 3 rows of ornamental trees can be planted.
- At the construction site and colony sites, the width of Greenbelt development can be increased depending on the quantum of land available.
- Thickness of greenbelt along reservoir periphery can be about 4 – 6 m.
- The saplings for Greenbelt can be processed from nearby nurseries of the Forest Department.

9.3 BUDGET

The cost of plantation per hectare is estimated at Rs.1,00,000. It is proposed to afforest about 30 ha of land as a part of Greenbelt Development Plan. The total cost works out to Rs.30.0 lakh. The plantation for this purpose will be carried out by Forest Department, state government of Uttarakhand.