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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
FOREST & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

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RESOLUTION
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The 3rd August 2012

SUBJECT—Scheme of Awards and Prizes for outstanding work in the field of Forest, Wildlife & Environment.

Government of Odisha have instituted various annual prizes and awards which are distributed on different occasions. The purpose of giving awards is to recognize the good work done by individuals and institutions in the field of forest & environment conservation and to encourage people's participation in protection of forests and wildlife and conservation of environment. Meritorious work done by forest field staff is also rewarded through the State Forestry Awards. With a view to rationalize all the awards and to give more awards in each category at the District, Subdivision and Block levels, State Government have decided to institute/continue the following awards with effect from 2012 :—

1. Awards given on World Forestry Day (21st March)

(A) State Forestry Award for Forest Field Staff

- (i) The objective of the award is to recognize the outstanding work done by forest field staff and to encourage and promoting competence and dedication among forest personnel.

(ii) **Eligibility**

Twenty forest officials working as Forest Rangers, Foresters and Forest Guards in Forest & Environment Department will be honoured with this award every year. The award will be given to 2 (two) Forest Rangers, 6 (six) Foresters and 12 (twelve) Forest Guards.

(iii) Award

The award shall consist of a Citation and a Medallion along with cash award of Rs. 5,000 (Rupees five thousand) to be given to each recipient. The award shall also be noted in the performance appraisal report.

(iv) Selection Criteria

The awards will be given for meritorious services and achievements of the individual field personnel in any of the following areas :—

- (i) Forest protection and anti-smuggling work
- (ii) Promotion of Joint Forest Management
- (iii) Afforestation and plantation work
- (iv) Forest and wildlife management
- (v) Forest research and experiments
- (vi) Kenduleaf operations management

While innovative ideas and practices will be recognized, emphasis will be on the outcomes and the contributions made by the individual in the course of discharge of his duties.

(iv) Selection Procedure

(a) Recommendations for the award will be made by a Selection Committee comprising the following members :—

1. PCCF, Odisha (Chairman)
2. PCCF (Wildlife) & Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha
3. PCCF (Kenduleaf)
4. CCF (Plan, Programmes & Afforestation)
5. CCF (Monitoring, Evaluation and Internal Vigilance)

(b) The Committee will formulate their detailed procedure/modality for selecting and finalizing the most deserving persons in each category and forward their recommendation to Government in Forest & Environment Department by 20th February each year. After considering the recommendations of the Committee, the State Government will decide the names of the award winner.

(c) Nominations for the award will be made by the Divisional Forest Officer.

(B) Award for outstanding performance in Plantation/Afforestation

- (i) The objective of the award to encourage people's participation in tree planting and afforestation through Gram Panchayats and educational institutions.

(ii) Award

Cash award of Rs. 10,000 for the best educational institution at subdivision level (one for every subdivision) and cash award of Rs. 20,000 for the best Gram Panchayat at subdivision level (one for every subdivision) will be given for outstanding performance in plantation/afforestation. These awards will be given each year in a District level function on the World Forestry Day on 21st March. The D.F.O. stationed at District headquarters will act as nodal officer and organize the function at district headquarters.

(iii) Eligibility

All Gram Panchayats, schools, colleges and educational institutions having contribution to plantation/afforestation in their area are eligible to apply for the award.

(iv) Selection Criteria

Planting of trees on any land other than private land, regeneration of degraded forest areas, supporting activities like soil and water conservation measures, fencing and protection of the plants, spreading mass awareness and creating motivation for successful plantation/afforestation are the activities to be considered for the award.

These activities should have been carried out continuously over a period of 3 years including the year of the award (Financial Year) by any nominee or applicant, and the work of all these 3 years and the results achieved will be evaluated separately for each nominee in the process of selection. The evaluation will be made on the following basis :—

(a) Evaluation criteria for Educational Institution (20 marks for each criterion)

1. Extent of area planted and specieswise number of seedlings planted (minimum 100 seedlings per year).
2. Survival rate of seedlings planted each year.
3. Health of seedlings planted (Height, Girth, Growth) to be evaluated.
4. Interest taken by teachers and students for watering and protecting seedlings.
5. Level of consciousness among teachers and students regarding importance of tree planting.

(b) Evaluation criteria for Gram Panchayat (20 marks for each criterion)

1. Number of active VSS/FPC/VFPC existing in the Gram Panchayat.
2. Total area of Plantations/Afforestations within last three years by the Gram Panchayat.
3. The level of interest shown by the Gram Panchayat in term of financial investment and also creating awareness among the people for plantation activities.

4. Number of seedlings planted (specieswise) during that last three years and survival percentage of plants, growth, conditions of these plants.
5. Interest taken by Gram Panchayat for augmentation of NTFP and medicinal plant recourse.

(v) **a. Nomination/Application (For Institutions)**

Nominations can be made in respect of a School/College/Educational Institution by the Headmaster or the Principal of the School/College or by the Head of the Institution directly to the Range Officer concerned having jurisdiction. The Range Officer will evaluate based on the criteria prescribed and submit the evaluation sheets to the D.F.O. concerned by 31st October evaluating the Institution's work in relation to tree plantation over a period of at least 3 years ending the 30th September of the year of nomination.

b. Nomination/Application (For Gram Panchayat)

In case of Gram Panchayats, nomination may be made by the Sarpanch/Executive Officer of the Gram Panchayat directly to the Range Officer concerned having jurisdiction. The Range Officer will evaluate based on the criteria prescribed and submit the evaluation sheets to the D.F.O. concerned by 31st October evaluating the Gram Panchayats work in relation to tree plantation over a period of at least 3 years ending the 30th September of the year of nomination.

Registered Non-Government Organizations or Voluntary Organisations may facilitate filing nominations in respect of Gram Panchayats.

(vi) **Selection Procedure**

- a. Applications/nominations in the prescribed form in case of both Institutions and Gram Panchayats of all subdivisions will be received by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer (Territorial) by 31st October.
- b. The verification/scrutiny and selection of the best Gram Panchayat/Educational Institutions in the subdivision within the jurisdiction of the Division will be carried out by the Divisional Forest Officer concerned on the basis of objective and uniform criteria for evaluation of the plantation/afforestation work. On the basis of such evaluation, Subdivisionwise names of the top two candidates from each category along with evaluation records will be sent by the D.F.O. to the RCCF concerned by 30th November.
- c. A Committee under the Chairmanship of the RCCF and members comprising of the D.F.O. concerned and the representative of the District Collector will decide the Subdivisionwise award winners by the end of 31st January. The decision of the RCCF will be final.

2. Awards given on World Environment Day (5th June)

(A) Prakruti Mitra Award

- (i) "Prakruti Mitra Award" has been instituted by Forest & Environment Department of Government of Odisha, which carries a cash award of Rs. 10,000 (Rupees ten thousand) along with a citation. The basic objectives are :—
- a. To encourage the villagers to have more sense of cleanliness and to develop more greenery.
 - b. To encourage the voluntary organizations to work towards development of a sustained environment.
 - c. To create mass awareness for conservation of forest, wildlife and other natural resources and to have co-operation of people for developing a sustainable environment and to help creating more sustainable and habitable environment in the State as a whole.

(ii) Eligibility

Any village, educational institution or registered organizations in each block having contributed substantially in the field of conservation of nature and environment as well as in creating awareness in this regard will be eligible for this award. District Environment Society can select any suitable Village/Voluntary Organization/Educational Institution for the award. The awardees as would be selected by District Environment Society shall be awarded in a special State level function held on Worlds Environment Day (5th June). Any authorized person of the Village/Educational Institution/Voluntary Organization selected by the District Environment Society shall receive the award on their behalf. The cash award shall be given in shape of Bank Draft. The Organizations receiving the award can spend this cash award in the field of development and conservation of environment.

(iii) Essential qualifications for the award

Following aspects will be taken into consideration for this award :—

- a. Overall cleanliness and sanitation in the village/area
- b. Recycling of garbage/other waste materials
- c. Afforestation and its maintenance
- d. Development of parks and garden
- e. Maintenance of plantation raised close to village deities and forests protected by the village.

- f. Actions related to conservation of birds and other wild animals
- g. Actions related to qualitative development of water and air
- h. Actions related to sustainable use of fuel wood and other sources of energy
- i. Actions related to utilization of renewable sources of energy
- j. Actions related to adaptation to climate change and minimizing its input
- k. Improvement of environment or habitat
- l. Control of diseases
- m. Population control
- n. Popularizing the just and proper technology
- o. Constitution of club/committee for conservation of nature and environment
- p. Development mass awareness on the subject through organizing programmes like seminar, workshop, discussion, cultural programme, film show, debate, essay competition speeches, etc.
- q. To get people's co-operation in programmes relating to environment and other remarkable contribution made in environmental conservation.

(iv) **Selection Process**

- (a) The authorities of local departments like Forest, Soil Conservation, Health, Agriculture, BDO or officials of District Rural Development Agency can send their nomination for 'Prakruti Mitra' Award to the concerned District Collector.
- (b) District Environment Society shall select the most suitable village/organization for the award. A jury shall be constituted under the Chairmanship of the District Collector. The Secretary of the District Environment Society shall be the Convener of the Jury and district level officers of Forest, Wildlife, Soil Conservation, Health, Sericulture, Horticulture Department shall be its Members. Besides the official members, members of two Voluntary Organizations of the district to be nominated by the Collector, working in the field of environmental conservation other than the organizations nominated for the award shall also represent the Jury.
- (c) The District Environment Society shall finalise their process of selection by January and send their recommendation to Forest & Environment Department by 10th February along with the details of name of awardees, their address and their activities on conservation of nature.
- (d) No village/organization being awarded once shall be nominated again within the next five years.

- (e) The decision of Government shall be final and binding in the matter of elaboration/ interpretation of guidelines and presentation of award.

(v) **Nomination form for Prakruti Mitra Award**

1. Name of the nominated village/organization and full postal address :
2. Name and telephone number of contact person :
3. Name of block from which nomination is being made :
4. Brief description of village/organization :
5. Brief information on any other award conferred earlier on the village/organization
6. Description about the reasons as to why the village/organization has been nominated, along with the remarkable work done by it for protection and conservation of environment (in 250 words) :
7. Name/designation/signature of the official nominating the village/organisation for the award :

N. B.—Press clippings/photographs relating to activities of village/organization in the field of environmental conservation should be attached to the nomination form.

(B) **Prakruti Bandhu Award**

- (i) “Prakruti Bandhu Award” has been instituted by the Forest & Environment Department of Government of Odisha, which carries a cash award of Rs. 5,000 (Rupees five thousand) only along with a citation. The basic objectives are :
 - (a) To recognize the remarkable contribution of individuals in the field of environmental conservation and creating environmental awareness ;
 - (b) To encourage their individual efforts in the field
 - (c) To inspire others to follow their footprints

(ii) **Eligibility**

One person of each Block having contributed immensely in the field of conservation of nature and environment as well as in creating awareness in this regard will be eligible for this award. The District Environment Society shall select persons for the award, which shall be given in a special function held at District level on World Environment Day. The cash award shall be given in shape of Bank Draft.

(iii) **Essential qualifications for the Award**

Following aspects will be considered for conferring the award on any individual :—

- (a) Plantation activities undertaken on his/her own
- (b) Encouraging others to take up plantation activities

- (c) Protection of natural forests and regeneration of degraded forests
 - (d) Activities relating to protection of birds and other wildlife
 - (e) Use of renewable sources of energy and its popularization as well as austerity in utilizing conventional sources of energy.
 - (f) Activities relating to water and soil conservation
 - (g) Undertaking awareness generation programme for population control
 - (h) Popularising the advancement of just and proper technology
 - (i) Preservation of ancient monuments
 - (j) Creating awareness among masses through organizing seminars, workshops, discussion, cultural programmes, debate, recitation, music, publication, slide poster, etc.
 - (k) Conservation of rare flora and fauna
 - (l) Habitat development of men and animals
 - (m) Organising activities for adaptation to climate change and minimizing its impact
 - (n) Inventing technologies for converting garbage and other wastes into productive means and its application.
 - (o) Minimizing the extent of pollutants created from different sources and to develop suitable alternative in its place.
 - (p) Instituting and popularizing eco-friendly technology (for example producing crops without using chemicals).
 - (q) Conservation and creation of pasture land
 - (r) Organising clubs/institutions related to nature and environment
 - (s) Popularising hobbies, sports, etc. relating to environmental conservation
 - (t) Any other activities meant for development and protection of nature and environment that has not been mentioned above. A person irrespective of gender, whether undertaken activities in all/some of the above, shall be eligible for the award.
- (iv) **Selection process**
- (a) Authorities of local Departments like Forest, Soil Conservation, Health, Agriculture, B.D.O. and officials of District Rural Development Agency can recommend their nominations for the award to the concerned District Collector.
 - (b) District Environment Society shall adjudicate the best of the nominations from each Block for “Prakruti Bandhu” Award. For this, a Jury shall be constituted

under the Chairmanship of the Collector. The Secretary of District Environment Society shall be Convener of the Jury, whereas, the District Level Officers working in Forest, Wildlife, Soil Conservation, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture Departments shall be its members. Besides, the official members, two non-Government organizations of district to be nominated by the Collector, working in the field of environment conservation, shall be the members of the Jury.

- (c) An awardee of the “Prakruti Bandhu Award” shall not be nominated again for the next five years.
- (d) The decision of the District Environment Society in the matter of this Award shall be considered as final and binding.
- (e) A person nominated for the Award must not have been convicted in any criminal offence.
- (f) The District Environment Society shall finalize the process of selecting the nominated individuals for the Award by January and recommended the same to Forest & Environment Department by 10th February.

(v) Nomination form for Prakruti Bandhu Award

1. Name of the nominated person and full postal address (including Telephone No.) :
2. Name of Block from which she/he is being nominated :
3. Brief bio-data of nominated persons :
4. Present occupation of nominated persons :
5. Brief description of other awards/recognition conferred earlier :
6. Information of remarkable work done by the nominated person in the field of protection and conservation of environment (in 250 words) :
7. Name/designation/signature of the official nominating the persons for the Award with complete address :

N. B.—Press publications/photographs of the nominated persons recognizing his/her efforts for protection/conservation of environment may be attached to nomination form.

Awards given during Vanamahotsava Week (July)

(A) Biju Patnaik Award for Forest Protection and Conservation

- (i) With a view to encourage the Joint Forest Management Committees in matters of forest protection and conservation, the State Government have instituted “Biju Patnaik Award for Forest Protection and Conservation”. This award will be given at the State and subdivision level every year during the celebration of Vanamahotsava Week in the first week of July.

(ii) Eligibility

Each year the Vana Surakshya Samiti (V.S.S.) adjudged to be the best in every subdivision and the Vana Surakshya Samiti (V.S.S.) adjudged to be the best at the State Level will be eligible for the award. Eco Development Committees (E.D.C.) will also be eligible to be considered for these Awards on the basis of their performance and V.S.S. will also mean and include E.D.C. for the purpose of these awards.

(iii) Award

The State level award shall consist of a certificate with cash award of Rs. 2,00,000 (Rupees two lakhs) and the subdivision level award shall consist of a certificate with cash award of Rs. 20,000 (Rupees twenty thousand) to be given during the said celebration.

(iv) Selection Criteria

The performance of the V.S.S. will be rated on the following ten critical indicators :

- (a) Extent of forest area under effective control, protection and management of the V.S.S.
- (b) Regularity and frequency of holding meetings of the General Body and Executive Committee of the V.S.S., proper attendance in these meetings, deliberation of vital issues, and record keeping.

Parameters :

- (i) if during the previous 3 years, the Executive Committee meetings have been held once a month ;
- (ii) the General Body Meetings have been held once in three months ;
- (iii) in each case proper records have been kept of all the deliberations made ;
- (iv) and if 50 per cent attendance has been there in most of these meetings. Rating is to be done in the scale 1 to 10.

- (c) Improved status of forest protection

Parameters :

- (i) if number of instances of unauthorized cutting of trees is significantly declining from year to year over the past 3 years ;
- (ii) if each case of unauthorized felling of trees, removal of timber or other forest produce, killing of wild animal in the forest area protected is taken seriously by the V.S.S. and ;
- (iii) if the culprit is reprimanded, penalized or taken to task and necessary information in the matter is regularly furnished to the local forest officer for taking action as per law. Rating is to be done in the scale 1 to 10.

- (d) Quality of control, exercised by the V.S.S., on day-to-day management of the forest.

Parameters :

- (i) whether V.S.S. is operating as a self reliant and effective body in organizing protection of the forest, in carrying out activities related to regeneration of the forest and afforestation measures ;
- (ii) whether firewood, N.T.F.P., etc. gathered from the forest are being equitably distributed among the members ;
- (iii) whether outside elements putting destructive pressure on the forest are being thwarted ;
- (iv) whether there is cohesion among the V.S.S. members in implementing the objectives ;
- (v) whether the V.S.S. is working in a spirit of equal partnership with the local forest officials. The concerned forest official has to form his own impression on these aspects in deciding the rating of the society in a scale 1 to 10.

- (e) Resolution of conflicts

Parameters :

- (i) if the V.S.S. members have resolved all conflicts among them within their hamlet/village ; and
- (ii) have also been able to resolve conflicts with people of other villages in the matter of usage of the forest area ;
- (iii) and are enjoying security of tenure over the forest area in question. Rating is to be done in the scale of 1 to 10.

- (f) Sustainable collection of N.T.F.P.

Parameters :

- (i) if the quantum of collection of various N.T.F.P. is rising from year to year ;
- (ii) if destructive practices of gathering and harvesting are by and large known to the members and are being shunned ;
- (iii) and if there are not too many instances of causing forest fire or causing damage to resource by destructive harvesting practices. Rating is to be done in the scale of 1 to 10.

- (g) Effective preservation and control of forest fire

Parameters :

- (i) if the persons indulging in setting fire to the forest have been identified by the V.S.S. members and have been dissuaded from carrying out the harmful practice ;

- (ii) if these members have been either compensated and incentivized or penalized ;
 - (iii) if all members of the V.S.S. as a body have been showing concern at incidence of forest fire and promptly coming forward to put down the fire in each instance. Rating is to be done in the scale of 1 to 10.
- (h) Reduction in day-to-day dependency on the produce of the forest

Parameters :

- (i) adoption of alternate means of livelihood, use of non-conventional energy sources ;and
 - (iii) putting more value on the forest for its environmental services rather than for its output of timber, firewood bamboo, etc. The local forest officer will form his own impression on progress in this aspect, and rate any progress on a scale 1 to 10.
- (i) Effectiveness in implementation of afforestation, soil moisture conservation measures and silvicultural operations.

Parameters :

The success achieved in implementation of these measures as seen through enhancement of regeneration and growth of stocking of standing vegetation in the forest may be graded on a scale 1 to 10.

- (j) Equity and gender equity

Parameters :

- (i) equitable sharing of power and equitable distribution of forest produce removed from the forest area among the households, Women folk, backward sections ; and
- (ii) tribal members freely ventilate their view points in all forums of the society and not feeling alienated from the decision making process. The local forest officer will grade the status of equity consideration status in this regard in a scale 1 to 10 based on their observations of the functioning of the V.S.S.

The D.F.O. concerned shall explain clearly the above procedure of evaluation to the A.C.Fs. and Range Officers and keep on record the evaluation sheet related to each V.S.S., every year.

(v) **Selection Process**

- (a) The Range Officers will carry out evaluation of each V.S.S. by awarding marks against each of the 10 indicators specified above. The complete Mark Sheet covering all V.S.S. of the Range containing marks awarded against each indicator shall be submitted to the D.F.O. by 30th April of the year.
- (b) The D.F.O. may make test checks at his level to authenticate these markings and will prepare the subdivisionwise list of V.S.Ss. evaluated in the above process.

- (c) The name of 3 top V.S.Ss. for each subdivision along with their performance report will be submitted by the D.F.O. to the Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (R.C.C.F.) concerned by the 15th May.
- (d) There will be a Selection Committee at the level of R.C.C.F. comprising the following members :
- | | | | |
|----|---|----|----------|
| 1. | R.C.C.F. | .. | Chairman |
| 2. | D.F.O. concerned | .. | Member |
| 3. | Representative of District Collector concerned. | .. | Member |
| 4. | Two leading N.G.Os. within the jurisdiction of the circle, who are involved in Forest Protection initiatives, to be nominated by the R.C.C.F. | .. | Member |
- (e) The above Selection Committee will assess the evaluation report submitted by the D.F.Os. and will select the best V.S.S. of every subdivision within the jurisdiction of the circle to get the award.
- (f) The Selection Committee at the level of R.C.C.F. will also identify and nominate a V.S.S. of the Circle and nominate the same to the P.C.C.F., Odisha by 31st May along with a descriptive note highlighting the achievements and performance of the V.S.S. so nominated.
- (g) The nominations received from all R.C.C.Fs. of 8 circles of the State will be scrutinized by a committee consisting of the following :
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|-----|---|----|------------------|
| (1) | P.C.C.F., Odisha | .. | Chairman |
| (2) | Principal C.C.F. (W.L.) & C.W.L.W., Odisha | .. | Member |
| (3) | Project Director, Odisha Forest Sector Development Project, Odisha. | .. | Member |
| (4) | C.C.F. (PPA) O/o. P.C.C.F.F., Odisha | .. | Member-Secretary |
- (h) The best V.S.S. of the State will be selected by the above State Level Committee and recommended to Government for approval by 10th June. The best V.S.S. of the State decided by the Government will be awarded with "Biju Patnaik Award for forest Protection & Conservation" at the State level function on "Vanmahotsava". The V.S.S. selected by the Regional Committee for different Subdivisions will be awarded during District level function on the occasion of "Vanmahotsava".

4. Awards given during the Wildlife Week (October)

Biju Patnaik Award for Wildlife Conservation

- (i) The State Government have taken several initiatives for the conservation of Wildlife in the State for the promotion of awareness of the issues involved and for nurturing supportive studies and research. In order to encourage vital contribution in this regard,

the 'Biju Patnaik Award for Wildlife Conservation' will be given every year both at State Level and Subdivisional Level during the celebration of Wildlife Week.

(ii) **Award**

The State level award of "Biju Patnaik Award for Wildlife Conservation" shall consist of a certificate with cash award of Rs. 2,00,000 to be given at a State level function and the subdivision level award of Biju patnaik Award for Wildlife Conservation shall consist of a certificate with cash award of Rs. 5,000 to be given in each subdivision at a District level function to mark the observance of Wildlife Week. No Award, however, will be declared if in any year, eligible candidates/institutions are not available.

(iii) **Eligibility**

Any individual or an institution operating in the State of Odisha and engaged in Wildlife and biodiversity conservation, research and education is eligible for the award. In order to come under the purview of consideration for the award, an individual/institution should have created an appreciable and measurable impact in any of the following areas :

- (a) Wildlife management and conservation including control of poaching, wildlife animal depredation and extension.
- (b) Biodiversity conservation
- (c) Eco development planning and implementation
- (d) Captive breeding as part of zoo management

State Level

- | | | |
|--|----|----------|
| 1. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Odisha. | .. | Chairman |
| 2. Chief Wildlife Warden, Odisha | .. | Convener |
| 3. To eminent persons/NGOs in the field of Wildlife Conservation, to be nominated by the State Government. | .. | Member |

Subdivisional Level

- | | | |
|--|----|----------|
| 1. R.C.C.F. | .. | Chairman |
| 2. D.F.O. (Territorial/Wildlife) | .. | Member |
| 3. District Collector or his representative. | .. | Member |
| 4. Two eminent persons/NGOs in the field of Wildlife conservation to be nominated by P.C.C.F. (WL) | .. | Member |
| 5. D.F.O. (Territorial/Wildlife in charge of Hqrs.) | .. | Convener |

- (v) The final decision on the nomination for subdivision level will be taken by the Committee under the Chairmanship of R.C.C.F. The recipient of the State level award will be decided by the State Government on the recommendation of the Committee under the Chairmanship of PCCF (Wildlife), Odisha.

5. If suitable candidates/institutions are not available in any category, no Award may be declared for the specified category for the respective year. All cash awards will be given in the form of Bank Draft.

6. This resolution will come into force from the financial year 2013-2014 or such other date as the Government may decide, and will be in supercession of resolutions/instructions issued earlier in this behalf.

By order of the Governor

R. K. SHARMA

Principal Secretary to Government