

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
(Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Department)

NOTIFICATION

Bhubaneswar dated the 18-12-19

No. AGR-SCFE-FE-0003-2014 24154 /A&F.E, In exercise of the powers conferred by the proviso to article 309 of the Constitution of India and in supersession of the Regulations, Orders or Instruction; except as respects things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Governor of Odisha hereby makes the following rules to regulate the method of recruitment and conditions of service of the persons appointed to the Odisha Soil Conservation Services; namely:—

PART I
GENERAL

1. Short title and commencement.-(1) These rules may be called the "Odisha Soil Conservation Services (Methods of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2019".

(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the **Odisha Gazette.**

2. Definitions.- In these rules unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) "Commission" means the Odisha Public Service Commission;
- (b) "Committee" means the Departmental Promotion Committee / Selection Committee constituted under rule 16;
- (c) "Ex-servicemen" means persons as defined in the Odisha Ex-servicemen (recruitment to State Civil Services and Posts) Rules, 1985;
- (d) "Government" means the Government of Odisha;
- (e) "Persons with Disabilities" means persons who have been granted with disability certificates by competent authority as per the provisions of the persons with disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Right, and Full Participation) Odisha Rules, 2003;
- (f) "Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" means such Castes and Tribes as notified by the President of India from time to time under Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India respectively and amended from time to time;
- (g) "SEBC" means the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes of citizens as defined in clause (a) of Section 2 of the Odisha State Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.

- (h) "Select List" means the list of the candidates approved by the appointing authority containing the names of persons considered suitable in the order of merit for appointment;
- (i) "Service" means the Odisha Soil Conservation Services;
- (j) "Sports Persons" refers to a person who holds the identity card as sports person issued by the Director, Sports as per resolution No.24808/Gen. dated 18th November 1985 of G.A. Department and
- (k) "Year" means the Calendar Year.

(2) All other words and expressions used in these rules but not specifically defined shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the same meaning as respectively assigned to them in the Odisha Service Code.

3. Composition of Service.- The services shall consist of the posts included in the following grades namely:-

- (a) Senior Administrative Grade:
 - (i) Director of Soil Conservation (Technical);
- (b) Superior Grade:
 - (i) Joint Director of Soil Conservation Level-I;
- (c) Group-A (Senior Branch):
 - (i) Joint Director of Soil Conservation, Level-II;
 - (ii) Deputy Directors of Soil Conservation officiating as Project Director, Watersheds
 - (iii) Deputy Director of Soil Conservation, Headquarters / MIS;
 - (iv) Deputy Director, Coffee Development,
 - (v) Principal Soil Conservation Training Institute, Koraput;
- (d) Group-A (Junior Branch):
 - (i) Assistant Directors of Soil Conservation,
 - (ii) Assistant Directors of Soil Conservation officiating as Additional Project Director, Watersheds,
 - (iii) Assistant Directors, Coffee Development;
- (e) Group-B:
 - (i) Assistant Soil Conservation Officers,
 - (ii) Soil Conservation Overseers,

PART II
METHODS OF RECRUITMENT

4. Methods of Recruitment.- Subject to the other provisions made in these rules, the recruitment to different Grades in the service shall be made by the following methods, namely:-

(1) Appointment to the posts under Group-A (Junior Branch), Group-A (Senior Branch), Group-A (Superior Grade) and Senior Administrative Grade of service shall be made by way of promotion in accordance with the provisions of this rule.

(2) The posts of Assistant Soil Conservation Officer under Group-B of the service shall be filled up by the following methods, namely:-

(a) As nearly as but not more than 90% (ninety percent) of the posts by Direct Recruitment through the Commission;

(b) As nearly as may be but not less than 05% (Five percent) of the posts by promotion from among the departmental candidates, working under the administrative control of Directorate of Soil Conservation & Watershed Development who have completed B.Sc. in Agriculture or B.Sc. in Horticulture or Bachelor Degree in Agriculture Engineering or Bachelor in Science in Forestry on being sponsored by the Government, in accordance with this rule.

(c) Remaining 05% (five percent) posts by promotion from among the Soil Conservation Overseers in accordance with this rule.

(d) In case of non-availability of requisite number of departmental candidates under clause (b) above, such balance posts will be diverted and filled up as per clause (c) above in respective recruitment year only.

(3) Appointments to the posts of Soil Conservation Overseer shall be made by way of promotion as per the following methods, namely;

(a) As nearly as may be but not more than ninety-seven

(b) (97%) of the posts by way of promotion from among the existing Soil Conservation Extension Workers as per selection through Departmental Promotion Committee constituted under Rule-16.

(c) As nearly as may be but not less than three percent (03%) of the posts by promotion from among the existing Tracers as per selection through the Departmental Promotion Committee constituted under Rule-16.

5. Reservations.- Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules reservation of vacancies or posts, as the case may be, for-

(a) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Odisha Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services (for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Act, 1975 and the rules made there under: [or any other law or rule in force at the relevant time;] and

(b) SEBC, Women, Sportsperson, Ex-servicemen and Persons with Disabilities shall be made in accordance with the provisions made under such Act, rules, orders or instructions issued in this behalf by the Government from time to time.

Part-III
DIRECT RECRUITMENT

6. Eligibility Criteria for Direct Recruitment.- In order to be eligible for direct recruitment to the post of Assistant Soil Conservation Officer, a candidate must,—

(a) be a citizen of India;

(b) have attained the age of 21 years and must not be above the age of 32 years as on 1st day of January of the year of recruitment.

Provided that the upper age limit in respect of reserved categories of candidates referred in rule 5 shall be relaxed in accordance with the provisions of the Act, rules, orders or instructions, for the time being in force, for the respective categories;

(c) be able to read, write and speak

Odia; and have,-

(i) Passed Middle School examination with Odia as a Language subject; or

(ii) Passed Matriculation or equivalent examination with Odia as medium of examination in non-language subject; or

(iii) Passed in Odia as language subject in the final examination of Class-VII from a school or Educational Institution recognized by the Government of Odisha or the Central Government; or

(iv) Passed a test in Odia in Middle English School Standard conducted by the School and Mass Education Department of the Government of Odisha/ Board of Secondary Education, Odisha.

(d) have possessed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture or Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture or Bachelor Degree in Agriculture Engineering or Bachelor in Science in Forestry from any recognized University or Institutions.

(e) not have more than one spouse living, if married:

Provided that the State Government may, if satisfied that such marriage is permissible under the personal law applicable to such person or there are other grounds for doing so, exempt any person from the operation of this rule;

(f) be of good mental condition and bodily health and free from any physical defect likely to interfere with the discharge of his duties in the service. A candidate who after such medical examination as the Government may prescribe, if not found to satisfy these requirements shall not be appointed to the service.

Provided that this provision shall not be applicable in case of Persons with Disabilities.

7. Recruitment Procedure.- (1) When the Government decides to fill up the vacancies in the post of Assistant Soil Conservation Officer by direct recruitment, vacancies shall be communicated to the Commission indicating there in the number of posts belonging to different reserved categories as specified under rule-5.

(2) The Commission on receipt of the requisition shall in such manner as it thinks fit invite applications from eligible candidates for appearing in the Competitive Recruitment Examination (written & interview) indicating therein the date, time and place of examination.

(3) The standard, Syllabus and subjects of examination shall be as decided by the Commission in consultation with Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Department.

(4) The written test and interview will be made in the following manner:-

(i) The written test (MCQ) will be made for 200 marks i.e. 100 marks each in two papers to be formulated by the O.P.S.C.

(ii) Total marks for interview is 25.

8. Select List in case of Direct Recruitment.- (1) The Commission shall prepare a list of selected candidates arranged in order of merit equal to the number of vacancies advertised. The merit list received from the Commission shall be placed before the Government for approval and on such approval it shall form the Select List.

(2) The lists referred to under sub-rule (a) shall ordinarily be in force for a period of one year from the date of its approval by the Government or until another Select List is prepared afresh whichever is earlier.

(3) Every candidate included in the Select List shall be examined by the Medical Board and any candidate who fails to qualify the Medical Board shall not be eligible for appointment.

PART-IV **PROMOTION**

9. Eligibility Criteria for Promotion to the post of Soil Conservation Overseer under Group-B:- (1) No Soil Conservation Extension Worker shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Soil Conservation Overseer under Group-B of the Service under clause (a) of sub-rule (3) of rule-4, unless he/she has completed at least eight years of continuous service as such as on the 1st day of January of the year in which the Departmental Promotion Committee meets.

(2) No Tracer shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Soil Conservation Overseer under Group-B of the Service under clause (b) of sub-rule (3) of rule-4, unless he/she has completed at least eight years of continuous service as such as on the 1st day of January of the year in which the Departmental Promotion Committee meets.

10. Criteria for Promotion to the post of Assistant Soil Conservation Officer under Group-B.- (1) No departmental candidate holding B.Sc. Degree in Agriculture or Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture or Bachelor Degree in Agriculture Engineering or Bachelor in Science in Forestry shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Assistant Soil Conservation Officer under Group-B of the Service under clause (b) of sub-rule (2) of rule-4, unless he/she has completed at least seven years of continuous service as such as on the 1st day of January of the year in which the Departmental Promotion Committee meets.

(2) No Soil Conservation Overseer shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Assistant Soil Conservation Officer under Group-B of the Service under clause (c) of sub-rule (2) of rule-4, unless he/she has completed at least seven years of continuous service as such as on the 1st day of January of the year in which the Departmental Promotion Committee meets.

- 11. Criteria for Promotion to the posts of Assistant Director of Soil Conservation under Group-A (Junior Branch).-** No Assistant Soil Conservation Officer under Group-B of the Service shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Assistant Director of Soil Conservation under Group-A (Junior Branch) in the Service unless he/she has completed at least six years of continuous services in Group-B as such as on the 1st day of January of the year in which the Departmental Promotion Committee meets.
- 12. Criteria for Promotion to the posts of Deputy Director of Soil Conservation under Group-A (Senior Branch).-** No person holding the post of Assistant Director of Soil Conservation in Group-A (Junior Branch) of the service shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Deputy Director of Soil Conservation under Group-A (Senior Branch) of the service unless he/she has completed at least two years of continuous service as such as on the 1st day of January of the year in which the Departmental Promotion Committee meets.
- 13. Criteria for promotion to the post of Joint Director of Soil Conservation, Level-II and Joint Director of Soil Conservation, Level-I (Superior Grade).-** No person holding the post of Deputy Director of Soil Conservation under Group-A (Senior Branch) of the service shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Joint Director of Soil Conservation, Level-II unless he/she has completed at least one year of continuous service as such on the 1st day of January of the year in which the Departmental Promotion Committee meets.

(2) The person holding the post of Joint Director of Soil Conservation, Level-II shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Joint Director of Soil Conservation, Level-I on the basis of merit, eligibility and suitability with due regard to seniority as per the recommendation of the Departmental Promotion Committee.

14. Criteria for Promotion to the post of Director, Technical (Superior Grade).- The person holding the post of Joint Director of Soil Conservation, Level-I shall be eligible for promotion to the post of Director, Technical, Soil Conservation, under Group-A (Senior Administrative Grade) on the basis of merit, eligibility and suitability with due regard to seniority as per the recommendation of the Departmental Promotion Committee.

15. Constitution of Selection Committee/Board.- (1) There shall be a Departmental Promotion Committee for considering the cases of promotion to the posts of Soil Conservation Overseers, Group-B of the Service with the following members:-

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| (a) Director, Watershed Mission | Chairman |
| (b) Director, Technical, Soil Conservation & Watershed Development | Member |
| (c) Administrative Officer, Soil Conservation & Watershed Development | Member Convenor |

(2) There shall be a Committee for considering the cases for promotion to post of Assistant Soil Conservation Officers, Group-B of the service, Group-A (Junior Branch), Group-A (Senior Branch) and Joint Director Level-1 posts of Service with the following members namely:-

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| (a) Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department | Chairman |
| (b) Director, Watershed Mission | Member |
| (c) Additional Secretary/ Joint Secretary/Deputy Secretary in-charge of concerned field establishment | Member Convenor |

(3) There shall be constituted a Committee for considering the cases of promotion to the post of Director, Technical (Senior Administrative Grade) with the following members namely:-

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| (a) Chief Secretary | Chairman |
| (b) Secretary, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department | Member Convenor |
| (c) Director, Watershed Mission | Member |

(4) The recommendation of the Committee shall be valid and may be acted upon notwithstanding the absence of any of its members other than the Chairman:

Provided that the members so absent was duly invited to attend the meeting of the Committee and the majority of members constituting the Committee attended the meeting.

16. Procedure for Selection by the Committee:- (1) The Committee shall ordinarily meet at least once in a year preferably in the month of January to prepare a list of officers/employees, as are held by them, suitable for promotion to the next higher grade taking into account the existing vacancies and the anticipated vacancies of the year.

- (2) The Committee while considering the promotion cases of suitable officers and preparation of the list shall follow the provisions of-
 - (a) The Odisha Civil Services (Criteria for Promotion) Rules, 1992,
 - (b) The Odisha Civil Services (Zone of Consideration for Promotion) Rules, 1988,
 - (c) The Odisha Reservation of Vacancies in posts and services (for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Act, 1975 and rules made there under and
 - (d) The Odisha Civil Service (Criteria for Selection for Appointment including Promotion) Rules, 2003.

17. Consultation with the Commission: - (1) The recommendations of Committee under sub-rule (4) of rule-16 shall be referred to the Commission along with the service particulars in respect of all officers included in the list for its concurrence including those whose case have not been recommended, being found unsuitable.

(2) The Commission shall consider the list along with other documents and service records received from Government under sub-rule (1) above and shall furnish its recommendations to the Government.

18. Select List in case of Promotion:- (1) The recommendations of the Commission in respect of reference made to it under sub-rule (2) of rule 18 shall after being approved by Government form the Select List for appointment to respective grades of the service.

(2) The select list referred to under sub-rule (1) shall ordinarily remain in force for a period of one year from the date of its approval by the Government or until another Select List is prepared afresh, whichever is earlier.

PART-V
OTHER CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

19. Seniority.- (1) The inter-se seniority of officers appointed to the Assistant Soil Conservation Officer under Group-B of the Service, in a particular year, shall be in the following order:

- (a) Officers appointed to the Service by way of promotion under clause (b) of sub rule (2) of rule-4 shall rank inter-se in the order in which their names appear in the Select List.
- (b) Officers appointed to the service by way of promotion under clause (c) of sub-rule (2) of rule-4 shall rank inter-se in the order in which the names appear in the Select List.
- (c) Officers appointed to the service by direct recruitment under clause (a) of sub-rule (2) of rule-4 shall rank inter-se in the order in which their names appear in the merit list prepared by the Commission.
- (d) As between officers referred in clause (a) and (b) above, those referred to in clause (a) shall in the year of recruitment be en-block senior to the officers referred to in clause (b) and the officers referred to in clause (c) shall, in the year of recruitment, be en-block junior to the officers referred to in clause (a) and (b).

(2) The inter-se-seniority of officers appointed to the post of Soil Conservation Overseer of the service by way of promotion under clause (a) and (b) of sub-rule 3 of rule-4 of a particular year, shall be fixed on the basis of their date of entry into service as Soil Conservation Extension Worker/Tracer.

(3) The inter-se-seniority of officers in other grades/posts in the service shall be in the order in which their names appear in the Select List.

20. Probation and Confirmation:- (1) Every person appointed to any grade/post in the service by direct recruitment shall be on probation for a period of two years and when appointed by way of promotion shall be on probation for a period of one year from the date of joining in such grade/post:

Provided that the appointing authority may, if think fit in any case or class of cases, extend the period of probation;

Provided further that such period of probation shall not include, -

- (a) Extraordinary leave which will not count towards duty;
- (b) Period of unauthorized absence; and
- (c) Any other period held to be not being on actual duty.

(2) The appointment of a probationer may for good and sufficient reasons to be recorded in writing, be terminated by the Government at any time without previous notice during the period of probation including extension of such period, if any, and after such termination, the officer shall deem to be reverted to his/her former cadre/post, if he/she is a promotee.

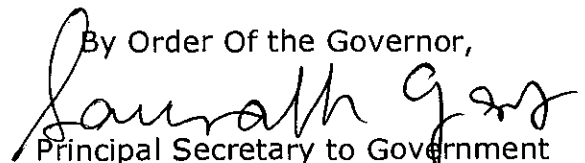
(3) A probationer after completing the period of probation to the satisfaction of the Government shall be eligible for confirmation subject to the availability of substantive vacancy in the service.

21. Other Conditions of Service: - The conditions of service in regard to matters not covered by this rule shall be the same as are or as may from time to time be prescribed by Government.

PART-VI
MISCELLANEOUS

22. Relaxation:- When it is considered by the Government that it is necessary or expedient so to do in the public interest, it may, by order and for reasons to be recorded in writing, relax any of the provisions of this rule in respect of any class or category of employees in consultation with the Commission.


23. Interpretation:- If any question arises relating to the interpretation of any provision of these rules, it shall be referred to the Government in Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment Department whose decision thereon shall be final.

By Order Of the Governor,

Principal Secretary to Government

17/1/24

Memo No. 24155 / A & F.E, Dated 18-12-19

Copy forwarded to the P.S to the Chief Minister, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/ P.S to the Minister, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/P.S to the Chief Secretary, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/P.S to the Agriculture Production Commissioner, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for kind information of the Hon'ble Chief Minister/Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment/Chief Secretary/Agriculture Production Commissioner.


17/12/2019

Under Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24156 / A & F.E, Dated 18-12-19

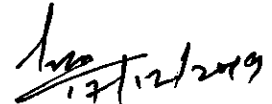
Copy forwarded to all Departments/All Heads of the Departments/A.G, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/Secretary, OPSC, Cuttack/Secretary to Governor for information and necessary action.


17/12/2019

Under Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24157 / A & F.E, Dated 18-12-19

Copy forwarded to the Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/Director of Horticulture, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/ Director of Soil Conservation & Watersheds Development, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/ Managing Director, OSSC Ltd/Managing Director, APICOL/Managing Director, OAIC/Managing Director, OSCDC/All DDSC-cum-PD, Watersheds/ADSC, Puri/ ADSC, Jagatsinghpur/ADSC, Bhadrak/ADSC, Kendrapara for information and necessary action.


17/12/2019

Under Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24158 / A & F.E, Dated 18-12-19

Copy forwarded to the Director, Printing Stationery and Publication, Odisha, Cuttack with a request to publish this Notification in an extra ordinary issue of Odisha Gazette. He is requested to send 50 copies of the Notification to the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment for needful.


12/12/2019

Under Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24159 / A & F.E, Dated 18-12-19

Copy forwarded to all RDCs/Collectors for information.


12/12/2019

Under Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24160 / A & F.E, Dated 18-12-19

Copy forwarded to the Head, State Portal Group, I.T Center, Odisha Secretariat for hoisting in the Government website-www.odishagov.in for information of general public.


Under Secretary to Government

Memo No. 24161 / A & F.E, Dated 18-12-19

Copy forwarded to the Computer Cell, Agriculture & F.E Department to up-load the same in the departmental website-www.agriodisha.nic.in


Under Secretary to Government