



Government of Tamil Nadu

Special Rules for the Tamil Nadu Forest Service (Section 15 of Tamil Nadu Service Manual – Volume II)

(Corrected up to 31st Dec 2021)

**Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forest
Secretariat, Fort St. George
Chennai – 600 009**

Special Rules for the Tamil Nadu Forest Service

(Section 15 of Tamil Nadu Service Manual – Volume II)

1. Constitution. — The service shall consist of the following categories of officers, namely: -

- Category 1 : Deputy Conservator of Forests. (herein-after referred to as Deputy Conservators)
- Category 2 : Assistant Conservator of Forests. (herein-after referred to as Assistant Conservators)
- Category 3 : Assistant Director of Statistics.

2. Appointment. — (a) Appointment to the several categories of the service shall be made as follows: -

Category (1)	Method of recruitment (2)
Deputy Conservators	Promotion from Assistant Conservator.
Assistant Conservators	Direct recruitment or recruitment by transfer from Rangers of the Tamil Nadu Forest Subordinate Service.
Assistant Director of Statistics	Recruitment by transfer from among the holders of the post of Statistical Officers in the Tamil Nadu Forest Subordinate Service in the Tamil Nadu Forest Department.

So far as qualified and suitable candidates are available direct recruitment and recruitment by transfer of Assistant Conservator shall be made in the proportion of 1:2.

(b) No Assistant Conservator shall ordinarily be eligible for promotion as Deputy Conservator unless he has completed four years of service as Assistant Conservator of Forests reckoned from the date on which he draws pay in the time scale in that post.

(c) The posts of Deputy Conservator shall be selection posts and promotion to these posts shall be by merit and ability, seniority being considered only where merit and ability are approximately equal.

(d) No person shall be eligible for appointment to the post of Assistant Director of Statistics, unless he has worked for a period of not less than five years in the post of Statistical Officer in the Tamil Nadu Forest Department. Appointment to the post of Assistant Director of Statistics shall be made on the basis of merit and ability, seniority being considered only where merit and ability are approximately equal.

3. Reservation of appointments.—The principle of reservation of appointments as provided in Section 27 of the Tamil Nadu Government Servants (Conditions of Service) Act, 2016 (Tamil Nadu Act 14 of 2016) shall apply to the appointment of Assistant Conservator of Forests by direct recruitment.

4. Qualification.— (1) A candidate for appointment by direct recruitment as Assistant Conservator –

(a) Must have completed or will complete the age of twenty one years and must not have completed or will complete the age of thirty two years on the first day of July of the year in which the vacancy is notified:

Provided that in the case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Most Backward classes, Denotified communities and Backward classes the upper age limit shall be thirty seven years:

Provided further that in the case of candidates working as Rangers, who have secured Honours during Rangers' training and who have not completed 45 years of age shall be eligible for exemption of age limit for two times to appear for direct recruitment.

(b) Must possess Bachelor's degree in Science or Engineering in any one of the following subjects obtained from any University or Institution recognized by the University Grants Commission for purpose of its grant:-

- (i) Forestry;
- (ii) Botany;
- (iii) Zoology;
- (iv) Physics;
- (v) Chemistry;
- (vi) Mathematics;
- (vii) Statistics;
- (viii) Geology;
- (ix) Agriculture;
- (x) Horticulture;
- (xi) Engineering (Agricultural or Civil or Chemical or Computer or Electrical or Electronics or Mechanical);
- (xii) Computer Applications/Science;
- (xiii) Environmental Science;
- (xiv) Veterinary Science:

Provided that in the case of graduates in Mathematics or Statistics, they must have taken one of the following subjects in their P.U.C. or Higher Secondary or Matriculation or equivalent Examination, namely:-

(i) Biology (ii) Physics or (iii) Chemistry:

Provided also that, other things being equal, preference shall be given to the candidates who possess a degree in Forestry or a post graduate degree in Wild Life Biology.

(c) (i) Must possess the following minimum physical standards:-

	Height (cm)	Chest Girth (cm)	
		Normal	Expansion
Male candidate	163	84	05
Female candidate	150	79	05

The following minimum height standards may be allowed in case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribes and races such as Assamese, Bhutanese, Garhwalis, Gorkhas, Kumaonis, Ladakhese, Mizo, Naga, Nepalese, Sikkimese and those from Arunachal Pradesh, Lahaul and Spiti and Meghalaya.

Male Candidate : 152 cm

Female Candidate : 145 cm

(ii) Male / Female candidates must pass a physical test covering a distance of 25 / 16 kilometers within four hours on foot, respectively.

Provided that the physical standards shall be assessed and the physical test shall be conducted by the Forest Department before the candidates are admitted to the oral test.

(d) Must satisfy a Medical Board in Chennai as to his physique, fitness and capacity for rough out-door work in the Forest Department.

(2) No person shall be eligible for appointment by recruitment by transfer as Assistant Conservator of Forests unless he has passed the Account Test for Executive Officers and Departmental Test in Forest Revenue and has completed 8 years of service as Ranger.

(3) [omitted]

(4) No person shall be eligible for appointment to the post of Assistant Director of Statistics, unless he has passed the Account Test for Sub-ordinate Officers, Part I and Part II or the Account Test for Executive Officers.

5. Probation.— (1) Every person appointed –

(i) If recruited direct, shall be on probation for a total period of three years and six months on duty within a continuous period of four years and six months and the period of training mentioned in sub-rule (a) of rule 6 shall be counted for probation;

(ii) If recruited by transfer for a total period of two years on duty within a continuous period of three years.

(2) In the case of Assistant Conservator of Forests, the Chief Conservator of Forests shall be the competent authority to declare the completion of probation or to extend the period of probation in case of failure to pass the prescribed tests mentioned in rule 7 below, subject to the condition that it will not involve relaxation of rules.

(3) Every person who has not attained the age of 54 years, appointed to the post of Assistant Conservator of Forests by recruitment by transfer, shall undergo six weeks promotion linked compulsory training course in the Training Institutions under the control of Ministry of Environment and Forests or the State Training Institutions or other established Training Institutions in the Country within the period of probation (i.e.) within the total period of two years on duty within a continuous period of three years.

(4) Every person appointed to the post of Assistant Director of Statistics shall, from the date on which he joins duty, be on probation for a total period of one year on duty within a continuous period of two years. The authority competent to declare the completion of probation shall be the Chief Conservator of Forests.

6. Training.— (a) (i) A candidate recruited as Assistant Conservator of Forests by direct recruitment shall, undergo the Course of study in any one of the Central Academy of State Forest College in India (notified by Government of India) for a period of two years. After completion of initial 16 months (First Phase) of the course, the 'Officer Trainee' shall go back to the State to undergo "Field Training" for a period of four months. Thereafter, the 'Officer Trainee' shall report to the College for subsequent training for a period of four months (Second Phase). There shall be a term break of 30 days during the Course, which may be fixed by the concerned Principal. The period of term break shall count towards earned leave. If the candidate is prevented by sickness or other adequate cause from appearing at the final examination at the above college, the State Government may, allow him to appear for the next final examination;

(ii) After completion of First Phase of Training in the concerned Central Academy of State Forest Service College, the 'Officer Trainee' shall be attached to the following functionaries of the State for exposure for a period four months. The 'Officer Trainee' shall be considered to be on "Field Training".

Sl. No	Attached to / Issue to be covered	Duration in weeks
1	Forest Range Officer: (i) Land Records (ii) Silvicultural systems (iii) Tree improvement (iv) Grafting (v) High Technology Nursery (vi) Colonial Propagation (vii) Voucher preparation (viii) Cash Handling (ix) Accounts (x) Range Management (xi) Enquiry of Forest Offences (xii) Marking and Enumeration	Five
2	Divisional Forest Officer: (i) Establishment matters (ii) Office Management (iii) Budget (iv) Audit (v) Legal Matters (vi) Co-ordination with (vii) District Administration (viii) People's participation, (ix) PRA, RRA, Agro forestry, VFC	Five
3	Forest Corporation: (i) Harvesting (ii) Logging (iii) Transport (iv) Depot Management (v) Volume and Royalty Calculation (vi) Marketing	Two
4	Revenue Authorities: (i) Land Records (ii) Rural Development Programmes	One

Sl. No	Attached to / Issue to be covered	Duration in weeks
5	Law Enforcement authorities in the district and Tahsil Level: (i) Enforcement of Laws and Policies (ii) Integrated Effort (iii) Co-operation (iv) Interaction	One
6	Public Prosecutor, Government Counsels: (i) Application of Law (ii) Filing of cases (iii) Follow up Action	Two
	Total	Sixteen weeks

After completion of the above Field Training, the 'Officer Trainee' should report before the concerned Central Academy of State Forest Service College as per schedule notified by the College for the Second Phase of Training; and

(iii) On obtaining the certificate of satisfactory completion of the course of study in any one of the Central Academy of State Forest Service Colleges in India, the 'Officer Trainee' shall be given practical training for a period of twelve months in various functionaries of the State for exposure in the field as well as in administration, as indicated below:-

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------|
| (i) Practical and Office training under the Divisional Forest Officer | : | 3 months |
| (ii) Training in the Office of the Conservator of Forests. | : | 1 month |
| (iii) Practical training in Police, Revenue and Judicial Departments (Three weeks each in Police and Revenue Departments and two weeks in judicial Department.) | : | 2 months |
| (iv) Range training (Independent Charge) | : | 6 months |
| Total | : | 12 months |

Provided that the State Government may, in exceptional circumstances, exempt any candidate from undergoing the preliminary practical training or in cases where any candidate is unable to undergo the prescribed period of the preliminary practical training, condone the deficiency in the period of such training.

(b) During the period of training mentioned in sub-rule (a), he shall be entitled to the minimum in the time scale of pay applicable to the post of Assistant Conservator of Forests as the State Government may from time to time prescribe. He shall be granted, in respect of journeys performed by him while undergoing the course of study, actual expenses as authorised by the rules relating to the said course of study and also travelling allowance for joining duty in the State on successful completion of the course of study limited to a single first class railway fare and in addition a single mileage for any journey by road.

The entire college fees for the two years course of study at the State Forest Service College shall be met by the State Government. He shall execute a bond with two sureties for all sums which, in any way may be expended, paid or incurred by the State Government in respect of his education at the State Forest Service Colleges and also separate agreement in such form as may be prescribed by the Government from time to time undertaking to serve the State Government in the Forest Department for a period of five years after successful completion of his training for the award of Diploma in Forestry.

(c) A candidate recruited as Assistant Conservator of Forests (Officer Trainee) by direct recruitment, shall be granted a sum, as notified by the Central Academy of State Forest Service College from time to time as Equipment Allowance towards the purchase of equipments during the two years' course of study in any one of the Central Academy of State Forest Service Colleges in India. 34% (thirty four percent) of the amount sanctioned shall be treated as outright grant and the remaining 66% (sixty six percent) of the sanctioned amount shall be treated as interest free loan. The loan amount shall be recovered in 30 equal monthly instalments from the candidate, after he joins duty on completion of above said training course. The 'Officer Trainee' who has been granted loan shall execute an agreement with two sureties for repayment of the loan.

7. Tests.— Every person appointed to the post of Assistant Conservator of Forests by the methods specified in column (1) of the table below shall, within the period his probation, pass the tests specified in the corresponding entries in column (2) thereof:-

TABLE

Method of appointment (1)	Tests (2)
Direct recruitment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Departmental test in Forest Law. 2 Departmental test in Forest Revenue 3 Test on Code and Accounts 4 Test on Fundamental Rules, State Service Rules, etc.,

Provided that a person who has attained the age of forty five years on the date of his appointment as Assistant Conservator of Forests by direct recruitment and by recruitment by transfer shall be required to pass the Departmental Test in Forest Revenue.

8. Seniority.— (a) Save as provided in sub-rule (b), the seniority of a directly recruited Assistant Conservator shall be determined by the date of his passing the examination held by the Indian Forest College, Dehradun or State Forest Service College-cum-Research Centre, Burnihat or State Forest Service College, Coimbatore. Where such date is the same in the case of two or more such members, their seniority inter-se shall be determined by their rank in the pass list issued by the College.

(b) The relative seniority of the Assistant Conservators (recruited direct and by recruitment by transfer) shall be determined by the date on which an Assistant Conservator of Forests whether recruited direct or by recruitment by transfer, begins to draw for the first time the pay in the time scale sanctioned for the post; provided that this provision shall not apply to persons who commenced their probation before the 1st October 1956 or to persons who were selected by the Tami Nadu Public Service Commission before that date whose seniority shall be determined by rule 35 of the General rules for the Tamil Nadu State and Subordinate Services and sub rule (a) of this rule.

9. Increment.— A probationary Assistant Conservator appointed by direct recruitment shall draw his first increment at the end of the first year course of study in a State Forestry Service College and the second increment on satisfactory completion of the course. He shall draw his third increment at the end of first year after the satisfactory completion of two years course in a State Forest College. He shall draw his fourth increment on completion of fourth year and after satisfactory completion of his probation of three years and six months within a continuous period of four years and six months. If his probation is extended beyond four years and six months, his fourth increment shall be postponed to that extent but it shall not affect his future increments:

Provided that in the case of those who reported for training in a State Forest Service College, prior to the 26th December 1979, only the period from the

26th December 1979 shall count for increment and they shall be eligible to draw the first increment on 26th December 1980 and their subsequent increments shall get postponed correspondingly.

10. Omitted.

11. Preparation of annual list of approved candidates.— For the purpose of drawing up of the annual list of approved candidates for appointment to the post by promotion or by recruitment by transfer, the crucial date on which the candidate should be qualified shall be the 15th August of every year.

Note :

The Principal Rules. i.e., Special Rules for the Tamil Nadu Forest Service was published in Sec 15, Volume II of Tamil Nadu Service Manual, 2016 with all amendments incorporated. The following amendments were issued subsequently and published in Tamil Nadu Government Gazette;

- (1) Govt. Order (Ms.) No. 72, Environment and Forests (FR-1) Department, dated 21st May 2013. *(Published in page 28; Part III—Section 1(b) of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette No 23 of 2013, dated 12th Jun 2013)*
- (2) Govt. Order (Ms.) No. 81, Environment and Forests (FR-1) Department, dated 30th June 2017. *(Published in page 88; Part III—Section 1(b) of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette No 29 of 2017, dated 19th Jul 2017)*
- (3) Govt. Order (Ms.) No. 50, Environment and Forests (FR-1) Department, dated 23rd Apr 2018. *(Published in page 62; Part III—Section 1(b) of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette No 19 of 2018, dated 09th May 2018)*
- (4) Govt. Order (Ms.) No. 56, Environment and Forests (FR-1) Department, dated 27th Apr 2018. *(Published in page 64; Part III—Section 1(b) of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette No 20 of 2018, dated 16th May 2018)*
- (5) Govt. Order (Ms.) No. 90, Environment and Forests (FR-1) Department, dated 06th Sep 2019. *(Published in page 118; Part III—Section 1(b) of Tamil Nadu Government Gazette No 39 of 2019, dated 25th Sep 2019)*
