**Board of Revenue for Rajasthan**

**REVENUE ADMINISTRATION IN BUNDI**

*Address by V.Srinivas IAS, Chairman Board of Revenue at the Revenue Officers Meeting, Conference Hall, Collector’s Office, Bundi, Dated February 9, 2018*

**District Collector Bundi,Revenue Appellate Authority Bundi,All Additional District Collectors, All Sub-Divisional Officers,All Tehsildars and All Naib-Tehsildars**

Bundi is an extremely important District for the Board of Revenue in that a large number of 2nd appeals are being filed against decisions of Trial Courts of Bundi district in the Board of Revenue. The reasons for many of these 2nd appeals, are the decisions in revenue suits in the 2017 revenue campaign by SDO’s of Bundi district without due adherence to provisions of the Civil Procedure Code. Several cases listed for written statements were preponed by Trial Courts and scheduled for hearings in the Revenue Campaign in the absence of framing of issues, evidence and summary judgments. I must impress upon the SDO’s of Bundi district that in the guidelines issued by the Department of Revenue Revenue suits are not included in the list of cases to be taken up in the Revenue Campaign. Critical revenue litigation involving declaration of Khatedari rights cannot be taken up in a summary manner. There are a number of rulings of the Hon’ble Supreme Court on the nature of cases that can be disposed in Lok Adalats and contested cases cannot be decided in Lok Adalats. My advise to the SDO’s of Bundi district is to ensure compliance of all judicial processes in declaration of khatedari rights – the suit must be heard in a court room alone and must go through the various stages of written statement, framing of issues, evidence, arguments, preliminary decree and then final decree.

An important issue for the SDO Courts is predictability and consistency of court sittings. While the Board of Revenue sits in continuum, as also the Revenue Appellate Authorities, there are concerns being expressed at the lack of predictability and consistency in court sittings at the Trial Court stage. SDO Courts must mandatorily sit for 3 days in a week – Monday to Wednesday from 1030 am to 1.30 pm. They must ensure that if a cause list is issued, the Court must function. Further the cause list must contain about 100 court hearings/ sitting – a broad break-up could be 20 cases in arguments, 20 cases in miscellaneous applications for Legal Respondents, 10 cases in evidence, 10 cases for framing issues, 10 cases in preliminary decrees, 10 cases of temporary injunction applications and 10 cases for final decrees. The cases must move forward if there is a Court sitting. It is also important to ensure that evidence is administered in all cases where the witnesses have attended Court. Preliminary decrees must clearly indicate the rights of individual khatedar tenants. Partition by meats and bounds based on the preliminary decree is to be done by the Tehsildar as per the Rajasthan Tenancy (Board of Revenue) Rules. The final decrees must be pronounced only after due compliance of preliminary decrees. SDO’s must be proficient with the Hindu succession law and the Transfer of Property Act to ensure proper interpretation of issues. The SDO courts must ensure that judgments are duly uploaded on the RCMS portal so that they are part of the Rajasthan Revenue Courts Grid.

SDO’s are further advised to focus on inspections and during inspections must examine the quality of land records being written and the mutations being sanctioned. They should play an enabling role in expediting revenue recoveries in the next 2 months.

The Tehsil Courts are the first tier courts in the hierarchy of revenue courts, the Tehsil offices also represent the repository of Land Records of the Tehsil. I do notice that there have been delays in writing Khatauni Jamabandis for the vikram samvat 2074 in Bundi district. Tehsildars may follow-up with the Patwaris and ILR’s to ensure that all Khatauni Jamabandis for vikram samvat 2074 are duly completed in February 2018. Further Bundi district has 9564 cases of Gair Khatedar tenants in the Chambal command where tenancy rights are yet to be given. These long-standing cases may be carefully processed and due revenue recoveries should be made if all the other provisions are satisfied for grant of khatedari rights. Tehsildars may initiate proceedings u/r 14 (4) of the Rajasthan Land Revenue (Allotment of Lands for Agricultural Purposes) Rules if conditions of allotment are not fully satisfied. In the next 2 months, intense focus must be given to timely revenue recoveries which current stand at 50 percent of prescribed targets. On mutations, it needs to be reiterated that partition of land holdings on succession must be strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Hindu Succession Law and Transfer of Property Act.

The Courts of Additional District Collectors and District Collector may expedite decisions on the pending reference cases in pursuance of the Hon’ble High Court judgment in Abdul Rehman vs State of Rajasthan. The Larger Bench of the Board of Revenue has held in the Ali Sher vs State of Rajasthan case that the judgment of the Rajasthan High Court in Abdul Rehman vs State of Rajasthan is binding on Revenue Courts. This judgment has been circulated by the Department of Revenue to all District Collectors for compliance. The District also has one of very few posts of Additional District Collector (Ceiling) and due focus must be accorded to expedite pending ceiling cases.

The wok under the Digitization of Land Records Management Program in Bundi is progressing well. The successful implementation of the Program will enable Rajasthan to have a number of model Tehsils catering to the best interests of farmers in the coming months. There are a number of positives in the Revenue administration of Bundi district – a young team of field officers at SDO level is in place, the Collectorate has a dedicated team of senior officials, there is a large revenue bar of senior advocates to guide the Courts on quality disposal. I am sure all these strengths will be enabling features in providing high quality revenue administration.

I wish you all success in all your challenging endeavors.

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