Forests and Allied Matters in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands: Report for the Supreme Court



Shekhar Singh

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION SET UP UNDER ORDERS OF THE SUPREME COURT ON THE STATUS OF FORESTS AND OTHER ALLIED MATTERS IN THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

VOL III

Petitions Submitted to the Commission during December 2001

Shekhar Singh January 2002

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A & N Islands Small Scale Wood Based Industries Association (SSI)

Regd. Office:-Garacharama PORT BLAIR Ph.No. 50254

A-5, Municipal Market
Delanipur, Port Blair
Ph.No. 89603/89528/43884

PRESENTATION BY SHRI SRI CHANDER, PRESIDENT, A & N ISLANDS SMALL SCALE WOOD BASED INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION BEFORE PROFESSOR SHEKHAR SINGH OF **PUBLIC** INSTITUTE **INDIAN** OF THE COMMISSIONER DELHI ADMINISTRATION. **NEW** APPOINTED TO ASSESS STATO OF FOREST IN A & N ON HIS VISIT TO THESE ISLANDS ON 16TH DECEMBER 2001 AT CIRCUIT HOUSE, PORT BLAIR, SOUTH ANDAMAN.

May it please your honour,

We the members of the A & N Islands Small Scale Wood Based Industries Association have the pride and pleasure in extending our most sincere and cordial welcome to the Commissioner Prof. Sekhar Singh appointed as per the direction of Hon'ble Supreme of India to assess the state of forest in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to one lush green Islands territory profusely honored with your august presence amongst us today.

Sir, we do believe, with your vast experience and technical expertise you shall assess and appraise the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to ameliorate the long outstanding problem of economically weaker section of Industries registered as SSI for over all development of the Islands and engaged in poverty alleviation programme.

Sir, we take this opportunity to place before you our grievances regarding conditions prevailing in these Islands and rol being played by us being owner of Small Scale Industries in all sphere for development of the Islands without disturbing the ecological balance on sustainable basic.

- Industries was setup in the late 60's and early 70's. The entrepreneur's specially local and unemployed youths were encouraged by the Andaman Administration to boost up their unit with an assurance of supply of timber on sustainable basic at reasonable prices. From time to time, these Industries were encouraged to extend their capacity to generate more and more employment/ revenue from wood based sector. In wood based sector around 50 % of population of these Islands were directly or indirectly involves in the large/ medium/ small/ tiny Industries. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration has been providing regular volume of timber at an affordable price to all the Industries.
- That Sir, The Industries under Small Scale Sector were Π) providing better economy in these Islands. The Administration was earning around 80% of total revenue from the Wood Sector Industries. A large number of local unemployed youth of these Islands are working or managing 35 units as per (ANNEXURE-A). The forest resources of these Islands are one of the most precious and abundant natural resources available in these Islands. Out of the total 8249 Sq.K.M about 7171 Sq.KM areas are under forest cover out of which about 2150 Sq.KM is being managed as production forestry area comprising about 30 % of the total forest area and rest 70 % is being set aside as protected area on account of various reserves keeping in view the ecosystem. The main forest resources are Timber, Can, Bamboos for the use in the Industries. Timber is basic raw materials for the Saw Mills/ Pencil Slat/ Match Splint/ Furniture Units. Most of the Pencil Slat/ Match Splint SSI Units are not functioning due to very higher cost of Soft Wood logs and thereby economically unviable.
- system of the Forest Department, which is as per the guideline of Govt. of India and approved working plan. Area harvested is being regenerated in scientific way there by original vegetation is being created even after harvesting. Harvesting of timber has declined to maintain ecological balance. This is evident from the fact that as against 1,30,000 cbm of harvest in the past since

last three years about 35,000 cbm of timber has been annually harvested and our forest are capable of producing this much timber on sustainable basic without disturbing ecosystem. The present requirement of Small Scale Units is well within the productivity capacity of our production forest area.

- That sir, the SSI Units are having very limited requirement of timber logs if made available to SSI Units per annum to meet the local need of these Islands. The forest department has fixed the Annal Quota for each SSI Units. They supply timber to every unit on payment of the cost fixed by the Administration for the timber logs, which is being extract, by the forest department from the area as per the approved working plan.
- That sir, the SSI Units are playing a very vital roll in these Islands by providing sawn timber for the construction of house especially by the weaker section of these Islands, timber is being used in construction of RCC building. These Islands falls in the seismic zone 6 where construction of RCC building is not at all advisable as per the experts. More than 80 % of total population of these Islands are staying in the rural area and they prefer to construct wooden building. If sawn timber is not produce by the SSI units, than the general public particularly rural population and population below poverty line will have no means to construct their houses.
- That sir, the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given direction VI) Administration forthwith to stop Andaman Conversion/Utilization of timber from the naturally grown trees. The Forest Department vide letter dated 27/11/2001 (ANNEXURE-B) has stop the conversion of logs which is laying in the factory premises of our members and made the workers to sit idle. On the other hand if the SSI Units are not allowed to convert/Utilize the stock of timber logs laying in their units it will get deteriorate and will not have any value in the market thereby SSI Unit which are already sick unit will be put in financial hardship besides thousands of people will by thrown out of employment.
- VII) That sir, as a matter of fact all living things have definite life span and the same is applicable to forest about the growing

stock put annual increment and for harvesting this is taken in to account to keep the capital stock intact only matured timber is extracted. However if matured trees are not harvested, with pace of time it will have its natural death thereby it will result in permanent loss to Nation besides such over mature and dead trees will create unhygienic condition for the forest. Keeping scientific line in view harvest of timber required by our SSI unit for its survival and for development of our Islands will be at scientific line and at the same time removal of timber to such extent from forest will not have any effect on ecological balance of the Islands.

VIII) That sir, if the order of Hon"ble Supreme Court remain in force stopping the Conversion/ Utilization of already felled and logged timber during the year 1999-2000 which were purchased by SSI unit it result in complete deterioration and it will be a big National loss in crors.

In view of above position we pray that :-

- (A) All the SSI units may kindly be allowed to convert the logs available in their unit and in transits.
- (B) No export of logs should be allowed from the Islands.
- (C) The SSI Units should be encouraged to make the maximum use of timber by treatment, by adding the value addition products for which financial help/technology may be provided.
- (D) To meet, the local demand of timber the forest department may be allowed to extract logs as per the approved working plan prescription and continue to supply the same to SSI unit as in the past for their survival.
- (F) All the Small Scale is having huge financial liabilities from Banks/ Private financer. In case, the

Administration gives direction to close the SSI Units. They should be paid suitable compensation for their investment.

We do hope and pray sir, that you will kindly consider our request as afore mentioned and convince the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to consider our grievances for our survival and for betterment of the Islands.

Once again we thank you sir for your visit and giving us a chance to place before you our grievances.

Yours faithfully,

For A & N Islands Small Scale Wood Based Industries Association

Enclosed: As per above.

Of President

Copy to :-

- 1) The Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Raj Nivash, Port Blair with the request to kindly use his good office for considering of our grievances.
- 2) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Van Sadan, Port Blair with the request to kindly apprise the matter to the Commission appointed for the purpose.
- 3) The President, Andaman & Nicobar Chamber of Commerce, Port Blair with the request to kindly take up the matter before the Commission.
- 4) The Secretary (Industries) A & N Islands Administration, Port Blair with the request to kindly take up the matter before commission.
- 5) The Hon,ble Member of Parliament, MP House, Port Blair with the request to kindly look in to the matter.

President

LIST OF SMALL SCALT INDUSTRIES AND THEIR ACTIVITIES

1)	M/s Vanapana Pencil Wood Industry Garacharama, South Andaman	Pencil Slat/ Sawn Timber/ Match Frame Works
2)	M/s Bamamurgan Pencil Industry Sippighat, South Andaman	Pencil Slat
3)	M/s Andaman Cottage Pencil Industry Prothrapur, South Andaman	Pencil Slat
4)	M/s M.S.Pencil Slat Industry Sippighat, South Andaman	Pencil Slat
5)	M/s Bharat Splint Manufacturing Industry Manpur, South Andaman	Pencil Slat/ Sawn Timber
6)	M/s Andaman Cottage Match Industry Garacharama, South Andaman	Pencil Slat
7)	M/s Arasan Cottage Match Industry Bhatubasti, South Andaman	Match Splint/ Sawn Timber
8)	M/s Andaman Wood Products, Junglighat, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
9)	M/s Sea Island Saw Mill, Ograbranj, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
10)	M/s Raj Kumari Saw Mill, Jungligat, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
11)	M's Kamakshi Furniture Saw Mill, Sippighat, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
12)	M's M.S.Timber Industry Sippighat, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
13)	M./s Teja Engineering Products Dundes Point, South Andaman	Wooden Boat/ Wooden Furnitures

14)	M/s Mukesh Lall Saw Mill, Dhinikhari, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
15)	M/s Dori Lall Saw Mill,• Junglighat, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
16)	M/s Dori Lall Saw Mill, Prothrapur, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
17)	M/s Raj Shipping Timber Industry Dundespoint, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
18)	M/s Silverjublee Saw Mill, Kadakachang, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
19)	M/s Island Wood Products, Hevelock, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
20)	M/s Vinay Lall Saw Mill, Astinabad, South Andaman	Sawn Timber
21)	M/s Wood Link Products, Mayabunder, North Andaman	Pencil Slat
22)	M/s United Match Timber Camical, Mayabunder, North Andaman	Match Splint/ Sawn Timber/ Veneer/Pencil Slat
23)	M/s Mayabunder Saw Mill, Mayabunder, North Andaman	Sawn Timber
24)	M/s Durga Saw Mill, Diglipur, North Andaman	Sawn Timber
25)	M/s Bepari Wood Industries, Diglipur, North Andaman	Sawr Timber
26)	M/s Samarias Trading Company, Aerialbay, North Andaman	Sawn Timber
27)	M/s Andaman Wood Link Products, Mayabunder, North Andaman	Sawn Timber
28)	M/s Green Island Timber Industries Rangat, Middle Andaman	Sawn Timber

29)	M/s Rehabilitation Multipurpose Co- Operative Society Ltd., Rangat, Middle Andaman	Sawn Timber
30)	M/s Island Industry, Hutbay, Little Andaman	Sawn Timber
31)	M/s Asia Timber Product, Hutbay, Little Andaman	Match Splint/ Pencil Slats/ Veeneer/ Sawn Timber
32)	M/s Elephant Saw Mill, Campbell bay, Great Nicober	Sawn Timber
33)	M/s Ram Saran Saw Mill, Cambell Bay, Great Andaman	Sawn Timber
34)	M/s Chuk Chuki Saw Mill. Gar Nicobar	Sawn Timber
35)	M/s Kanuse Saw Mill, Car Nicobar	Sawn Timber

For A & N Islands Small Scale Wood Based Wood Based Industries Association

President

Son Birnal Das Ph No-33249 R.

HO. 4-84 Tim 12001 Juhn Kirker!

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOUTH ANDAMAN DIVISION

Wimberlyguni, dated the 27th November, 2001

Circular

Subject: Compliance of Hon'ble Supreme Court Judgement dated 23.11.2001 in IA 502-Regarding

The Hon'ble Supreme Court has now ordered vide Judgement dated 23.11.2001 in IA 502 that no naturally grown trees will be cut by any one and no saw mill, veneer or plywood factory shall utilize any naturally grown trees with out further orders from Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Therefore, you are directed to stop forthwith the conversion/utilization of timber from naturally grown trees in the industry and ensure compliance

Mr Kosyonamy Capped

Divisional Forest Officer South Andaman Division

34 ---

TO

- 1. M/S Silver Jubilee Mulitpurpose Saw Mill, Kadakachang
- 2. M/S Sea Island Saw Mill, Ograbraj
- M/S Mukesh Lal Saw Mill, Dhanikhari 3.
- 4. M/S M.S. Timber Industries, Sippighat
- 5. M/S Pencil Slat Industries, Sippighat
- 6. M/S Andaman Cottage Match Industries, Garacharma
- 7. M/S Arasan Cottage Match Industries, Garacharma
- M/S Vana Pana Pencil Wood Industries, Garacharma 8.
- 9. M/S Balamurugan Pencil Wood Industries, Teylarabad
- M/S Kamaksi Furniture Saw Mill, Teylarabad 10.
- M/S Andaman Cottage Pencil Wood Industries, Protharapur 11.
- 12. M/S Dorilal Saw Mill, Protharapur
- M/S Dorilal Saw Mill, Junglighat 13.
- 14. M/S Andaman Wood Products, Junglighat
- 15. M/S Raj Kumari Saw Mill, Junglighat
- 16. M/S Vinay Lal Saw Mill, Austinabad
- 17. M/S Teja Engineering Products Private Limited, Namunagar
- M/S BSMI(Pencil Siat) Industries. Manpur 18.
- M/S BSMI (Saw Mill) Industries, Manpur 19.
- MIS ATI OSPRA 20.

A & N Islands Small Scale Wood Based Industries Association (SSI)

Regd.Office:-

Office :-

Garacharma PORT BLAIR

A-5 Muncipal Market Delanipur, Port Blair

Ph. No-50254

Ph.No. 89603/89528/43884

BEFORE PROFESSOR SHRI SHEKHAR SINGH OF THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, NEW DELHI, COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE GOI, MIN OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS TO GIVE REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE FORESTS AND OTHER ALLIED MATTERS AS DIRECTED BY THE HONOURABLE SUPREME COURT, ON HIS VISIT TO THESE ISLANDS FROM 16TH DECEMBER 2001.

May it please your honour

We are very grateful to your honour for giving a patient hearing of the grievances of the members of A & N Islands Small Scale Wood Based Industries Association at the Circuit House on 16-12-2001.

During the course of our discussion, your goodself wanted to know the difference between the mainland states and these islands with regard to protection of our forest wealth, vis-a-vis illegal extraction and consumption of timber by unauthorized persons. Although our members had explained the position / procedure prevailing in these islands, we still feel it better to elucidate it further so that there is no scope for any misunderstanding on the issue.

In the mainland States, harvesting of timber is done by the private contractors on the basis of coupe system, the timber harvested from the forests could be removed within one or two days to disposal points by road transport in the same state or other states adjacent to it due to fast communication system. This system is inherent in malpractices/illegal felling or utilization of forests wealth because of the following factors.

- 1. Here, harvesting of timber is done as per the prescription of the working plans approved by Govt. of India. Such harvesting is done only by the Forest Department or Forest Corporation and no private persons are allowed to enter the forests for harvesting purpose.
- 2. Programme of harvesting by above Govt. Agencies are predetermined and Extraction coupes for every year are identified and boundary of such coupes delineated/cut. These coupes are properly enumerated giving details of Tree Nos. Species, Volume etc. which are recorded in the Enumeration /Felling Control Registers. Logs Stock in the forest Depot, Road Depot, Ghat Depot, Export Depot etc, are duly accounted for properly by the Government officials then and there. These stock registers are tallied with disposal registers which again is tallied with the original Felling Control/Enumeration Registers.
- 3. Timber Logs are allotted to timber based industries annually, by a committee constituted by the administration, Chief Secretary used to be the Chairman and the PCCF, MD of Forest Corporation etc, the members. Quantity allotted to each unit is decided on the basis of the various factors including their performance in the previous year. The annual quantity allotted to each unit is distributed to various Forest Division/Forest Corporation . Value/Price of such timbers are also fixed on annual basis by a different committee in which also the CS is the chairman and PCCF etc. members. The timbers allotted to each wood based unit is taken delivery of by tnem in installments according to their financial capacity. Generally value of the Timber plus Income Tax is deposited in the State Bank of India in advance and chalan produced to Forests Department / Forest Corporation, on receipt of which only delivery orders is issued by the D.F.O. forest corporation on receipt of Delivery Orders, the specified quantity of timber is delivered by the R.O./Depot incharge concerned in the outlying areas from

where water transport is arranged by the Industrial Unit concerned most of the Timber is supplied from Middle and North Andamans

where timber logs from Forest/Ghat depots are transported over road to export depot.

- 4. For transportation of logs to Export Depot, Transit Pass indicating Truck No. Species, No of Logs, Volume etc. is issued for every trip of truck. These details are checked in various check posts on the way.
- 5. In the Export Depot also, a consolidated T.P. is issued indicating the name of Ship No. logs quantity volume etc. after exercising due check at the time of loading in the ship for transportation of logs to Port Blair. Which is compared with the original specification of the logs issued by the supplier. As the logs are transported by open sea in the ship, the ship, crew also keep correct tally of the number/volume of logs for recovery of frieght etc. Before the ship is permitted to leave the loading point, harbour authorities also check the logs to recover wharfage duty @ Rs. 20/per Cbm, and issue the ship leaving permission.
- 6. On reaching the logs at Port Blair Harbour, the Port Management Board and the Muncipal Council also keep records indicating the number of Logs, volume etc, on the basis of which they recover Port charges/Wharfage @ Rs. 20/- and Octroi on them.
- 7. After Unloading the logs from the ship, they are transported by the truck to the S.S.I. unit on the T.P. isued by the D.F.O. S.A. or his nominee, who also issue the T.P. for every Truck load, after checking the number of logs, volume, Species etc. etc. with reference to the original specification received form the Suppliers (DFOs etc) in the outlying station. At last Such Trip TPs are consolidated and checked with the original specification to detect any error at the loading end in the ship.
- 8. All the S.S.I. units maintain proper record of logs showing opening balance of the round logs with source received during the month, logs converted into sawn timber and quantity of logs remained closing balance at the end of each month . similarly for sawn timber also separate account and register is maintained showing

quantity of Sawn timber at the beginning of the month, quantity of logs received by converting logs, quantity of sawn timber disposed

by sale and closing balance of sawn timber at the end of each month. This accounts of logs and sawn timber is checked by the Forest officials from time to time. Besides all the S.S.I. unit submit monthly return of round logs and sawn timber to the D.F.O, C.F. and ultimately it reaches the P.C.C.F. thus by this way effective check without any loop hole is exercised upto top level of the Forest Department with reference to the timber allotted to each and every S.S.I. Unit, since there is only one source of receipt of logs I.E. from Forest Department by S.S.I unit there is no any chance for any type of mal practice.

9. It may not be out of place to mention here that working in these island is quite different from that of any other state of mainland because in these island working is strictly as per various Rules and procedure framed by the Government are bound to be violated at the instance of the members of legislative assembly and other politician for their personal gain. In mainland there is a strong nexus between politician between politician and person engaged in the forestry oriented work but in our territory we feel proud to state that we are doing our work honestly without any nexus with politician under the dynamic leader ship of the Hon'bilitity.

From the above it may be very clear that unlike in the mainland states, there is seldom scope for any illegal activities here because the same logs are checked by different Government agencies several times at different points/places. Moreover, it take a minimum of 6 months time to reach the logs from harvesting point to the consumption points during which periods, they are under the process of transportation and are liable of checking at any time by different Govt. Agencies.

We are also enclosing herewith an Inventory of logs in stock with the units of our members alongwith these logs which are in transit. We have already paid the value of these logs after arranging loans from Banks or other sources on heavy interests. These logs, particularly, the softwood are highly perishable and are deterioration day by day causing huge loss to the SSI Units. As the conversion of the logs is stopped, the workers are also idling forcing us to make

heavy payment towards idle wages, electricity charges, etc. without any outturn from 27th Nov. 2001.

We will be highly obliged and grateful to your honour, for your kind action in getting an interim order from the Honourable Supreme Court allowing us to convert our present stock of logs and those in transit, without any further delay.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

A&N Islands Small Scale Wood Based Industries association

93/12/2018 Esident

Copy to:

- 1) The Hou'ble Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Raj Nivash, Port Blair with the request to kindly use his good office for considering our grievances.
- 2) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Andaman & Nicobar Islads, Van Sadan, Port Blair with the request to kindly apprise the matter to the commission appointed for the purpose.
- 3) The President, Andaman & Nicobar Chamber of Commerce, Port Blair with the request to kindly take up the matter before the commission.
- 4) The Secretary (Industries) A & N Administration Port Blair with the request to kindly take up the matter before commission.
- 5) The Hon'ble member of the Parliament, MP House, Port President 1701 Blair with the request to kindly look into the matter

A & N I Small Scale Wood Based Industries Association

STOCK OF SSI UNITS AS ON 27.11.2001,

S1 Ne.	Name of the Unit		in Mill	Logs i			
51 T T		H/Wood C.B.M		H/Weed	S/Wood		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
1.	Rajkumari Saw Mill	311	18	301	37 5	1005	52,33,000
2.	Arasan Cettage Match Industries,G/Charma.	552	4 0	324	304	1220	69,58,000
3.	Vanapana Pencil Wood Industries,G/Charma.	86	33	423	33	575	33, 81,00 ⁰
4.	Samarias Trading Co. Diglipur.	45	-	17	-	62	4,17,000
5.	Mukesh Lall Saw Mill Dhinikhari.	153	-	300	-	454	19,47,000
6.	Bharat Splint(Mnf) Inds:, Manpur.	7	-	150	-	157	9,56,000
7.	Andaman Cottage Match Industries, G/Charma.	60	-	-	-	60	4,80,000
8.	Andaman Cottage Penci Weed Inds: Prothrapur			235	**	235	15,95,000
9.	Deri Lall Saw Mill, Prethrapur.	-	_	116	-	116	9,28,000
10.	M.S.Timber Industries Shippighat.	162	-	100	-	262	18,96,000
11.	M.S. Pencil Slate Inds: Shippighat.	-	51	***	-	51	2,55,000
12.	Islands Industries, Hut Bay.	1	-	exco g	_	1	7,000
13.	Kamakshi Furniture Sa Mill Werks, Shippigha		-	-	and the second s	15 0	12,00,000
14.	Silver Jublee Maltipu Saw Mill, Kadakachang		⇔	10	OLS.	55	4,20,000
15.	Teja Engineering Product, Hut Bay.	-	Map	emes.	elar-	453	
16.	Deri Lall Saw Mill Junglighat.	10	cometric (مقتف	***	4 0	80,000
17.	Bala Murugan Pencil Weed Inds: Sippighat.	(cape)	dash		exact	-	
18.	Andaman Wood Product, Junglighat.	Lab e.s.	450	125	100	20%	14,40,000

Centd: 2/-....

A & N I Small Scale Wood Based Industries Association

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
19.	Mayabunder Saw Mill. Mayabunder.	3 7		35		7 2	5,06,000
20.	Green Island Saw Mill Rangath.	50		5 0	-	100	6,50,000
21.	Diglipur.	-	-	_	_		_
22.	Bepari Saw Mill, Diglipur.	35	-		••	35	2,45,000
23.	Sea Island Saw Mill, Mithakari.	(-()	. —	85	-	85	5,10,000
24.	Raj Shipping & Timber Inds: Dundespeint.	_	_		**		_
25.	Island Weed Product, Havelock.		<u></u>			•••	_
26.	Andaman Wood Link Saw Mill, Mayabunder.	7 5	-	100	100	275	9,00,000
27.	Reheblitation Multi- purpose Society, Nimbudera.		_	-		-	e e
I	OTAL :-	1 856	142	2371	812	5181 3	,00,ç 4,000

A & N I Small Scale Wood Based Industries Association

President



(Affiliated with Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta and Member Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi)
GURU NANAK MARKET * ABERDEEN BAZAR
Post Box No. 119 * PORT BLAIR - 744 101

Memorandum Submitted to Prof. Shekhar Speck. 16/12/01

Commissioner Appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court to

Conduct Survey on State of forests in A & N Islands.

Professor Shekhar Singh Camp. Port Blair.

Dear Sir,

At the out set we warmly welcome your, appointment as Commissioner by the Hon'ble. Supreme court to conduct an independent survey and submit a report on the state of the forests of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

This has actually met a long standing demand of the industry as over last two years the entire Wood Based Industries have been going through a severe crisis mainly due to reduction in the availability of raw materials which has resulted in two of the major units having closed shop. This chamber has continuously been advocating the need for an independent and professional survey to ascertain the exact quantity of timber that can be harvested from our forests without effecting the environment and ecology of the place.

This chamber which is the apex body representing trade and industries of these islands received with great shock the first supreme court order dt.10/10/2001 banning cutting of all naturally grown trees and subsequent. order dt. 23/11/2001 extending the scope by stopping the utilization of even the already felled timber.



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The above orders have infact brought the entire industrial sector of these islands to a grinding halt and the affects of the same is being felt in all sectors of the economy viz Trade, Transport, Shipping, Stevedoring etc.

As of today, over 6000 cbm of timber valued at 3.5 crores, legally purchased by Wood Based Units are lying in stock of which over 30 percent is of the Soft Wood category which will detiorate very fast. Even in the Hard Wood the recovery percentage will drop drastically if the processing is not done in time.

Over and above this we understand that large volume of timber is lying with the forest dept and the forests corporation in the different depots all over the islands. The value of the stock can be estimated to be over 25 crores.

Sir, The Wood Based Industries were started in these islands way back in the early 1900 with the primary objective of tapping the natural resources, eg:- timber from the forests and gainful employment and subsequently provide economic development.

In the earlier stages the Wood Based Industries were Govt.. saw mills at Chatham, subsequently a unit set up by WIMCO for match splints. As the demand grew numerous small units producing saw timber, Match splints and pencils slates were set up.

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\mathcal{N}_{o}	Date
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The incentive and help provided by the local administration was ensuring full quantity of required raw materials induced entrepreneurs to set up their units in these islands in spite of the major disadvantage of not having a local market.

During the period of late 1950 and early 1960s three plywood units were invited and set up with the assurance of availability of raw materials from the forests.

To promote further industrialization in the wood based sectors the Govt. Of India set up ANFPDC and invited entrepreneurs from the mainland to establish units with the incentive of easy availability of raw materials.

The extraction of timber up to 1980-81 was being done in a planned manner as per the requirements of the local industries and the highest extraction was undertaken in 1980-81 which was 167000 cbm. However, since then the extraction has been gradually reduced over the years and now it stands at only around 60000 cbm.

It is pertinent to mention that various reports made by Govt. Agencies on the basis of surveys and assessment have confirmed that almost 300000 cbm of commercial timber can be harvested annually from these islands on a sustained basis

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No	Date
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As of today there are about 38 Wood Based Units in the medium and small sectors in the business of manufacturing plywood, veneer, match splints, pencil slates and sawn timber. These units directly employ over 5000 people apart from supporting a hosts of down stream and upstream projects in the transport, shipping, and services sectors.

In addition the Andaman Nicobar forests plantation development corporation and the forests dept. itself who are the only timber extracting agencies extend direct employment to over 5000 people and similarly support a host of other allied business activities providing gainfull employment..

It would not be incorrect to say that as of today the wood base sectors is the backbone of the economy of this islands and an estimated 50000 people are dependent on the same. It generates over 40 crores revenue thru timber price, royalty and excise duty to the Govt. Of India and the total disbursements made by the wood based sectors in these islands could be estimated at another 40 crores.

In the background of the facts presented above we hope you will appreciate the total dependence of the island's economy on the wood based sector and therefore the catastrophic effect on the socio economic fabric of the islands, suspension of felling of trees would have .

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Telephone: 32906



Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry

(Affiliated with Bharat Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta and Member Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi)
GURU NANAK MARKET * ABERDEEN BAZAR
Post Box No. 119 * PORT BLAIR - 744 101

No...... Date......

These islands due to very conducive climatological factors support a variety of tree species useful for wood based industries and studies by experts have indicated that these islands come under one of the highest potential productivity zone and since no other industrial raw material is found here technoeconomic survey opined that socio economic development of the islands should pivot round development of forests resources and industries based on such resources.

In the event the Wood Based Sectors is closed down, the retrenched workers will have no alternate for deployment eisewhere due to lack of employment opportunities and this will put direct pressure on the forest through encroachments, illegal fallings, poachings which will be extremely difficult to stop in view of the large linear distance of over 750kms north to south.

Sir, forests is a community of trees and other bio-entities which grown under particular locality factors and is not static as it is though to be. It is dynamic and because of interaction of vegetation with soil the composition changes over a period of time. In forestry terms, it is termed as progression which ultimately reaches a climax. Therefore, it is not correct to assume that the present composition of the forests will be the same over a long period of time if left undisturbed.

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No...... Date.....

In order to maintain the forests in its present state it is necessary to adopt a suitable silvicultural system. For this the islands after a long yrs of research adopted the Andaman Canopy Lifting Shelterwood system.

The forests harvested are regenerated naturally under shelterwood and leaving all trees below exploitable girth which has been prescribed at 180cm girth at breast height in the current working plans. Only when a particular forests area is clear felled and some new set of species is planted it effects the existing eco-system. To sound an alarming note on the harvesting of timber on scientific principles of sustained annual yields is not appropriate. and ill found

The Geographical area of these islands is 8240 sq. km. Of which 7171 sq. km. Is forests area,. After setting out various areas of bio-reserve like sanctuaries and national parks only about 2150 sq. km. has been put under productive forests. This already is a very conservative approach which we feel should be reviewed to enhance productive resource and avail of the bountiful gift of nature contributing to high potential productivity in order to sustain the existing industries and not cause further harm to this tottering economy.

In the light of the above submissions we would conclude by fervently appealing to you to recommend to the apex court the following in your report

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\mathcal{N}_{o}	Date

- 1. The ban on utilization of timber already felled must be lifted immediatly so as to ensure that commercial timber already felled is utilized.
- 2. Harvesting of Timber be allowed to continue on the basis of availability under the principals of sustained annual yield in order that the need of the exsiting local units are met.
- 3. Export of wood based products like plywood, vennier, match splints, sawn timber and other value added products should be encouraged after meeting local demand.
- 4. A holistic view of the socio economic condition of thess islands should be taken n the forests resoursese should be put to optimum use for the benefits of the people of the land.
- 5. More forests area should be brought under intensive management so that taey are protected from poaching and encroachment.

Cont.. 8

Telephone: 32906



Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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Post Box No. 119 * PORT BLAIR - 744 101

10	Date	
	In conclusion we sincerely hope that all the submission in the	
	this memorandum will be given due weight-age since	
	otherwise we are fearful that the ban on felling of trees if	
	continued will cause irreversible affects on the very fabric of	
	society leading to dissatisfaction and unrest amongst the	
	people at large.	

Thanking you

7/1

Yours faithfully

For Andaman Chamber Of Commerce and Industry

Mohd. H. Jadwet

(President)

Asia Timber Products Private Limited

DOCTORS COLONY, POST BOX No.: 23 PORTBLAIR - 744 101 PHONE: 35162 GRAMS: ASIATIMBER

20-12-2001

To

Prof. Shekhar Singh, Commissioner.

Sir,

While presenting before you the adverse impact on the socioeconomic condition of these islands due to the order of the Hon'ble supreme Court imposing restrictions in felling and conversion of trees grown naturally in these Islands by the Andaman Chamber of Commerce & Industries on 16-12-2001, you were pleased to enquire from us to submit a brief note on our Unit at Hut Bay, Little Andaman and work out the price and quantity of timber at which we break-even.

Ours is the only Unit engaged in manufacturing veneers for Plywood, block board, flush doors etc. We have to manufacture the veneer sheets meeting the exacting needs of the consuming industries. The products are mainly Face Venners of varying thickness below 1 mm and Core Veneers of thickness 2 mm and 2.4 mm. In these broad product categories again there are various grading depending on the quality.

In December, 1993 the Andaman and Nicobar Administration assured us supply of the following quantity of timber of veneer quality:

Hard wood ply logs - 2500 m³
Soft wood - 6500 m³

Although the above quantity was assured, quantum of supply started falling from the year 1998-99. While we were getting lesser quantity every year steep increases in prices were made which we could not absorb as prices of Plywood was static — rather it came down due to competition from the imported products.

Our Unit is situated at about 5 kms from the harbour at Hut Bay. In Little Andaman, except for another small Saw Mill there is no wood-based unit. We do not get power supply for the Unit except for lighting. We have to transport HSD and other inputs from Port Blair for captive power generation, which is 110 kms away, to run the Unit. Veneer units of our size in mainland need not do any packing as they can be transported in loose form by trucks. But our material is subjected to oceanic transport which requires sea worthy packing. In addition, wage rates including other amenities are also comparatively much higher. Thus our cost of production is mugh higher than in mainland. Inspite of these

disadvantages specific to Little Andaman we have been running the Unit although in 1999-2000 we sustained heavy losses. We have the current labour strength at 105 which has the potential to increase to 160 workers round the year. We have been employing local people including Bengali settlers and Nicobarese settled at Harminder Bay. In the absence of any other industry, closure of the Unit will have a very adverse impact on the local economy. Already the effect is perceptible because we have laid off the Unit.

As desired by you, we are enclosing herewith a broad calculation sheet to show at what price and what %age of installed capacity our Unit breaks even. At prices which was prevalent in 1999-2000 we breakeven at 85% of the capacity.

In this context, we like to submit our opinion on the Tribal Reserve in Little Andaman which we have formed after consulting experts. We have 101 Onges (1998) in Little Andaman. For them a vast land of forest area has been declared as Tribal Reserve. Subsequently settlement of displaced persons from erstwhile East Pakistan was established more than 30 years ago apart from establishing the Nicobaree settlement at Harminder Bay. Onges were already exposed to the outside world and they were sought to be settled on land for which coconut plantations were raised and pucca dwelling houses were constructed. They are also supplied clothes and food items. Once these steps have been taken it cannot be reversed.

There is a misconception that the Onge population dwindled recently after forestry activities were started in Little Andaman. Forestry operations were started in 1977. Onge population was recorded as 97 in 1981 census and in 1998 it is recorded as 101. There had been a drastic slide in their number only between 1901 and 1951. We understand the reason lies elsewhere in their social custom of marriage and other reasons. In the forest they collect tubers of Dioscorea species which has contraceptive properties.

In Tribal Reserve, there is no bar in working the forests with least disturbance to the eco-system. Unlike in the National Parks where the wild life is sought to be preserved, the whole biomass has to be preserved so that the food chain is not disturbed. For the tribal population we have to see on which of the produces they depend. Onge hunt pigs, collect honey and also collect tubers as stated above although they donot depend entirely on them because the government provides food items. Trading on these and collection by others are prohibited. According to the Working Plan the forests are worked under a conversion period of 75 years which means 1/75th area is worked annually. As the regeneration period extends upto 3 years, 3/75th i.e. 4 percent of the area is under intensive management at a particular time. Therefore, a juvenile forest is left which will provide richer resources while retaining

the existing eco0system. In view of this, we request you to take a rational view in the matter and recommend to take a positive and holistic approach.

A very critical issue of far reaching effect on the course of future development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been raised which will affect the present generation as well as the future. We are confident Sir, you will be equal to the occasion and submit your valued recommendation to the Apex Court in keeping with the exigency of the situation.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully, For Asia Timber Products (Private) Ltd.,

[A.B.Chakravarty]

ASIA TIMBER PRODUCTS (P) LTD. dut Day, Little Andaman. Installed Capacity 9000 CBM Per annum

Statement snowing Calculation of Break-Even -Foint of intate of Timber as percentage of Capacity.

	Particulars.	100%	85%	75%
1.	Timber consumption per month	750 CBM	640UBM	560 CBM
2.	Actual Production in CBM	498 CBM	424.75 CBM	372.25 CBi
-• 3•	Yield Percentage	66.36%	66.36%	66.36%
4.	Face Core Hatio	14: 86	14:86	14:86
	~ n	3,31,241 SMT	2,82,180 SMT	2,48,103sM
€.	COST WORKING	Rô∙	₽S.	RS.
5.	Timber Cost	33,97,000	28,70,500	25,44,000
7.	Manufacturing Cost (a). Variable cost #2.42/51 (b). Fixed cost	MT 8,01,603	6,82,875 4,42,000	6,00,409 4,42,000
8.		46,40,603	39 , 95 , 375	35 ,8 6,40
9.	sale •alue	47,14,929	39,97,037	35,32,65
). Result	+ 74,326	+1662	- 53 ,7 50

NOTE: - Cost of Timberat rate fixed for 1999-2000

Sale price is current ruling price Ex-Factory.

Break-even-point is at 85%

Kütply Industries Ltd.



KIT/KOL/ 3914

15th December, 2001

Prof. Shekhar Singh Commissioner, Ministry of Environment & Forests Govt. of India Camp: Port Blair A & N ISLANDS.

Dear Sir,

Sub: Closure of our Plywood unit located at Long Island, Middle Andaman.

Most respectfully we would like to refer to the order dated 23-11-2001 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court which directs "Till further orders the Administrator, Andaman & Nicobar Islands is directed to ensure compliance of this court's order dated 10-10-2001, namely, no naturally grown tree will be cut by any one and no saw-mill, veneer or plywood factory shall utilise any naturally grown trees without further orders from this Court".

Under these directions we had to stop the utilisation of all "Naturally Grown Trees" either indigeneous or imported as the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order did not specify only "indigenous naturally grown trees". Accordingly the entire operations of our unit has come to a halt and we had to declare the suspension of work from dated 10-12-2001.

Sir, we are a medium sized only running plywood mill left in Andaman Islands as the other two plywood mills had to close down their operation last year due to decreasing supply and increasing prices of timber by the Forest Department.

Sir, we are located on an isolated island which is approx. 85 K.M. from Port Blair and is connected with Bi-weekly ferry service only. There is no jetty at Long Island. The entire loading and unloading of cargo is done in the mid-sea and towed by our private boats.

Contd....p/2...

Kaply Industries Ltd.



-: 2:-

The entire population of the Long Island is 4500 only which is totally dependant on this unit as there is no other source of income. Currently we are providing employment to approx. 600 workmen including 310 permanant staff & workers. All staff & workers have been provided with residential quarters.

Our annual requirement of round timber is 18,000 cu.m. We have been totally dependant on Forest Department and Forest Corporation Ltd for our requirement of round timber. The entire timber extraction work is conducted by the Forest Department and Forest Corporation only. The timber is delivered to us at the designated "All Weather Depots"/ shipping point. The private persons/industry is not at all involved in the timber extraction work. As such there are no chances of any illegal timber felling.

Sir, if it is felt that even this volume of timber ,which is drastically reduced after closure of two other plywood mills, cannot be sylviculturally made available by the Forest Department, we shall have no alternative but to close down the unit.

We trust you will understand the situation and recommend our case suitably.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully, For KITPLY INDUSTRIES LTD

(ANIL BANKA)

Director

TOTAL TIMBER EXTRACTION DURING LAST 10 YEARS

Year	Target Achieved
- I Gai	Cbm
1989-90	117.740
1991-92	117,746
1992-93	103,660
1993-94	125,480
1994-95	130,136
	135,523
1995-96	126,579
1996-97	107,769
1997-98	77,097
1998-99	62,481
1999-00	Datas not yet available but seems to be around 30000 cbm

Source: Basis Statistics, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Andaman & Nicobar Administration

Kütply Industries Ltd.



MOVEMENT OF TIMBER PRICES FIXED BY THE FOREST DEPARTMENT FROM THE YEAR 1989-90 TO 2000-2001

	Gurjan		Other Ply				
	rate (per	% increase	rate (per cbm)	% increase			

1989-90	2190	-	2046	_			
1990-91	2730	24.66%	2346	15.00€			
1991-92	3050	11.72%	2580				
1992-93	3500	14.75%	2950	9.97%			
1993-94	3850	10.00%	3250	14.34%			
1994-95	4240			10.17%			
1995-96		10.13%	3630	11.69%			
1000-90	4450	4.95%	3810	4.958			
1996-97	5118	15.01%	4382	15.01%			
1997-98	6392	24.89%	5149				
1998-99	7000	9.51%	5800	17.50%			
1999-00	7500		3600	12.64%			
1999-00	7600	8.57%	6100	5.17%			
2000-01	8000	5.26%	6400	4.92%			
Cumulative	1 increase	265,30%	6463	4.524			
	THELCASE	200,308	<u> </u>	213.73%			

'White House', 119, Park Street, "A" Block, 4th Floor, Kolkate-700 016, E-mail: kitply1@vsnl.net Phone: 229-3340/42/43/44, 2175549/2175367, Fax: 091-33-2495009 Regd. Office: Rungagora Road, Tinsukia-766 125 (Assems, Phone: 335323, 339403, Fax: 91-0374, 335320)

TOTAL TIMBER EXTRACTION DURING LAST 10 YEARS

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	Cbn
1989-90	
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1999-00	62,481
	Datas not yet available but seems to be around 30000 cbm

60,000

Source Basis Statistics, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Andaman & Nicobar Administration



Comparision of average timber cost (Mainland Vs Island)

MAINLAND

	Last year	price	Current ye	ar price
30% Malaysian/ Myanmar	cbm	Amount	rate per	Amount
Keruing or Gurja	n 13571	4071	11362	3408
70% Local Hardwood	3800	2660	3800	2660
		6731 per	cbm	6068 per cbm
ANDAMAN ISLAND				
70% Gurjan	8400	5880	-	
30% Other ply logs	6800	2040		
		7840 per	cbm	

Note:

- 1) In Andaman island we have not added the inter island Transporting charges as we are giving transport subsidy on the freight.Rs.400 per cbm has been added for wharfage loading and unloading etc.
- 2) The overall and face veneer recovery in imported logs is minimum 15% higher than local gurjan timber.

'White House', 119, Park Street, "A" Block, 4th Floor, Kolkata-700 016, E-mail: kitply1@vsnl.net
Phone: 229-3340/42/43/44, 2175549/2175367, Fax: 091-33-2495009
Regd. Office: Rungagora Road, Tinsukia-786 125 (Assam). Phone: 335323, 339403, Fax: 91-0374-335320

33235 (Off) 32800 (Off) 30813 (Res)

INDIAN NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONGRESS ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

R. Shanti Krishna President Office: Gandhi Bhavan, Port Blair- 744101.

No. 15/INTUC/2001.

Date: 16.12.2001

To Professor, Shekhar Singh, Commissioner, (Camp at Port Blair)

Sir.

I on behalf of LN.T.U.C. A & N Islands and on my own behalf extend warm welcome to you on your short visit to these Islands and also grateful to you on being with us. Your present visit to these Islands assumes great significance from the point of view of future development of this backward union territory.

Geographically the total area of these Islands is 8249 Sq Kin. and 92.21 % of land is covered with natural forests. The natural forests plays a vital role in the economy of these Islands. Many Wood Based Small Industries have been set up in different Islands in Public and Private sectors and about 50,000 individuals belonging to poor and weaker section of society are engaged in these Industries and earning their livelihood.

Recently the Hon'ble Supreme Court has imposed by interim order in a case ban on outling of naturally grown forests and operations of all wood based industries have been suspended. Consequently the livelihood of 50,000 workers is threatened.

It appears that this situation has arised due to the fact that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has not been apprised of the factual position about the economic of forests in these Islands. The natural forests of these Islands are very old and these consist of matured trees and such frees have no further growth and become dead wood.

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These Islands come under seismic zone No. 6 and therefore the people in these Islands preferred to construct residential houses with timber and minor forest produce like Bamboos, Canes and Jungle leaves. Large number of wooden houses have been constructed using timber of natural forests without affecting the environmental and ecological system of the Islands. Only selected trees which have out lived there life are cut and removed from the forest for use in construction of wooden houses after processing in the Saw Mills and factories set up in these Islands. Further Small Scale Wood Based Industries are also run by poor and weaker sector of the people for production of furniture item catering to the needs of residential houses.

Since these Islands fall in the category of seismic zone No. 6 it is not desirable to under take the construction of R.C.C. Buildings Moreover the G.O.L. have already bauned on the collection of send, which is essential component for construction of R.C.C. buildings. Many poor and weaker sectors of the people are engaged in generating activities based on Bamboos and Cane of Forests and their tivelihood is also dependent on minor forest produce. If all the Timber Mills and factories functioning in these Islands are closed down 50,000 workers will be thrown out of employment and they will face starvation.

In view of the above position, we request you to use your good offices to protect the interest of workers involved in the Wood Based Industries/ Factories and request the Honble Supreme Court to continue the functioning of existing Mills/ Factories in these Islands by using limited quantity of Timber on such terms and conditions at may be considered necessary.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully.

(R. SHANTI FISHNA) President, I.N.T.U.C. Regd. No. 802

ANDAMAN FURNITURE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address:M/s JAMUNA TRADERS, A JUNGLIGHAT, PORT BLAIR - 744103

Ref No. AF117-34/2001

Date 16.12.2001

To,

The Commissioner, Ministry of Environment & Forests, (Camp at Port Blair), Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Sub:- Prayer for conduct proper enquiry and save the small scale furniture Industry and immediate solve the problem, arised after the Hon'ble Supreme Court order I.A. No. 502 reg.

Respected Sir,

In the behalf of Andaman Furniture Association we welcome your tour as a Commissioner appointed by the Ministry of Environment and forests for conduct enquiry and report for Andaman & Nicobar Island. We would like to bring your kind consideration the following facts which arises after stopped timber sawing in Govt. and private saw mills after the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court I.A. No. 502 and saw mills stopped sawing timber from 01.12,2001.

Sir, there are more than 135 SSI Furniture Units running and more than 5000 wood based workers engaged in the jobs.

- 1. Production and carpentry works for furniture's 1000 + workers.
- 2. Sale counter and shops showroom 300 + workers.
- 3. Handicrafts and wood carving works 500 + workers.
- 4. Carpentry works in buildings and other wood works 2000 + workers.
- 5. Daily rated wood collector in mills 200 + workers.
- 6. Businessmen's in wood based items 500 + traders.

Sir, nearly 5000 peoples are engaged in wood based works and business means 15000 peoples, family and children's are managing their daily livelihood from the timber business and works. The two Govt. saw mills is running in these Islands and one is the famous Chatham Saw Mill which is the largest Saw Mill in Asia and it is the pride of Andaman and India. Which is famous all over the world because every day 100 of national and international tourists are visiting and the only Govt. saw mill which is

Regd. No. 802

36226

ANDAMAN FURNITURE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

Mailing Address:M/s JAMUNA TRADERS, ∰ JUNGLIGHAT, ∰ PORT BLAIR - 744103

Ref No.

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1/010	
* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	

Sir, Andaman is a hilly area and any time natural disaster can happen. Few years ago in Campbell Bay there was Earth quaked but no damage has done because of the wooden frame building.

Sir, if the stated facts considered, we think that Environment, life, jobs and forests also can save. We love the slogans "Save Tree, Save Life". We want to say "Save Trees, Save jobs Save Lives". After close down the mills the labours, children's and families are in fear. More over after 3 months there is a final School Examination and the children's education also effected because of their parents job are in danger due to stop of sawing timber in saw mills.

Therefore we request you kindly consider the matter in humanitarian ground and settled as early as possible.

We shall obliged.

Thanking you,

=3.

Yours faithfully,

(MRINAL KANTI BISWAS)
President.

Andaman & Nicobar Furniture Association,

Port Blair.

Dated:- 16/12/2001 Place:- Port Blair

: 39651 (PP)

ISLANDS FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

Head Office: GOALGHAR, NEAR MARTHOMA CHURCH COMPLEX PORT BLAIR

Ref 970. IFDTPE/2001/10.

Date 16/12/2001.

TO

THE CHAIRMAN, SHEKHAR SINGH COMMISSION, CAMP; PORT-BLAIR.

RESPECTED SIR;

The Andaman & Nicobar islands was known as the gold –mine of timbers; the deep green forest; beautiful sea beach and pollution free environment was unique in this world. This factors was the main attraction of foreign and home tourist. The brutely damaging of forest has adversely effected the environment of this islands. It is evident from the enclosed stastics period from 1949 to 1994 that the humidities and temperature have increased tremendously although the rainfall is constant but the duration have reduced from 8 months to 4 months. The main reason for variation in climatical condition of this island is only due to deforestation.

The Andaman & Nicobar islands is divided into 2 zone that is great Andaman which includes north Andaman; middle Andaman; south Andaman; rutland & neil island; Havelock & baratang island with a total land area of 156 miles long & 20 miles broad.

The Nicobar group of islands consists of car – nicobar; teressa;kamorta,katchal,nancowry,little Nicobar & great Nicobar with total area 636 sq. miles. The little Andaman is situated in between great Andaman and Nicobar group of islands with a total area of 30 miles long & 17 miles wide

The 95% land area of great Andaman & little Andaman including Campbell bay island was covered with forest. This forest was having different type of commercial & medicinal plants, certain type of trees were only available in this island. Large number of medicinal plants was a natural gift to this island but due to lack of infrastructure fascilities or our lack of research in botany we could not use it for the welfare of mankind.

(PTO)

: 39651 (PP)

ISLANDS FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

Head Office: GOALGHAR, NEAR MARTHOMA CHURCH COMPLEX PORT BLAIR

Ref Mo. India got her independence in the year 1947 and the Andaman & Date

Nicobar island have become an integrated part of union of India. As per 1951 census the population of Andaman & Nicobar islands was nearly 18,000, between 1953 & 65 a large number of refugees from Bangladesh, burma ,sri-lanka(Ceylon), ranchi were brought to this island and rehabilitated under different colonization scheme at south Andaman, baratang, middle & north Andaman, neil ,s.

Havelock & little Andaman. The ex-serviceman were settled down at campbellbay island under a special rehabilitation scheme.

For the purpose of rehabilitation more than 40 to 50 % forest was cleared for village, agriculture, road and other developmental works. Apart from this settlers large number of people have influx from different part of mainland to this island & illegally encroached over the government land by damaging the forest without any check

The Andaman & Nicobar administration has totally failed to exercise the power given in Andaman & Nicobar land revenue & land reforms act 1966, indian forest act, provision laid downin conservation of forest act 1984 & the provision of environment protection act 1986.

Each settler family was allotted 5 acre agriculture land & 5 acre hilly land with the condition that the commercial trees standing over the hilly land will not be cut. But, it is regret to put up before the commission that the order was modified in the year 1987 vide letter no FS/G/15/162 by Andaman & Nicobar forest department with the approval of honarable Lt governor,a& n islands, permitting the settler to remove the commercial trees and to utilize it for their own purpose by paying a nominal royalty, this modification was done with the sole interest of some politicians, unscrupulous traders & with the interest of some high officer of the administration. Under this relaxitation the commercial tree was not only removed from the hilly land of the settler but, huge quantities of commercial tree was removed from the reserve forest area with the help of corrupt revenue & forest officers. The entire log was exported to mainland by few selected traders.

(PTO)

: 39651 (PP)

ISLANDS FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

Head Office: GOALGHAR, NEAR MARTHOMA CHURCH COMPLEX PORT BLAIR

This large quantity of removal and export of timber has adversely effected to our natural wealth, the present generation do not have any right to play with the nature & to utilize the natural wealth according to their will & pleasure. It is a natural obligation on the present generation to protect and preserve the natural wealth for the coming generation.

The large scale clearance of forest have adversely effected the most ancient tribals such as oonges, great andamanese, shompens, and the jarawas those are livingin their forest and managing their livelihood from the forest product. They have been forced to mix with the civilized population which resulted the reduction in their population. This race are only available in a & n islands and it is the duty of the government to preserve this generation at any cost, but the a & n administration has not taken any consolidate step to isolate them from the civilized population & to allow them to leave their natural life. this uncivilized population have developed a lot of bad habits such as use of liquor, opium, to bacco etc., among them which adversely effected on their health and culture.

There were three large scale plywood industries that is Andaman timber industries, jayshree ply and timber industries alvion plywood industry (now sold out to kitply industries) where functioning in this island but all the three industries have closed down. There was one very old western indian match industry named western indian match company closed down long back.

Sir, we feel it is the high time to take a very bold and correct decision keeping in view the future of the people of this island & the coming generation & environment. The a & n islands is identified as one of the 5 most seismic zone and further deforestation may cause major casualties to human life in any natural calamities

Sir, it will be proper to mention here that large scale removal of mangrove forest have adversely effected our coastal area from soil erosion

coastal area from soil erosion.

The export of finished product, sawn timber for personal use etc should be stopped immediately till the final judgement. The a & n forest department may be allowed to extract minimum quantity of timber to meet the domestic requirement. The full matured tree only be allowed to cut.

35.

: 39651 (PP)

ISLANDS FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

Head Office: GOALGHAR, NEAR MARTHOMA CHURCH COMPLEX PORT BLAIR

The agreement was executed between p. c ray & co. and Andaman forest dept for establishment of timber & plywood industry at mayabunder (north Andaman). a condition was imposed in the said agreement that the company will generate new plant in the extraction area on its own cost. But, no such condition was imposed upon the Andaman timber industries, jayshree timber industry, alvion industry & kitply industry. This condition was not imposed just to favour the industry out of some bureaucratic interest.

The a & n forest department do not have the up to date stastics of commercial tree standing in different island & so far no sincere effort has been made to prepare the up to date record. On the recommendation of a & n administration the ministry of environment, New Belhi had allowed the administration to regularize 1365 encroachment(with a maximum of one hectare land to each family) over the forest land after dereservation with the condition that the encroachment in the deforest area will be shifted to nearest encroachment area just to avoid any further encroachment in the reserve forest area, but a & n administration has failed to carried out the instruction given by the ministry of environment.

The influx of population and the infiltration of foreign nationalist from Bangladesh , sri- lanka & easy encroachment over the forest land is the main factor of mass destruction of forest, disturbing of environment & disbalancing of ecological system of this island. The government has to take some strict action or to impose ban on the influx of population and to take action against the encroachers.

Sir, this organization have tried its best to put up before you the entire position of this island with the hope that your goodself will examine all the factors and submit a clear picture before the honorable supreme court of India for fair judgement without effecting the use of timber for the habitant of this island.

Thanking you,

With regards

Dated:-

36.

(Secretary)

≪egn. Nc.:

图: 43452

: 39651 (PP)

ISCANDS FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

Head Office: GOALGHAR, NEAR MARTHOMA CHURCH COMPLEX PORT BLAIR

Ref To. IEDTPE/2001/05

Dule 29/5/2011

To,
Shri N. N. JHA.,
Hon'ble Lt. Governor,
A & N Islands,
Rort Blair.

Sub: Frequent revisions of Sawn Timber Prices by the Forest Department Intimation-reg:

Respected Sir,

I would like to draw your kind attention on the frequent revision of the Swan Timber Prices by the Forest Department A & Islands. The frequent revision of the rates has become a burden for the inhabitants of these islands.

The Timber is the main building materials which is been used by the people to repair old Timber structure and the door and windows of the new semi / permanent RCC Building. From last 10 years the Forest department used to revise Issue rates 10 to 20 % every years. This revision is not justified, and the department officers are putting their lavish expenditure over the head of the poor peoples. The rates are generally finalized during the month of December or January, but the department use to collect 30 % extra over the pre-revised rates from April onwards of each year, subject to the condition that the purchaser are to purchase Timber out of difference amount after revision of rates. The purchasers are to pay another 30 % extra over the difference amount imposed by the department is purely illegal.

Sir, it is fully correct that the department (particularly Chatham Saw Mill) is tunning in losses but there are other factors, which has not examined by the officer of the department. We brise to your notice some of the reasons / Causes.:

②: 43452 : 39651 (PP)

LEANDS FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

Head Office: GOALGHAR, NEAR MARTHOMA CHURCH COMPLEX PORT BLAIR

Ref 970.			Date
		7.4	
	CONT – 2 -		

- (1) The forest department is having their sale depot at Calcutta and Chennai. These depots were opened when the production of the Chatham Saw mill was excess and the consumption was very less and due to transportations problem nobody use to come down to Port Blair to Purchase Timber. These excess Timber where sold out from Calcutta and Chennai depots. Now there is no justification to have depots at Calcutta and Chennai by incurring high Administration Expenditure without any work.
- (2) Misuse of government laborers in large scale, indiscipline at Chatham saw mill, Sawing of timber by the lower subordinate staff as per the requirements of the contractors or the Businessman, Multiple handling between the place of sawing and issue, appointments of Excess Majdoors/ daily rated Majdoors, and their engagement in the office etc. it is hoped your excellency will look into the matters personally and necessary step will be taken to reduce the strength of the high officer of the Forest department and the frequent appointment is controlled and the excess amount collected from the public is return back in cash immediately.

Thanking you With Regards

Yours faithfully

(Generāl Secretary)

CC:

1) To the P. C. C. F. Haddow, for information & Necessary action.

No.FS/G/15-150 OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Port Blair, dated the 27th Jan. 93.

To

The Divisional Forest Officer, Diglipur.

Sub:-Clearance of commercial trees standing on allotted land of the settlers - reg.

Please find enclosed a copy of telegram received from Secretary, Congress(I), Committee addressed to Hon ble LG and copy to PCCF on the above subject. The matter was discussed with the Hon'ble Lt. Governor and it was desired by him that, the orders of the Lt. Governor as already communicated vide this Officer letter No. Fs/G/15/162 dated 4.11.1987 may be followed. Further, it was also desired by the Hon ble Lt. Governor that the logs extracted from the filly land should not be allowed for export to the mainland.

Please acknowledge receipt of this communication.

Sd/-Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A&N Islands.

Copy to the Conservator of Forests (Andaman Circle)/ (Development & Utilisation) for information.

No. Tim/169-C-69/ dated 10/2/93.

Copy forwarded t-o the D.F.O., SA/BT/MA/AB/AD for information and necessary action.

> Sd/-For Conservator of Forests, Andaman Circle.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS OF A&N ISLANDS

I 994

Issued By:

Directorate Of Statistics,

Andaman & Nicobar Administration,

Port Blair.

PREFACE

The present edition of Meteorological Statistics of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the third in the series brought out by the Directorate of Statistics, A & N Administration. The revised edition contains meteorological data from 1949 to 1994 on the climatic conditions of this Union Territory under the headings viz. Rainfall, Temperature, Humidity and Wind speed.

The Directorate acknowledges with gratitude the co-operation extended by local Mete-orological Department, Port Blair in making available the data presented in the publication.

The publication is the result of devoted efforts of Smt.P.Sobhana, Sr.Investigator, Shri S.N.Sreeprakash, Statistical Assistant and Shri M.P.Muthappa, Computor under the overall supervision of Shri Jacob Verghese, Statistical Officer. Special thanks are also due to S/Shri Asif Ali, Senior Investigator and P.Ahmed, Lower Grade Clerk who fed data in the Computer in order to generate tables and print out.

Suggestions for improvement in the future edition are most welcome.

BALWANT SINGH
Director (Statistics)

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RAINFALL RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR(IN MM)

WORTS/YEAR			1951				1955	1956	1957	1958
	0.1						3 71.4	46.2	10.2	
Tebruary	56.4	9.0	7.1	0.8	78.5	0.5	22.1	70.6		2.6
Sarch	0.0	0.0	0.0	69.6	0.0	35.3	4.6	33.8		1.9
yril	166.4	95.5	45.7	39.4	133.3	56.9	67.6	146.8	3.4	0.0
isy	405.6	264.2	258.8	452.9	261.4	451.9	708.9	374.1	145.1	382.6
fune	658.4	370.1	620.0	657.6	481.1	611.6	564.1	374.7	924.8	543.5
uly	743.5	366.5	665.2	385.6	561.1	599.7	305.3	373.1	390.7	477.4
ugust	403.9	347.0	101.1	541.3	308.1	816.9	497.3	562.4	590.8	475.5
eptember	627.6	494.5	360.9	240.3	399.5	1122.9	379.5	298.7	368.8	427.5
ctober	339.6	224.5	488.9	315.5	299.5	175.0	382.0	510.8	344.9	262.9
ovember	81.0	89.1	209.5	287.3	261.9	35.1	314.7	163.6	96.7	470.9
	6.9	8 5 5 100	434.9	29.1	65.5	84.1	21.1	76.5	6.0	77 6
OTAL	3489.3	2421.6	3274.6	3019.4	 2876.8	4027 2	3330 6	2021 -		

TABLE -1 (COPID.)

RAINFALL	RECORDED /	AL PORT	BLAIR(IN	hii)
			The second second second second	

MONTH/YEAR	1959	1950	1961	1962	1963	1964	1935	1966	1967	1963
January	0.4	95.5	62.8	177.7	70.9	16.2	10.2	/u.u	146.5	8,6
February	0.0	23.1	180.1	13.6	8.2	2.7	25.9			1.4
March	18.5	0.0	39.2	0.0	12.7	0.0	21.4	1.6		0.2
April	110.6	37.8	109.0	36.0	122.4	3.1	54,1		31.8	69.1
May	250.0	667.3	1060.6	305.5	234.0	587.9	322.6	462.5	619.9	
June	636.8	545.8	412.3	423.5	430.6	592.3	409.9	124.7		233.4
July	929.9	286.0	357.4	449.6	326.8	354.3	421.4	527.0	372.3	477.0
lugust	310.3	290.1	721.6	465.7	682.6	468.8	430.0	311.6	634.7	551.0
September	605.9	485.4	705.1	521.7	609.1	662.4	57/.8		722.5	263,7
ctober	397.2	423.2	320.1	228.9	367.1	217.9	313.1	556.3	326.0	493.9
ovember	220.4	132.2	310.9	145.1	95.0	394.3		174.1	534.6	228.7
ecember	95.7	93.5	83.3	493.1	269.8	23.9	507.9	378.3 279.5	123.9 74.6	181.5
0 T A L	3585.7	3079.9	4362.4	 3260 A	2226 0		353			

RAINFALL RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR(IN MM)

TABLE -I (CONTD.)

						·	-			
MONTH/YEAR	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
January	75.0	31.5	0.2	12.0	6.6	8.2	243.5	0.1	63.3	124.9
February	18.8	3.6	9.2	4.0	21.1	18.0	21.6	8.0	11.8	32.3
March	42.8	0.0	16.1	0.0	8.0	10.9	0.0	0.0	9.7	0.0
April	38.6	36.6	11.6	125.4	14.8	446.8	2.4	158.7	11.7	41.2
Мау	374.2	452.6	241.8	627.9	436.2	280.4	289.6	588.0	311.1	440.5
June	494.5	464.5	413.5	691.4	483.1	354.8	669.2	691.4	300.7	335.5
July	404.0	707.4	442.9	472.2	412.1	314.3	141.3	360.8	426.1	647.1
August	383.0	326.6	492.5	411.0	480.6	479.6	343.4	406.1	451.9	297.3
September	492.6	628.7	635.2	420.3	374.9	379.5	305.5	349.4	343.8	333.4
October	106.5	399.6	476.8	280.5	198.7	469.1	352.0	165.7	308.8	305.4
November	222.0	457.1	148.8	599.0	284.3	302.6	277.0	235.5	90.9	99.6
December	38.5	154.8	5.9	103.8	191.6	24.3	119.2	539.2	2.0	6.1
										
TOTAL	2690.5	3663.0	2894.5	3747.5	2912.0	3088.5	2764.7	3495.7	2331.8	2663.3

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RAIRFALL	RECORDED	AT PORT	61.613(18 Ph.)
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MONTH/YEAR	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1.985	1985	1987	1988
January	8.0	Ú,Ũ	19.7	õ.4	8.4	48.3	5.5	0.0	84.8	0.4
February	0.0	0.0	7.4	0.1	Ū.0	234.9	€.0	0.0	23.2	24.7
March	10.8	Ù.Ü	0.0	0.0	ΰ.υ	16.1	13.2	U.j	17.1	29.5
April	74.8	8.2	41.2	61.4	0.0	121.6	27.6	0.4	7.7	37.9
Мау	153.6	798.3	302.9	269.2	217.7	232.7	318.2	299.1	155,3	275.3
June	266.0	586.8	571.4	439.1	389.1	618.5	545.3	356.7	363.7	253,8
July	404.0	529.0	252.9	439.2	610.6	632.4	311.5	318.1	27.1	602.8
August	106.5	531.6	611.4	336.0	662,1	150.9	459.9	563.3	666.2	422.9
September	336.2	343.4	507.2	490.4	334.6	346.2	412.6	337.2	447.8	748.5
October	149.5	150.5	314.5	103.2	423.8	318.3	399.3	153.3	311.4	3(14,4
November	30.3	99.1	308.7	277.7	243.9	195.0	252.7	130.7	303.0	561.6
December	1.7	709.7	266.7	22.9	84.8	506.2	74.7	38.7	258.1	43.1
TOTAL	1541.4	375b.6	3204.0	2445.6	2975.0	3421.1	2828.2	2197.8	2635.4	3364.9

TABLE-I (CONTD.)
RAINFALL RECORDED IN PORT BALIR(IN MM)

MONTH/YEAR	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
January	80.1	0.0	0.0	144.2	0.0	1.1
February	· 0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
March	35.4	28,4	24.5	0.0	30.0	98.1
April	2.2	93.8	156.0	0.0	0.8	151.7
May	305.2	466.5	225.2		276.2	413.2
June	494.4	324.5	228.6	479.0		577.2
July	438.1	292.3	496.6	601.7	568.6	655.9
August	346.4	375.0	809.7	401.0	344.7	505.9
September	208.5	377.7	571.7	422.4	553.0	788.0
October	358.6	232.7	370.4	259.1	210.4	127.5
November	272.1	348.6	171.8	177.9	192.2	174.9
December	0.7	54.2	42.4	5.3	27.5	16.0
тотаь	2541.7	2593.7	3006.9	2793.6	2542.9	3512 .4

									Ţ	Abb-li
<u>\</u>	EAR-WISE/	DISTRICT-	WISE RAIN	FALL DATA	OF VARIO	DS STATIO	NS 			
STATION/YEAR AND DISTRICT	1967	1968	1969	1970	1,971	1972	1973	1974	1875	1971.
Port Blair	3604.6	2620.0	2689.5	3663.2	2894.5	2976.0	2912.0	3088.5	2764.7	3495.7
Mayabunder	2387.6	3197.4	2863.2	3889.7	2882.5	3873.2	3121.5	3084.2	3378.4	3031.8
Long Island	3361.1	2917.0	2628.5	2870.6	2753.0	3539.5	2567.4	2665,4	3240.6	3637.6
Hut Bay	NA	NA	NA	3449.0	3259.1	3444.0	2872.2	3022.1	3552.1	inite to di
Andaman District	3117.8	2911.5	2727.1	3468.1	2947.2	3 651 3458.2	2868.3	2965.1	3234.0	3357.2
Car Nicobar	2689,3	1942.6	2238.2	2610.7	2800.1	1767.7	3331.8	2827.5	4886.9	2966.9
	3121.4	2769.4	2518.7	2607.0	2493.7	2128.1	3110.6	2893.6	3489.8	2340.1
Nancowrie Kondul	2690.2	2785.9	3346.2	3270.1	3708.0	2357.0	2949.1	3146.0	3394.6	3430.3
Nicobar District	2833.6	2499.3	2701.0	2829.0	3000.6	2084.3	3130.5	2955.7	3923.8	2912.4

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TABLE-II
YEARWISE/DISTRCTWISE RAINFALL DATA OF VARIOUS STATIONS

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·						2.12.200.000.000		
STATION/YEAR & BISTRICT	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984		
Port Blair	2331.8	2663.3	1541.4	3756.6	3204.0	2445.6	2975.0	3421.1	2828 2	2107
Mayabunder	2432.0	2685.7	2051.4	3627.6	3174.7	2533.0	2693.7	2524.0	3091.4	2248
Long Island Hut Bay	3026,2	3031.6	1508.0	3298.7	3166.4	2730.6	2929.1	2405.0	2974.3	2420
Andaman Distt.	2529.6	3024.6	1996.5	3284.6	2770.2	2772.8	3185.6	1002.4	2451.7	1840.
Andaman Distt. Par-Nicobar	2383.5	2295.5	2083.9	2834.6	3078.8	2620.5	2945.9	2338.1	2836.4	2176.8
lancowrie	2161.4	1884.2	1541.4	2734.4	1877.9	1036.8	2/49.2	2191.8	1867.5	1985.3
Ondu	2545.4	3153.5	2929.5	3411.0	3189.8	1603,3	1676.8	2934 6	2010 0	0
icobar Distt.	2363.4	2444.4	2184.9	2993.3	2379.0	1335.8	2301 2	2697.0	2020 -	2000.6

TABLE- 1) (CONTO

g 8							LIOUS ST	'ATLONS
STATION/YEAR & DISTRICT	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	
Port Blair							2542.9	
Mayabunder	2811.5	2439.5	1651.1	1522.3	1647.4	1679.6	2050.7	3387.5
Long Island							2089.1	
Hut Bay	1597.7	2543.6	2827.0	2399.6	2438.7	2209.4	2356 5	2716 2
Andaman Distt	.2344.8	2939.4	2390.8	2223.7	2484.3	2121.2	2259.8	3348.1
							1978.6	
Nancowrie	2600.3	2701.0	2308.1	1976.5	2007.1	1913.2	2621.5	2613.6
Kondul							3094.9	
Nicobar Distt	.2188.4	2879.8	2630.3	2320.2	2720.1	2515.2	2565.0	2638.5

DISTRICT-WISE ANNUAL RAINFALL & VARIATION(IN MM)
FROM 1967 TO 1994

AND AND WAS ARRESTED IN THE JUNE AND SPACE	ERON 190	7 TO 1994		
	ANDAMAN		nga gan mga maa maa gan gan can san ahar gan ka	NICOBAR
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL VARIATION	ANNUAL RAINFALL	VARIATION
1967	3117.8	-	2833.6	
1968	2911.5	(-) 206.3	2499.3	(-) 334.3
1969	2727.1	(-) 184.4	2701.0	(+) 201.7
1970	3468.1	(+) 741.0	2829.0	(+) 128.0
1971	2947.2	(-) 520.9	3000.6	(+) 171.6
1972	3458.2	(+) 511.0	2084.3	(-) 916.3
1973	2868.3	(-) 589.8	3130.5	(+)1046.2
1974	2965.1	(+) 96.8	2955.7	(-) 174.7
1975	3234.0	(+) 268.9	3923.8	(+) 968.1
1976	3357.2	(+) 123.2	2912.4	(~)1011.4
1977	2529.6	(-) 827.6	2363.4	(-) 549.0
1978	2851.3	(+) 321.7	2444.4	(+) 81.0
1979	1774.3	(-)1077.0	2184.9	(~) 259.5
1980	3491.9	(+)1717.6	2993.3	(+) 808.4

DISTRICT-WISE ANNUAL RAINFALL & VARIATION (IN MM)
FROM 1967 TO 1994

DISTRICT/	PROM 1967 TO 1994 ANDAMAN	west many water date globb name Stage Liber days again stage State ways for	the same that their date was now you feet the same that
YEAR	the grap pain was pain that any only may and they tring that may have been also		NICOBAR
ner may gen case can may and and they bere ye	RAINFALL VARIATIO	ANNUAL	
1981	3078.8 (-) 413.		~~~~~~
1982	2620.5 (-) 458.		(-)1043.2
1983	29,45.9 (+) 325.	ate:	^(+) 965.4
1984	2338.1 (-) 607.		(+) 396.7
1985	2836.4 (+) 498.		(~) 637.5
1986	2176.8 (-) 659.		(+) 117.1
1987	2544.8 (+) 168.0		(+) 10.9
1988	2939.4 (+) 594.6	2879.8	
1989	2390.8 (~) 548.6	2630.3	. O J T • H
1990	2223.7 (-) 167.1	2320.2	(-) 310.1
1991	2484.3 (+) 260.6		
1992	2121.2 (-) 363.1		
1993	2259.8 (+) 138.6	2565.0	(+) AQ Q
1994	3348.1 (+)1088.3		(+) 73.5

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NUMBER OF RAINYDAYS RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR
FROM 1961 TO 1994

ter and what were the same party year			2 10 1.754		
YEAR	TOTAL NO. OF RAINY DAYS	YEAR	TOTAL NO.OF RAINYDAYS	YEAR	TOTAL NO.OF
1961	197	1973	138	1985	189
1962	194	1974	138	1986	174
1963	185	1975	140	1987	181
1964	142	1976	138	1988	199
1965	145	1977	124	1989	184
1966	120	1978	136	1990	163
1967	149	1979	117	1991	145
1968	121	1980	127	1992	139
1969	118	1981	127	1.993	142
1970	157	1982	119	1,994	151
1971	132	1983	137		
1972	138	1984	124		· §

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TABLE - V

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e-amen and activate native at post black from 1949 to 1994

TIME MINES YEAR NORMAL ACTUAL DEPARTURE 8 OF YEAR KORMAL ACTUAL RAINFALL RAINFALL FROM DEPARTURE DEVIATION RAIMFALL RAIMFALS PROM NORMAL(+)/ $NORMED_{\ell}(|\epsilon|)$ (-)RAINFALL (-)RAINFALL 1949 3180.0 3489.3 309.3 (+) 9.72 1964 3100.0 3323.8 143.8 (* 5.55 1950 2421.6 (-) 758.4 (-) 23.84 1965 3215.7 35.7 (1 1 1 2 1951 3274.6 94.6 (+) 2.97 1966 2927.7 (-)252.3 1-17.87 1952 3019.4 (-) 160.6 (-) 5.06 1967 3604.6 424.6 (+)13.35 1953 -2876.8 (-) 303.2 (-) 9.53 1968 2629.0 (-)560.0 (-)1/:50 1954 847.2 (+)26.64 4027.2 1969 2690.5 (-)489.5 (-);5,35 1955 158.6 (+)4.98 3338.6 1970 3663.0 483.0 (+) 15, 18 1956 3031.3 (-) 148.7 (-) 4.67 1971 2894.5 (-)285.5 1957 11 2898.1 (-) 281.9 (-) 8.86 1972 3747.5 567.5 (*)[*,7] 1958 3151.0 (-) 29.0 (-) 0.91 1973 2912.0 (-)268.0 (-)A, Xy1959 3585.7 405.7 (+)12.75 1974 3088.5 (-) 91.5 (-) 2.87 1960 3079.9 (-) 100.1 (-) 3.14 1975 2764.7 (-)415.3 (-)15.05 1961 4362.4 1182.4 (+)37.18 1976 3495.7 315.7 (+)9.921962 3260.4 80.4 (+) 2.52 1977 2331.8 (-)848.2 (-)26.671963 3229.2 49.2 (+) 1.54 1.978 2663.3 (-)516.7

.

NORMAL AND ACTUAL RAINFALL AT PORT BLAIR FROM 1949 TO 1994

TABLE - V (CONTD.)

YEAR	NORMAL RAINFALL	ACTUAL RAINFALL	DEPARTURE % OF FROM DEVIATION NORMAL(+)/	YEAR	NORMAL RAINFALL	ACTUAL RAINFALL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL(+) (-)RAINFAL	% OF DEVIATION
	~~~~~~~.							
1979	3180.0	1541.4	(-) 1665.6 (-) 52.37	1987	3180.0	2635.4	(-) 544.6	(~) 17.12
1980	H	3756.6	576.6 (+) 18.13	1988	**	3364.9	184.9	(+) 5.81
1981	110	3204.0	24.0 (+) 0.75	1989	n	2541.7	(-) 638.3	(-) 20.07
1982	***	2445.6	(-) 734.4 (-) 23.09	1990	н .	2593.7	(-) 586.3	(-) 18.43
1983	Ut	2975.0	(-) 205.0 (-) 6.44	1991	n p	3096.9	(-) 83.1	(-) 2.61
1984	12	3421.1	241.1 (+) 7.58	1992	*11	2793.6	(-) 386.4	(-) 12.15
1985	<b>.</b> ( <b>τ</b>	2828.2	(~) 351.8 (-) 11.06	1993	H	2542.9	(-) 637.1	(~) 20.03
1986	ŧŧ	2197.9	(-) 982.1 (-) 30.88	1994	n	3512.4	332.4	(+) 10.45
~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	·	,						

NORMAL AND ACTUAL RAINFALL AT PORT BLAIR FROM 1949 TO 1994

TABLE - V (CONTD.)

YEAR		AINFALL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL(+)/ (-)RAINFALI	% OF DEVIATION	YEAR	NORMAL RAINFALL	ACTUAL RAINFALL	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL(+) (-)RAINFAL	% OF DEVIATION
·							5.50.5	/ \ EAA E	(-) 17.12
1979	3180.0 %	1541.4	(-) 1665.6	(-) 52.37	1987	3180.0	2635.4	(-) 544.6	00 0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0
1980	H	3756.6		(+) 18.13	1988	n	3364.9	184.9	(F) 5.81
1981	11	3204.0	24.0	(+) 0.75	1989	18	2541.7	(-) 638.3	(-) 20.97
	11	2445.6		(-) 23.09	1990		2593.7	(-) 586.3	(-) 18.43
1982		7440*0			A 22 /2 1	t*	2006 9	(-) 83.1	(-) 2.6t
1983	ti .	2975.0	(-) 205.0	(-) 6.44	1991				
1984	.11	3421.1	241.1	(+) 7.58	1992	n	2793.6	(-) 386.4	(-) 12.15
1985	п	2828.2	(-) 351.8	(-) 11.06	1993	n	2542.9	(-) 637.l	(-) 20.0 <i>i</i>
1986	н	2197.9		(-) 30.88	1994	n	3512.4	332.4	(+) 10.45
1500		temperature of the second							no como esta que son mas con como des supe em se su con

## TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT MINU CORD

	19	954	1955		1956		1957			
MONTH/YEAR	Mean Nax	Mean Min.	hean Max.	Mean Min.	Mean Max.	Mean Min	.Meis Max.	Mean Min.	Mar.	Mar of Pilar
January	30.1	22.9	30.2	23.4	29.6	21.1	36.0	21.8	21.5	
February	31.4	22.4	30.8	26.6	29.7	21.3	30.5	21.5	39	1.1
March	32.4	23.4	32.0	23.3	31.4	23.4	31.	23.4	. 1	2 £ T
April	33.4	24.3	33.1	24.2	31.1	23.9	33.4	24.0	39	He
Мау	30.3	24.4	30.6	24.2	29.9	24.3	*33.1	25.2	31.8	$0 = i_{\overline{x}}$
June	29.6	24.4	28.7	24.2	29.3	24.4	29.3	24.3	29.7	3 10 50 4 50
July	29.1	23.7	29.2	24.1	28.7	23.9	29.3	24.2	2 . 3	
August	28.6	23.9	28.6	23.6	28.3	24.0	29.1	24.1	29.2	3 2 22
September	28.2	23.2	20.2	23.6	28.7	24.1	28.5	23.3	20.5	
October	29.4	23.5	29.1	23.4	29.1	23.6	29,7	23.7	20.9	. · . ()
November	30.8	23.3	29.0	23.7	29.9	23.6	30.9	24,3	20.5	x , fx
December	30.2	24.4	29.2	21.9	29.8	23.1	31.1	24.1	29.4	ETA LES
Year-wise Mean Max. & Mean Min. Temperature ( Average )	30.3	23.7	29.9	23.8	29.6	23.8	30.6	23.5	30.8	1806

TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT FORT FORTH

	19	<del>)</del> 54	19	955	1	956	1	957	<u> </u>	: <u>.</u>
MONTH/YEAR	Mean Max.	Mean Min	.hean Max	Mean Min	Mean Hax	.Mean Min	Mesa Ban	. Mean Min	Mar. Mar.	· Mi
January	30.1	22.9	30.2	23.4	29.6	21.1	30.0	21.8	35	
February	31.4	22.4	30.8	26.6	29.7	21.3	30.6	21.5	09	ii .
March	32.4	23.4	32.0	23.3	31.4	23.4—	31	21.4	30.1	2
April	33.4	24.3	33.1	24.2	31.1	23.9	33.4	24.0	3.5.9	
May	30.3	24.4	30.6	24.2	29.9	24.3	*33.1	25.2	8. [8	16
June	29.6	24.4	28.7	24.2	29.3	24.4	29.3	24.3	2 . 7	â
July	29.1	23.7	29.2	24.1	28.7	23.9	29.3	24.2	11:3	45
August	28.6	23.9	28.6	23.6	28.3	24.0	29.1	24.1	29.2	2 2 2 6
September	28.2	23.2	20.2	23.6	28.7	24.1	28.5	23.3	29.5	***
October	29.4	23.5	29.1	23.4	29.1	23.6	29.7	23.7	29.9	4) (A.)
November	30.8	23.3	29.0	23.7	29.9	23.6	30.9	24.3	29.5	
December	30.2	24.4	29.2	21.9	29.8	23.1	31.1	24.1	29.4	14.2
Year-wise Mean Max. & Mean Min. Temperature ( Average )	30.3	23.7	29.9	23.8	29.6	23.8	30.6	23.5	30.8	

g a s

## TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT FORT BULLIR

	1964		1969	5	1960	ś	196	7	106	2
MONTH/YEAR	Mean Max.Me	an Min.M	ean Max.Me	ean Min.Me	ean Max.Mo	ean Min.M	ean Max.M	ean Minim	ean Perk Me	2/11 1 3 a
January	30.1	22.0	30.1	20.9	30.7	22.9	30.0	22.8	30.4	21,5
February	31.9	23,2	31.5	22.0	31.7	22.7	31.2	22.0	31.1	2)
March	32.7	22.9	31.9	22.0	32.3	31.9	32.0	22.2	32.8	* ) [] See Good of
April	34.0	24.0	33.0	23.3	33.3	24.2	33.2	23.5	33.2	24
May	30.5	23.4	31.3	23.5	30.8	24.3	30.8	23.9	31.2	22-3
June	29.5	23.2	29.3	23.7	30.2	24.5	30.0	23,3	29,9	23.6
July	29.8	23.3	29.4	23.7	29.1	23.6	28.9	23.6	29.0	23.8
August	29.2	23.3	29.1	22.9	29.7	23.7	28.6	23.7	29.6	24,3
September	28.9	22.9	28.7	22.9	29.3	23.1	29.3	23.4	29.1	71 °C #- 2 - 23
October	29.8	22.7	29.9	23.1	30.3	22.9	29.6	22.9	30.5	23.5
November	29.5	22.5	30.5	23.1	30.2	23.0	30.8	23.3	31.2	21.9
December	29.9	22.2	29.8	23.7	29.9	23.0	30.2	23.3	30.9	23.5
Year-wise Mean Max. & Mean Min. Temperature ( Average )	30.5	23.0	30.4	22.9	30.6	23.3	30.4	23.2	30.7	23.5

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## TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

MONTH/YEAR	1959			1960		1961		1962		1 062	
	Mean Max.Mean Min		.Mean Max.Mean Mi		in.Mean Max.Mean Min		Mean Max.Mean Min		T 302		
January .	30.7	23.1	30 <b>.7</b>	23.6	29.9	23.7			remean Mas	c.Mean Min	
February	31.3	21.8	30.9	23.1	30.4	23.0	29.1	23.4	29.5	23.7	
March	32.1	23.1	31.1	21.9	31.0		30.1	22.9	30.8	22.9	
April	32.9	24.5	33.0	24.5		23.4	31.8	22.8	31.4	23.6	
May	32.1	25.0	31.4	24.8	32.2	24.8	32.8	24.4	31.8	24.4	
June	30.0	24.6	29.4		29.5	23.8	30.9	24.8	32.1	24.7	
July	28.7	23.6		24.3	29.4	23.9	29.6	24.6	29.6	24.4	
August	29.1	24.6	29.5	24.5	28.6	24.2	29.0	24.5	29.1	24.7	
September	28.7		29.5	24.9	28.3	23.8	28.9	23.4	28.5	23.9	
October	29.6	23.6	28.8	24.0	28.4	23.3	28.5	23.5	28.3	23.8	
lovember		23.9	29.5	23.4	28.9	32.2	30.3	24.1	29.3		
Recember	30.6	24.3	30.4	24.4	30.1	24.3	30.8	23.3		23.8	
edrowise	30.3 	24.0	30.1	23.2	29.8	23.2	29.5	28.1	30.3	24.3	
ean Max. K ean Min. coperatore Average )	30.5	23.8	30.4	23.9	29.7	23.7	30.1	23.7	30.0	23.6	

# TABLE-VI(CONTD..)

# TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

		10	5		RE RECORDI	SO AT POR	r BLAIR		20 20	
	196		197		197		197	72	197	, ,
MONTH/YEAR	Mean Max.M	lean Min.	dean Max.N	iean Min N	foon May	lean Min.N	lean May N			
9		The real time was true does not seen to			rean max.r			ean min.M	iean Max.M	lean Mi
12		*								
January	30.3	22.0	30.9	22.4	30.5	22.5	30.3	20.8	29.2	20
Tebruary	30.8	20.7	32.0	22.7	31 4	21.0	31.2	19.7	30.6	20.
escch	32.6	22.8	33.0	22.9	32.1	22.3	31.8	20.9	31.2	21.
'pril	33.7	25.0	33.8	24.5	33.5	23.4	.31.2	22.4	32.8	22.
day	31.8	24.5	31.0	24.0	30.7	23.0	30.0	22.5	30.1	24.
lune	29.8	24.4	30.1	24.1	29.3	23.5	29.2	22.7	29.4	23.
July	29.5	24.1	29.3	23.2	28.9	22.8	28.9	22.9	29.1	24.
mgust	29,5	23.6	29.3	23.3	29.4	22.6	29.3	22.9	28.8	24.
September	29.4	23.3	29.5	23.0	29.2	22.4	29.3	22.2	29.0	23.
ctober	30.9	23.2	29.5	22.7	28.9	22.1	29.8	22.1	29.1	23.
ovember	30.3	23,0	29.8	22.8	29.6	21.9	29.1	22.1	28.8	23.2
ecember	31.1	23.7	20.9	22.3	30.5	22.9	29.0	21.5	28.1	22.6
cartwise can Max. & can Min. coperators Average )	30.8	23.3	30.7	23.2		. 22.5	29.9	21.9	29.7	23.1

#### TABLE-VI(CONTD...)

TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

		2								
20 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0	1974		1975		1976		197	7	1978	3
MONTH/YEAR	Mean Max.Me				ean Mox.Me	an Min.Mo	ean Max.h	ean bin.M		
January	28.1	19.9	28.6	21.7	20.0	19.7	28.3	18.6	29.0	15:
February	29.1	20.6	29.3	20.7	29.4	18.6	28.7	20.8	29.9	15.5
March	30.7	22.3	30.9	21.5	30.4	20.6	30.6	21.3	30.9	15.4
April	31.2	23.4	32.2	24.3	31.9	22.1	32:2	21.9	32.3	
Мау	30.1	23.2	30.7	23.3	29.7	21.7	30.8	21.9	31.5	21.5
June	29.4	23.2	28.3	22.5	29.0	21.0	29.8	21.8	29.4	21.7
July	28.9	22.9	28.8	22.4	28.4	21.2	29.4	21.4	28.4	21
August	28.7	23.2	28.9	22.9	28.6	21.2	29.1	20.8	28.6	23.0
September	29.1	22.7	29.0	21.5	28.0	20.8	29.0	20.6	29.0	23.3
October	28.9	21.9	28.7	22.0	29.5	20.6	29.0	20,9	39.5	ir v
November	29.3	22.1	28.9	22.2	28.6	21.2	29.5	21.2	29.6	22.0
December	28.8	22.0	28.1	21.0	27.5	20.4	29.8	21.1	29.6	22.8
Year-wise Mean Max. & Mean Min. Temperature ( Average )	29.4	22.3	29.4	22.2	29.1	20.8	29.8	21.0	29.3	2171.

and the first the first for the second state of the first paper of the second second

TABLE-VI(CONTD..)

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#### TEPERATURE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

				TETTTETT		DD AI FORT BUALK			
1979		1980		1981		1982		1983	
Mean Max.Mea	an Min.	Mean Max.Mean	Min	.Mean Max.Mean	Min	.Mean Max.Mean M	lin.Mean	Max.Mean	Min.
		* ** ··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·		***************************************					,
30.0	21.8	29.9	21.5	29.2	22.0	29.0 21	. 3 2	9.3	23.4
30.6	20.5	30.5	21.6	30.0	21.9	29.7 20	.8 3	0.0	21.4
31.5	21.8	31.3	22.1	31.4	23.6	31.2 21	.6 3	1.1	22.1
31.2	23.0	32.8	24.8	32.1	24.5	32.0 23	. 9 3	2.7	24.2
32.8	22.2	31.3	23.6	31.4	24.5	31.7 23	.8 3	2.9	24.5
29.5	24.9	29.6	23.7	29.4	23.1	29.4 23	.3 3	0.1	23.9
29.3	24.0	29.9	23.3	29.4	23.9	29.0 23	.0 2	9.4	23.3
29.6	24.4	28.8	23.1	28.9	23.2	29.0 23	.4 2	9.3	26.5
29.6	23 <b>.7</b>	29.8	23.1	29.1	23.3	28.9 22	.5 2	8.9	23.7
30.1	33.6	30.0	22.8	29.7	23.45	29.9 21	.8 2	9.1	22.7
29.7	24.5	30.0	23.7	29.3	23.3	29.7 22	.4 2	8.9	22.3
29.9	23.8	28.9	23.5	28.7	22.7	29.0 21	.6 2	8.7	22.5
	Mean Max.Mea  30.0  30.6  31.5  31.2  32.8  29.5  29.6  29.6  30.1  29.7	Mean Max.Mean Min.  30.0 21.8  30.6 20.5  31.5 21.8  31.2 23.0  32.8 22.2  29.5 24.9  29.5 24.9  29.6 24.4  29.6 23.7  30.1 23.6  29.7 24.5	Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean         30.0       21.8       29.9         30.6       20.5       30.5         31.5       21.8       31.3         31.2       23.0       32.8         32.8       22.2       31.3         29.5       24.9       29.6         29.3       24.0       29.9         29.6       24.4       28.8         29.6       23.7       29.8         30.1       33.6       30.0         29.7       24.5       30.0	Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean Min         30.0       21.8       29.9       21.5         30.6       20.5       30.5       21.6         31.5       21.8       31.3       22.1         31.2       23.0       32.8       24.8         32.8       22.2       31.3       23.6         29.5       24.9       29.6       23.7         29.3       24.0       29.9       23.3         29.6       24.4       28.8       23.1         29.6       23.7       29.8       23.1         30.1       23.6       30.0       22.8         29.7       24.5       30.0       23.7	1979 1980 1981  Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean  30.0 21.8 29.9 21.5 29.2  30.6 20.5 30.5 21.6 30.0  31.5 21.8 31.3 22.1 31.4  31.2 23.0 32.8 24.8 32.1  32.8 22.2 31.3 23.6 31.4  29.5 24.9 29.6 23.7 29.4  29.3 24.0 29.9 23.3 29.4  29.6 24.4 28.8 23.1 28.9  29.6 24.4 28.8 23.1 28.9  29.6 23.7 29.8 23.1 29.1  30.1 23.6 30.0 22.8 29.7  29.7 24.5 30.0 23.7 29.3	1979  1980  1981  Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean Min  30.0 21.8 29.9 21.5 29.2 22.0  30.6 20.5 30.5 21.6 30.0 21.9  31.5 21.8 31.3 22.1 31.4 23.6  31.2 23.0 32.8 24.8 32.1 24.5  32.8 22.2 31.3 23.6 31.4 24.5  29.5 24.9 29.6 23.7 29.4 23.1  29.3 24.0 29.9 23.3 29.4 23.9  29.6 24.4 28.8 23.1 28.9 23.2  29.6 24.4 28.8 23.1 28.9 23.2  29.6 23.7 29.8 23.1 29.1 23.3  30.1 23.6 30.0 22.8 29.7 23.5  29.7 24.5 30.0 23.7 29.3 23.3	1979         1980         1981         1982           Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Min	Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Mi	1979         1980         1981         1982         1983           Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean Min.Mean Max.Mean

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#### TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

		198	Λ	7.00							
	·· · · -		<b>-</b>	198		198		198		198	
MONTH/YEAR	Mea 	in Max.M	ean Min.M	ean Max.M	ean Min.						
January		28.4	22.1	29.3	22.9	29.2	22.6	29.5	21.2	29.4	21.2
February		29.6	24.5	29.9	22.3	29.7	20.7	29.8	20.1	30.7	22.5
March		30.6	22.6	31.2	22.8	31.1	23.1	31.0	22.8	31:	21.0
April		31.9	, NA	32.4	24.1	32.4	21.8	32.6	24.6	32.4	23.0
May		30.9	24.0	31.5	24.5	31.5	22.8	31.2	23.8	30.3	22.8
June		29.5	25.5	29.2	23.3	29.5	22.9	30.0	24.2	29.7	22.7
July		29.1	23.6	28.9	23.5	29.3	23.2	30.4	24.7	29.4	22.0
August		30.6	24.4	28.9	23.6	28.7	22.5	29.0	22.8	29.4	21.8
September		29.0	23.1	28.7	23.1	29,2	22.3	29.9	23.2	28.9	20.8
October		29.5	23.1	29.1	23.0	29.5	21.3	30.1	22.9	29.4	20.4
November	s ²	29.9	24.2	29.3	22.8	29.6	20.9	29.8	22.2	28.4	20.6
December		28.7	22.7	29.3	23.2	29.6	22.0	28.8	22.6	28.8	20.6
Year-wise Mean Max. & Mean Min. Temperature ( Average )		29.8	23.6	29.1	23.3	29.9	22.2	30.2	22.9	29.8	21.6

# TEMPERATURE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

E E/YEAR &	190 		199	90 	19	91 	10	992	19	9.3	¥ 25.	٠.
E EZYPAR &			rean Max.N	lean Min.N	1ean Max.N	Mean Min.M	iean Max.	Mean Min.N	lean Max.	Mean Min.N		94 
or way	28.7	19.4	29.3	22.3	29.5	23,1	28.4					rean
Jerua ry	29.4	17.8	30.7	23.4	30.4	22.4	29.0	22.0	29.0	21.6	30.1	2
a⇒ ∙h	30.4	19.4	31.4	23.5	33.5	23.5	30.5	20.3	30.5	21.2	30.9	2
Fil	32.3	20%,5	31.8	24.9	31.9	24.7		21.4	31.1	23.1	30.9	2
}.	30.6	21.2	30.7	24.7	31.4	25.1	32.3	23.7	32.4	24.8	31.6	2
*)	28.9	20.8	29.7	25.1	31.2	23.5	31.6	24.3	31.4	25.2	31.1	2
Ту	28.9	20.6	29.4	24.5	29.4	24.9	30.0	25.9	30.2	25.6	29.1	2
just	28.8	20.3	29,2	24.4	28.7		29.3	23.6	27.9	24.3	28.6	2
a timped.	29.2	20.0	29.2	24.0	28.7	23.7	28.2	23.4	29.0	24.6	28.8	2
oder	29.6	24.5	29.9	24.2	28.9	23.5	28.8	22.5	28.7	23.8	29.0	21
-mber	29.2	20.0	28.7	22.1	29.1	23.3	29.2	22.9	29.5	24.0	30.0	22
umber	29.2	20.1	29.3	24.8	29.2	23.3	29.2	23.4	29.9	24.9	30.0	23
- wise Hax. &	TO OTHER THE WAY AND MADE AND AND					23.5	29.0	23.3	29.9	24.3	31.0	22
Hax, a Hain. Harature Groge )	29.6	20.4	29.9	24.2	30.0	23.7	29.6	23.0	30.0	24.0	30.1	23

#### MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDILY PERCENTAGE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

YEAR/MONTH	1966 0830 hrs.1730		1967 hrs.1730	hrs.0830	1968 hrs.1730	hrs.0830	1969 hrs.1730	hrs.0830	1970 hrs,1730
January	73	78	75	79	υδ	74	75	80	£9
February	70	74	72	75	66	71	71	73	68
March	62	68	68	7.4	55	7.2	70	74	66
April	66	74 *	56	72	66	75	66	73	66
May	81	83	81	84	78	83	80	83	81
June	82	82	84	87	85	67	86	87	87
July	87	88	88	89	86	87	86	ãe	96
August.	. 85	88	87	88	83	84	8.3	ช7	შხ
September	85	89	84	86	85	88	83	86	85
October	79	86	83	88	79	85	77	8.4	81
November	81	85	77	83	75	82	77	82	81
December	80	87	68	77	75	ខាប	65	75	77
Year-wise Mean Relati- Ve humidity (Average)		02	70	62	76 -	ът 	77	81	78

#### TABLE-VII(CONTD.)

#### MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENTAGE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

YEAR/MONTH	1971 0830 hrs.1730		1972 hrs.1730		1973 .	hrs.0830	1974 hrs.1730		L975 hrs.1730	hrs.
January	65	72	66	70	67	70	69	72	78	79
Pebruary	68	72	65	69	72	73	73	71	72	73
March	67	73	66	71	71	73	70	74	72	72
April	63	70	71	76	67	72	73	78	68	74
May	80	<b>8</b> 1	79	81	84	85	77	81	79	83
duné	83	85	86	85	8.6	85	80	83	86	87
H.lv	85	86	85	85	86	87	8 4	85	82	81
August	83	ย 7	8.2	<b>ម</b> ១ី	85	8 ė	83	84	85 -	67
Soptember	84	88	82	86	84	86	81	86	83	84
October	8.5	88	79	88	82	85	8.4	88	84	89
November	72	78	83	83	79	81	78	83	81	85
December	7.4	80	74	87	73	74	72	77	74	78
Your-wise Sire Balati Fautorics;	- 76	80.	77	81	78	80	77	80	79	81

TABLE - VICTORYS I

a manufacture of the following					15101 10 11 16 1	9 9 6261 9 60
MEAN RELATIVE	HUMIDITY	DESTRUCTION OF A COLOR	****	8	William to the second	2
MEAN RELATIVE		ELING ENGLE	RECURBED	AT PURT	Ishar i is	
		~ ~	~			

VEAD /MONEY		1976 			1977 		1978		1979		i Gren	
YEAR/MONTH	0830 	hrs.173	30 hrs	0830 	13 " - 1 / / / /	to 11 (1 12 /2 /2	(19)			hrs.0836	hrs.1730	hr:
d.					S .					والمساوية المساوية ا	and more organization and their man and	
January		66	68		7.4	75	76	77	,			
February		70	62		74	74	73	73	72	78	7 1	7.
March	a.	68	÷ 73		73	74	69	72	69 65	70	66	7 (
April '		69	68		67	73	70	74	71	65 72	67	6 9
May •		82	83	2	81	84	83	is	77	80	67	7.
June		82	84		83	84	85	85	80	80	76 84	8 (
July August		îi	64		öö	6.8	<b>6</b> 9	86	86	69	65 65	84
September		85	86		85	83	84	83	83	84	84	85
ctober	÷	82 81	85		86	88	86	81	82	85	81	81
ovember	ε	77	84		79	83	76	84	77	82	84	89
ecember		72 .	81 71			80	75	77	7 4	7.5		86
			/ L		73	77	71	72	72	73	79	84
ear-wise ean Relati- e humidity Average)		76	78		78	80	78	79	76	78	77	 79

	100	1165 1 13	DELVOITE	111114 W.W			٠			
		MEAN	RELATIVE	HUMIDITY	PERCENTA	GE RECORD	ED AT FOR	T BLAIR		
	1.981.		1982		1983		1984		L985	
MEAR/MONTH	0830 hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.
January	70	73	7.2	75	70	73	71	71	74	<b>7</b> 6
February	67	73	7.0	73	70	72	78	82	69	73
March	63	71	6.9	73	67	67	70	72	69	71
April	6.9	75	70	77	68	67	72	77	69	72
Мау	77	79	76	80	67	71	78	79	75	0.8
June .	83	80	82	83	82	83	83	84	83	84
July	82	85	8.4	85	83	86	83	84	82	84
August	<b>84</b>	<b>ប</b> ស	8.2	<b>8</b> 5	មិន	85	79	82.	84	85
September	8.2	87	85 •	85	82	88	82	85	83	8.9
October.	0.8	86	7.7	81	85	87	78	82	81	87
November	80	86	81	87	79	77	76	79	80	84
December	75	81	7.0	72	75	79	75	77	73	76
Year-wise Mean Relati- Ge humidity (Average)	- 76	81	77	80	76	78	77	80	77	80

F 10 (00 %) (0

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TABLE-VII (CORTD.

### MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENTAGE RECORDED AT PORT BEAIR

		1,157,114								o americana	
		1986		1987		1988		1989 			un unu anu ma se
YEAR/MONTH	 0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	brs.
January		70	73	73	76	73	75	76	77	25	78
February		70	72	73	73	76	77	73	7.2	7.4	76
March		70	71	71	73	69	71.	73	75	72	77
April		71	76	68	68	7.1	75	67	63	75	77
Мау		75	80	77	78	81	85	79	85	81	स म
June	î	85	85	82	8.4	83	83	83	86	81	8.4
July		82	8.3	76	77	84	85	113	8.3	86	8.3
August		8 4	86	85	85	85	87	8.5	86	84	86
September		8.3	87	82	85	86	87	62	{16'	84	<u>5</u> 1 (
October	4	82	87	80	86	80	84	81	8.7	80 80	8
November		75	77	81	85	81.	8.2	78	68 71	73	7
December		70	76	7 3	76	71 -	7 4	8.0	/ 1	, .,	2
										o versus milit	
Year-wise Mean Relat ve humidit (Average)		76	79	77	79	78	80	78	79	79	ිසි 

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TABLE-VII(CONTD.)

# MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY PERCENTAGE RECORDED AT PORT BLAIR

	1.991	3	1992		1993		1994	
YEAR/MONTH	0830 hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hrs.1730	hrs.0830	hr: .1730	hrs.
January	7 4	75	77	80	71	72	72	75
February	69	71	69	6.9	68	71	70	69
March	73	72	68	77	69	71	70	74
April	73	75	67	70	66	70	71	75
May	7.4	78	76	80	73	77	82	85
June	78	79	82	83	79	82	84	85
July	83	8.4	83	8.4	84	84	86	85
August	88	8 7	80	85	82	85	85	86
September	86	88	8 4	87	8 4	86	85	87
October	81.	8.8	81	86	82	86	76	82
November	71	78	77	<b>7</b> 9	75	79	76	79
December	74	76	72	7 ω	70	72	72	75
- 1-1 L = V 1 BB					THE THE THE STATE AND THE BASE OF THE BASE		. Now was now have with the form on	
16	÷	*****	~1·	. t		7.12	29 I	80

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		Or Barther
MEAN	WIND	SPEED A (RM/HRS.)

** - ** ** ** ** ** ** **				to the time that her and the man are any				100	
YEAR/MONTH	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1986	1981	1982	 1983
January	14.6	0.0	7.6	6.3	6.5	7.9	6.1	·	
February	6.0	5.3	7.9	6.0	5.3	7.7	5.5	5.9	4.3
farch	4.0	4.4	7.9	2.9	ర.6	6.1	5.7	5.0	4.1
April	4.3	6.5	5.1	6.3	6.1	6.4	5.0	5,2 5,7	5.1
fay	14.6	17.9	16.3	16.2	1.3.2	9,9	8.8	9.3	5.0
June .	28.2	16.6	14.4	16.1	18.4	14.0	22.2	19.6	7.8 15.4
July	14.6	18.9	16.5	12.8	18.6	16.6	15.0	17.5	15.6 12.1
August	18.1	14.7	17.9	26.2	18.1	19.8	23.8	22.4	14.6
September	8.3	15.6	14.9	14.2	10.0	15.0	12.5	14.0	14.0
October 	5.8	9.4	7.9	9.9	9.6	9.0	7 <b>.</b> ช	4.0	9.8
lovember	5.0	8.7	7.0	6.3	7.3	5.6	8.1	6.4	8.6
ecember .	5.2	9.6	7.7	8.6	9.9	9.1	9.6	6.9	7.7
verage	10.7	11.6	10.9	11.0	10.7	10.6	10.8	10.2	8.8

TARLE- TITLE CHAPTER . . .

ے ہے۔ میں میں ایک								-		
TELEVHONIH	J 985	1986	1987	1.988	1989	1990	1991	1992	<u>-</u> 1993	
	76 SEC				·					1994
January	6.3	7.8	7.5	6.9	7.9	5.8	6.1	6.8	<i>(</i> 3	
Sebruary	5.5	5.0	6.2	5.3	4.9	5.5	5.7	5.5	6.3 5.4	5.1
da see h	4.7	6.3	5.6	5.1	5.3	4,4	4.5	5.0		4.0
A Commence of	6.5	د <u>ئ</u> پ يغ	5,9	ះ,ប	6.3	6.6	7.3	5.7	4.3 5.5	5.0
183	8.5	10.9	6.5	10.8	11.1	0.0	6.7	8.9	6.0	4.5
une	24.7	20.6	17.1	17.5	16.0	17.7	16.8	19.0	12.5	11.3
uly	16.5	16.4	17.5	12.3	12.9	15.9	16.6	14.5	14.6	14.5
ugust	17.7	18.6	15.1	12.1	15.8	15.2	16.4	15.6	15.2	17.6
eptember	12.4	11.6	10.6	9.8	10,2	10.6	10.0	10.4	9.2	15.8
ctober	7.8	6.2	6.4	9.2	7.6	7.1	8.5	6.5	NA NA	12.7
ovember	6.2	7.3	5.9	10.4	7.2	8.1	7.0	7.2	4.0	7.2
evember	7.4	7.8	8.9	9.0	7.4	8.8	7.9	7.7	6.2	6.0
Terage	1.0.4	10.2	9.4	 9.4	9.4					
bmad 274495						8.8	9.5 	9.4	7.4	9.0

# METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS OF A&N ISLANDS

1994

Issued By?

Directorate Of Statistics,

Andaman & Nicobar Administration,

Port Blair.

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## ISLANDS FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT, JUSTICE AND PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT

#### Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

Head Office: GOALGHAR, NEAR MARTHOMA CHURCH COMPLEX PORT BLAIR

Ref Sto. IFDJPE/2001/12

Date 21/12/20)

To,

Shri. Shekhar Singh Commissioner Camp at Port Blair

Respected Sir,

With reference to the discussion held with the delegates of this organization on the 15th Day of December, 2001 at Port Blair, the suggestion sought for from the committee on the certain points are as under:-

- The member of this organization is in view that there should not be any compromise with the lawbreaker who have illegally damaged the forest and encroached over the forest land. The order No. 54-1/85-H&R dated 17th August, 1987 (Copy enclosed) of A&N Administration which was issued on the recommendation of high level committee constituted by A&N Administration had not recommended to regularize any encroachment in the forest area. The relaxation obtained by A&N Administration by Ministry of Environment to the regularize 1365 encroachment in forest area is illegal. The Members of this organization is in a view to evict/remove the entire encroachment from the forest to protect the forest and check further encroachment.
- lt was decided in the C.C.A.C meeting H.M.A.C, meeting and by high level committee (copy enclosed) to regularize all the encroachment taken place prior to 31st December, 1961 and 31st December, 1978. But the A&N Administration has regularize all the encroachment prior to 1978 even after that but the encroachment, which had taken place prior to 31st December, 1961 has not been regularized so far. The team encroachment used in case of excess land found possession of the occupant in the survey conducted in the years 1960-61 is illegal. Because the survey was based on the survey conducted by the foreign ruler in the year 1929 so this variation in the actual possession of land and land record cannot be turned as encroachment. The Hon'ble court may aware of this fact before passing any o9rder on the case pending before his lordship.
- The Member of this organization welcome the decision of the Govt. of India to have a unified command in this Islands. This island is situated at a very strategic point and having its own importance from defence point of view after establishment of Naval base by the Chinese at COCO & Table island and installation of defence base by the united states at Mauritius (Deco Gasia) island. The defence are strengthen their establishment in two most important point one at North Andaman Near Port Cornwallis Area which is very nearer to Burma and another at Campbell Bay which is just 90 miles away from Malaysia. The Air Force as already having a large Airfield in Car Nicobar island for all sought of latest defence Aircraft and there can also coordinate with the other command station at Campbell Bay. We feel there is no Justification to have further installation of Unified command at Port Blair which is already tourist and influx of population may leak over defence secrecy which is very much important for every Nation. There further strict instruction by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is only the remedy to check further Influx of population in which has already reached to its saturation point.

With regards,

Dated: 21-12-2-001

Yours faithfully,

(rChander Shekar), General Secretary

# SUBMISSIONS OF SOCIETY FOR Andaman & Nicobar ECOLOGY BEFORE PROF. SHEKHAR SINGH COMMISSIONER APPOINTED BY HON'BLE SUPREME COURT

#### 1. Forest Organisation chart:

At present we have a PCCF, a CCF, six CFs, six DFOs and ten DCFs, a total of 24 IFS officers. In 1982-83, there were only 16 IFS Officers. In 1982-83, 1,50,000 cu.mtrs of logs were extracted, and 12,000 labourers were working. In 2000, only 40,000 cu. mtrs of logs were extracted and 2400 labourers worked. The regeneration figures of 82-83 is also much higher that those of 2000-01. It seems that less and less is getting done by more and more people. Prof Parkinson studied the British Admiralty and British Colonial Office and demonstrated that the growth of bureaucracy is totally unrelated to the volume of work. The Admiralty employed more babus in 1960s than in 1944 when the Royal Navy had three times more ships, officers and sailors. There were a lesser number of people in the British Colonial Office when "the sun never set in the British Empire" than when the entire consisted of two crown Colonies of Hong Kong and Singapore only. Our Forest Department is a classical model demonstrating Parkinson's Law.

There is a proposal of inducting an Addl. PCCF another CCF in the Department. At the same cost it is possible to have 30 Foresters, considering the thin spread of Foresters and Forest Guards who guard the forest against illegal felling and poaching we shall have more field staff than Managers. We have a hundred odd PAs in these Islands but the CWLW does not have even a score of Foresters and Forest Guards.

The total forest area in the Islands is 7171 sq. Kms, out of which 3150 Sq, kms. Is declared as Tribal Reserve, controlled by the DCs of Andaman & Nicobar. So, only 4021 Sq.kms of forest is being managed by 24 IFS Officers @ 168 Sq, mtrs per person. When we compare this with 349 in MP 488 in Nagaland, 382 in Orissa, 480 in Arunachal, Goa, Mizoram and all Uts, A & Islands appear to be over endowed with IFS Officers.

We humbly urge the Commissioner to kindly recommend restructuring by reducing the number of Senior Officers to 1982 level and putting a ban on creation/filling up of any more senior posts in the next five years.

#### 2. Transparency and elimination of corruption an inefficiency:

There are many allegations of double marking of logs, use of the same TP more than once to take material out etc. etc. We urge the Commission to recommend making the Working Plans and such other papers public and available to common citizens on payment of reasonable charges. Any permits issued by ED should be made public by putting a copy on the Notice Board and internet/media and forwarding a copy to the local PRI office. The existing Protection infrastructure is not, obviously, adequate. We urge the Commission to usher in an era of public participation. So that the people feel that the Forest is theirs and not merely "Sarkari". Then the local people will take on themselves the burden of protection.

#### 3. Joint Forest Management:

In view of the prevailing level of educated unemployment, the present regime of forest protection through policing alone is unviable. Joint Forest Management is the only answer to the question of protection. An additional benefit from JFM would be income generation for rural poor through collection of non-timber forest produce. Rural poor should be permitted and even

encouraged to grow medicinal plants on the forest floor, fatten and later culture mud crabs in mangrove area and such other activities in the long-term interest of conservation. This will reduce and hopefully even eliminate the pressure of illegal felling and poaching that afflicts the Island forests today.

#### 4. Involvement of PRIs:

The 73rd and 74th Amendments to our Constitution provides for devolution of powers to the local self government institutions. In accordance with these amendments the President of India has framed the relevant Regulation of the A & N Islands and the Administrator has framed the Rules as required under the Regulation. The subjects proposed for such devolution of power to PRIs include collection of NTFP and Social Forestry. It will appropriate if the Commission facilitates this transition through Supreme Court intervention as the Administration, apart from a pious Gazette Notification in 1995 has not done much else yet.

#### 5. Transparency in Forest Management:

SANE had requested for a copy of the Working Plan for Little Andaman Island and was refused by the CCF on the ground that "It is an official document". SANE approached the Hon'ble Lt. Governor citing a Bombay High Court Judgement in Pune Cantonment Board case upheld by the Supreme Court and was able to get a copy, just in time to submit a list of errors before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

#### 6. Regarding Working Plan(LA):

At Para 1, it is stated, "in the year 1977, the harvestable forests were leased our to the Corporation". It accepts that forests outside the area leased out are not harvestable.

Although required in Para 18, the Corporation has not maintained the forest boundary. The work of fixing permanent boundary pillars remains incomplete.

At Para 4, wild pig is described as an injurious animal though it is an endemic. At Para 45, Pegions, Parrots and Parakeets are described likewise, allegedly causing "great destruction" to "Paddock " (among others). Paduak does not occur in Little Andaman at all and parrots do not occur in the whole of Indian Union.

Para 52 states illicit falling is not a big problem but encroachment is! Encroachments in the Islands are for the prupose of agriculture requiring clear felling of the area. During the last three years between 1000 and 1500 new encroachments took place in LA.

Para 65 states "There are 250 wood based industry... with an installed capacity of 1.50 Lakhs cu.mtrs per annum" And yet, last year even the 40,000 cu.mtrs felled could not be sold.

Para 90 states that the cost of extraction of timber was Rs. 923.69 and the overhead cost was Rs. 2274.21 bringing the total cost to Rs. 3197.90. Para 141 gives the main objectives of setting up of the FPDC. The corporation to date could meet none of the objectives.

Para 145 (iii) puts the length of the forest roads at 114.5 kms, Even if only 10 mtrs are cleared for the road and the shoulders, 114.5 Hacts are covered by the roads and should be deducted from the available forest area.

Para 190 categorically states that "the forests of LA Division have not been divided into blocks and boundaries" but Para 194 says, "The felling series is divided into two blocks".

Para 192 calls "the balance area of 6000hact irregular forest crops is required to be converted into normal crop". Can the Working Plan Officer decide whether a natural forest is "irregular" and whether it should be converted to what he perceives to be "normal"? Para 209 lists "to convert existing irregular forest crop to normal crop with a view to increase productivity of commercial timber per unit area" as a special objective of management.

Para 237 shows" a backlog of 2029 ha. harvested area yet to be regenerated" up to 1998 while Para 148(Table 1.5.3) puts it at 2029 in 1998-99 and 2351 in 1997-98. Para 237 required the FPDC to cover at least 500 Ha. of back log every year (in addition to the current felling). This has not been done.

The direction of marking for thinning by a trained Deputy Divisional Manager and atleast 25% checking by DM and 10% by GM are not being followed.

Para 267 required that "some of the drag path and feeder toads which cover the whole of the regenerated area shall be cleared of all debries and maintained as jeepable inspection road". Since such an area is substantial, it should be deducted from the area claimed to have been regenerated as no forest is allowed to exist on the roads.

Para 286 admits that "due to excessive and unsystematic collection of cane in the past, they are becoming scarce." Para 297 says "cane areas regenerate themselves naturally if proper protection is given." In fact, under the FPDC's management, this was not done in LA.

Para 319 reveals tha profound ignorance of the Working Plan author. The CF was declared as CWLW, the DFOs and DMs as Wildlife Wardens. Only non-officials are declared as Hony Wildlife Wardens.

Para 360 claims that the boundaries of Reserve Forests were demarcated with erection of RCC pillars in 1971. Why should it then be "difficult to give the correct length of boundary" even 30 years later?

Para 371 prescribes maintenance of Plantation and Regeneration Journals in "the loose leaf file system"! Will this not facilitate intentional tampering with records and evidence?

Para 381 states, "we may expect to sell the entire quantity of 17370 m³ of annual saleable yield in the local market." A fond hope not bolstered by past performance. In the past the corporation had repeatedly exported logs on the plea that the local Industry was not picking up the stocks.

IN the Working Plans for Mayabunder and Diglipur 180cm gbh trees are prescribed to be retained as mother trees. It is only in LA that 150 cm gbh is prescribed. In SA, Mayabunder and Diglipur, even the same Working Plan author prescribes 180cm.

Also enclosed is an estimate of requirement of timber projected by the Directorate of Industries. We pray for a small window of extraction in Andaman Forest but definitely not in LA.

A study of the Felling Control Registers of LA would reveal that the prescription o retaining the required number of mother trees was not followed even during the two years that the WP was in force.

The Working Plan is a ten year prescription for forest management and major errors in such a prescription is unacceptable. We suggest that formulation of Working Plans be entrusted to experts from Research Institutions like FRI and at draft stage these be made available to PRIs/NGOs / interested persons to eliminate such pit falls in future.

# 7. An estimate of Land area available for extraction of Timber in the A & N Islands:

# AN ESTIMATE OF FOREST LAND AREA AVAILABLE FOR EXTRACTION OF TIMBER IN THE A& N ISLANDS

	Area in sq.km.	Source	Balance
A&N Islands	8249		
Forest Area	7171	Forest Statistics 97-98pl	7171
Tribal	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1		
Reserve PA-	3150	Forest statistics 97-98pl	3661
(combined)		Forest statistics,97-98 p43-45	
CRZ Area	320	Estimated pro rata for areas other than TR&PA	3341
Area above 45% slope, waterways, catchements etc	438	Estimated pro rata as per forest statistics	2903
Area already harvested	2578	Forest statistics p15	325
Area available for logging	325		

According to the forest statistics, in the last 8 years (1990-91 to 1997-98) 27504 ha was harvested for timber. Therefore at an average, the annual area subjected to extraction comes to 3438 ha. Actual figure will be much more as forestry operations were definitely more extensive and intense in its quantum

of extraction per unit area. Since the rotation period is at 75 years, although the department has worked for more than 100 years, the minimum area worked in the last 75 years works out to 3448x75= 257850 ha, assuming that the department has religiously followed the principles of rotation as prescribed in its silvicultural system and had not gone back to a worked area within 75 years.

A&N Islands have a total area of 8249 sq.kms. The forest area is stated to be 7171 sq.kms. The total area of tribal reserves is 3150.65 sq.kms. While the tribal reserves mostly have a good forest cover, these are protected under the A&N Aboriginal Tribes Protection Regulation. These are under the administrative control of the two Dy. Commissioners of Andaman & Nicobar districts. Therefore, the forest area under the control of the Forest Deptt. Is only 4021 sq.kms. Collection of any resource from the tribal areas is prohibited under the ANAPTR except by primitive tribes.

Some of the areas are covered under two or more of the above classification that is there may be an overlap. However, once it is worked out and deducted from the available area outside the ambit of forestry, there appears to be only 32,500Ha left for forestry operations in the islands. If extraction from about 800 ha. Is permitted to meet local needs, and no more, this should last us for about 40 years. In the meantime, the 75 ear cycle would have been completed in some areas.

The entire north and middle Andaman islands was leased out to M/s P.C.Ray and Company Limited in early fifties and they had worked the forests in these area till mid sixties. The exact data of their working is not available and as such these could not be incorporated in the above conclusion. The department has already submitted an affidavit with regard to the working of the Company in the Hon' High Court of Calcutta, details can be called for the areas leased out to timber industries like ATI, Wimco, ATP and Kitply etc., as

Timber Harvesting coupes in the eighties. The areas covered by Andaman Trunk Road, forest camps all over the islands, the camps and other establishments of the Forest Corporation have not been incorporated in the above calculation.

Separately enclosed are statements of available data on the huge quantity of logs lying in the forests, forests depots, log depots, log ponds etc. There is also a huge stockpile of sound timber of unwanted sizes at he Govt. Saw Mill which can be resawn to meet local demands. In fact this is a crying need as much of the stock has already got spoiled/pilfered and so on due to prolonged storage. We urge the commission to ascertain the actual quantities on ground.

The Forest Department and the FPDC maintain the data of extraction and export in form no.7. The form no. 7 would indicate how much timber remained in stock(extraction minus export) over successive years. The department as well as the Corporation had been extremely wasteful in the past. There were many mentions in local papers and many complaints of valuable logs rotting in the forest for years together. The Supreme Court could facilitate productive use of this wasted resource. The Commission might like to call for the for 7s and to get a summary prepared.

8. There are numerous complaints of illegal export of timber from the FPDC's area. Standard operating procedure is marking two trees with the same number and using the same Transit Pass/Gate Pass twice by greasing the palm of Check Post Personnel.

In Feb, 2000, on the basis of a complaint, the IB investigated and found 4 Transit Passes issued by Ranger officer, Diglipur, all dated 19th February, 2000, two of which were numbered and two unnumbered. The Forest Deptt. did not know of any export permit granted to FPDC. On enquiry, it was

revealed that the MD, FPDC, had personally carried a file and obtained the signature of PCCF and the LG to legalize the export. It was quite extraordinary, to say the least. Our MP had sent a complaint to the Chief Vigilance Commissioner. A copy of his letter together with photocopies of the TPs are enclosed.

We suggest that the Forest Department and particularly, the Forest Corporation have been felling more trees than are permitted under the Working Plans and more than the market demand and had been losing huge quantities of timber through mishandling, pilferage and deterioration of stocks.

We urge the Hon'ble commission to examine the Form "7" of every extraction camp and also to call for the Felling Control Registers wherever the Commission feels it is necessary.

#### 9. Financial Jugglery:

Hershad Mehta's modus operandi was to persuade a friendly Senior Banker to accept a cheque in absence of sufficient funds in the account and to hold on to the cheque till enough balance was available in the Bank Account. We suspect that the Forest Corporation had been engaging in this dubious practice. They had issued a cheque no. 314492 for Rs. 50,00,000/-on 5th September, 2001, to the Forest Department towards outstanding lease rent and royalty dues which, according to our information, was credited to the Forest Department only on 1st October, 2001. Similarly, on 29th October, 2001, they had issued a cheque No 684960 for Rs. 1,00,00,000/- ( when their balance was only Rs. 44,05,206/-) which alongwith another cheque No. 124876 of 29th October, 2001. We suspect that similar situation existed in respect of Cheque no. 625960 of 5th October, 2001 issued to the Forest Department.

We have reasons to believe that the Corporation used to accept cheques from mainland-based timber merchants and allowed them to lift stocks, sell in the market and deposit the proceeds in their accounts, before producing the cheques received from the merchants for payment. This practice we believe, prevailed particularly during the tenure of Mr. Vakkom Purushothaman as LG.

#### 10. Royalty for MFP from Little Andaman:

We further suggest that the Forest Corporation had been collecting royalty for minor forest produce issued by them in Little Andamans, which were never deposited in Govt. Account (Forest Department). The Corporation, thereby, has been guilty of breach of trust and has illegally usurped taxpayers' money.

#### 11. Encroachments:

The biggest threat to the Island ecosystem comes from encroachments permitted by a permissive Administration. Of late, awareness of this problem had been growing and now there is a political will to combat this menace among the people and PRI functionaries across the party line. Several measures to curb the influx are in the pipeline.

We suggest that the people at a large and the PRIs in particular need to be encouraged and motivated to resist encroachments, particularly in the forest area. A very large number of encroachers have already honeycombed our dense forests. Without the support of the people and the PRIs, there does not appear to be any chance of evicting/relocating them. The Commission, could, perhaps help in establishing a mechanism to solve this very serious problem. We suggest that unless the Administration and the PRI functionaries learn to work together and to say 'please' to each other, the wider goal of conservation of our biodiversity cannot be achieved.

#### 12. Timber Industry:

The recent Supreme Court Order banning felling of all naturally-grown trees and the subsequent order banning conversion of all naturally-grown logs as created much apprehension. A large number of factory/workshop workers are currently out of employment as are the Small-Scale Industry owners.

Since the already harvested logs are likely to deteriorate and rot benefiting no one, we humbly suggest that conversion of existing stock of already felled logs may kindly be allowed to be converted. It will save the livelihood of a large number of people who were adversely affected through no fault of theirs. We estimate that there is enough timber to last 9 to 12 months even if there is no fresh felling. Once this interim relief is granted, the Commission will have ample time to minutely examine and decide the issue of further felling of trees. Even if the commission takes six months or more, there would be no immediate danger to the livelihood of poor people.

The personnel of Forest Department and Forest Corporation who are currently idle due to the ban ion tree-felling could be profitable deployed to complete the huge backlog in regeneration. In case surplus manpower is still available, they could be deployed for water shed management, demarcation of forest boundaries and eco-development work, if the commission agrees.

#### 13. Padauk Conversion:

Padauk is allowed to be sawn only in the Govt. Saw mills at Chatham and Betapur. No private saw mill is allowed to convert Padauk. If a farmer in Diglipur wishes to order a Table or Almirah legally, he would have to undertake a five day trip to chatham or Betapur (one day each for travel up and down and three days to get the timber) if he is lucky. Since this is too

inconvenient, even law-abiding citizens are obliged to buy, illegal timber and/or bribe their way through.

There is no logic in not permitting cutting of Padauk logs in Diglipur or Mayabunder where these are harvested. The system only undermines peoples' faith in the law of the land and perpetuates corruption.

#### 14. We humbly suggest that

- i) the export of logs be totally banned.
- ii) The export of plywood and veneer be discouraged by at least withholding the transport subsidy that is currently paid as the subsidy almost equals the wages paid by the Industry as a whole (Annexure...)
- That treatment of timber intended for construction be made compulsory.

  This is mandatory as laid down in CPWD manual ( also followed by APWD). But the APWD invariably certifies that " treated timber is not available" and use untreated timber. The DPC has also recommended the same during the last two years.
- That setting up of timber treatment facilities be encouraged all over the Islands by the Administration/ANIIDCO through unemployed engineers or entrepreneurs employing them. Our DPC had also made the same recommendations repeatedly.
- That production of small volume value-added timber products ( like flooring tiles, handicrafts etc.) be encouraged in the Small Industries sector to take care of the growing unemployment and also to augment revenue.
- vi) That the Forest Officers do not have the necessary expertise to run such non-forest activities as a Saw Mill. We urge the Commission to consider transferring the Govt. Saw Mills at Chatham and Betapur to a commercial organisation, whether private of public, as long as the units are manned by professionals and are run at a profit. The wastage rates of the Govt. Saw Mills are too high to be acceptable.

- vii) That the system of engaging Contractors for collection of minor forest produce frequently leads to overexploitation and waste. The Gram Panchayats should be declared as Forest Protection Committees and empowered to collect all MFP. This will generate substantial rural employment and the people will have an incentive of protecting the resource base to ensure continued income. This was recommended in the findings of BCPP Peoples' Strategy Project also.
- viii) Collection of sea sand, although prohibited under CRZ continues unabated causing massive erosion and potential loss of tourist revenue by obtaining exemptions from the MoEF year after year, even after successful operation of Stone Pulvarisers producing rock-dust and sand substitute. There are many allegations of misuse and mismanagement including use of a sing TP for transportation of more than one consignment. We urge the Commission to encourage setting up of the required number of stone pulverisers to meet construction needs and to transfer the work of allotment, monitoring and issue of TP for collection of sand to the PRIs.
- The forestry operations in Andamans must be made sustainable in the long run. We advocate extreme caution in avoiding waste and a highly selective felling with in a rigidly fixed limit. According to the conservative calculations submitted by us to the Hon'ble Supreme Court, we still have 32500 Hectares of forest left that could be harvested. In a few years time, the 75 year cycle would be over in old harvested area. We urge the commission to institute a mechanism for continued and sustainable harvesting. The approximate requirements of timber for the local needs as calculated by the Director of Industries is enclosed for the local needs as calculated by the Director of Industries is enclosed for the Commission's consideration. But we strongly feel that further tree-felling should be permitted only after the carefully inventorised existing stocks including salvaged and salvageable stocks are exhausted.



#### ORGAN OF SOCIETY FOR ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ECOLOGY

February 1997

#### **Appropriate Building Technology**

#### Appropriate Building Technology for our Fragile Ecosystem

A critical economic consideration for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands is in its potential as a major tourist destination in the world. Inherent to this consideration is the preservation of the environmental values for which tourists, both national and international, are increasingly visiting these Islands. It is therefore imperative that the beaches, seas and coral reefs, and the forests in the interior of the islands are left relatively undisturbed as this is what attracts visitors. Equally important to this economic consideration is that the aesthetic values, and the traditional architecture of our townships and villages in the Islands be maintained.

#### Exploitation of sand from the beaches

That the exploitation of sand and quarrying corals from coasts has had serious repercussions on coastal environments in India has been well documented, and this concern is reflected in the Coastal Zone Regulation of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and in the directives of the Supreme Court. This concern was foreseen years ago when the Island Development Authority recommended that construction in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands should be from timber which is both locally available and renewable, and should be in the existing architectural style. That the quarrying of sand and coral rubble for the construction boom that the Islands are currently experiencing has resulted in serious erosion and other problems, is evident from the fact that several Gram Panchayats have protested against quarrying in their areas.

#### What are the disadvantages of concrete?

#### Low Life Span

For a proper concrete construction, the engineers say that sand should have at least 95% plus silica(SiO₂) content. Unfortunately the sea sand available in Andamans has a silica content of less than 45%. Sand should also be non-

saline so that it does not corrode the steel reinforcements inside. Concrete also needs to be cured for about 21 days through pouring of copious quantities of fresh water to quench the heat generated from the exothermic reactions that hardens the concrete mixture. Lack of curing with fresh water results in minute cracks developing in the concrete through which water and air seeps in and corrodes the steel reinforcements, apart from weakening the structure. Instances of such poor concrete constructions in Andamans are a dime a dozen. These include the Old Syndicate Bank Building (now demolished) the Kendriya Vidhyalaya building which is already being dismantled, the G.B. Pant Hospital where a lump of concrete from the roof fell near a patient; and the Directorate of Industries building where load bearing members have developed deep cracks and so on.

#### High Risk due to Earthquake

This recommendation has been made by various other learned agencies and individuals who have studied the Andaman & Nicobar Islands,, not merely because of the biological and aesthetic value of the Islands, but also because the Islands fall in the *Ring of Fire*, and are an earthquake prone region. Multi-storied concrete constructions are therefore of a high risk in these Islands

#### What is the alternative?

There is an urgent need to encourage the use of timber as the local construction medium. In the Andaman & Nicobar Islands the existing argument against the use of timber for construction has been that it has a short life span, and therefore requires frequent maintenance. However, if properly treated/seasoned with existing technologies, as the plant in the Chatham Saw Mill has effectively demonstrated, the life span of buildings constructed with timber is greatly enhanced.

#### Advantages of Timber over Concrete

#### Less Expensive

Experiments with treated local timber conducted by the Forest Department at Chatham Saw Mill have shown surprising results. For construction purposes, even the local soft wood, Thitpok when pressure treated with the ASCU solution, has a life span exceeding 25 years even in external walling. Such buildings still stand at Chatham Islands. It has also been seen that

Creosote treated wooden poles used for High Tension lines has a life of 25 to 30 years, while a very large percentage of more costly and more energy intensive concrete poles fail and need replacement within 10 to 15 years. This increased long life makes timber less expensive. The cost incurred for importing highly energy intensive products like cement and steel from the mainland would also be saved.

#### · Environment Friendly and Fire Retardant

Use of treated timber would save scarce resources like sand and water. The fire retardant treatment, which involves impregnating with chemicals, makes timber fire resistant. The life span of buildings made of timber can be further enhanced, if only the foundation, toilet and kitchen are made of concrete. The recent and past fire accidents in Port Blair is not a case against the use of timber as the construction medium, but serve as grotesque reminders for the use of fire retardant timber.

#### Is it Sustainable?

Inherent to the need of exclusively constructing from timber, is a rapid phasing out of the export of timber and timber products from the Islands. Considering that the timber companies pay a low royalty, and receive significant subsidies directly in electrically and freight and indirectly from for instance the maintenance of roads, the nett revenue earned by the Islands is either nil or negligible. We strongly desire that the export of timber and timber products should be greatly reduced. And that the timber from forestry operations be made available to fulfill the construction requirements of the Islands. This will ensure that our forests will continue to remain a sustainable resource that fulfills the needs of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Under this method, the need for sand and quarry products will be greatly reduced.

#### Rock dust instead of sand

Certain requirements, for example the maintenance of roads and the construction of foundations, have to be met by concrete. Here rock dust can effectively replace sand as has been successfully demonstrated in Island systems like Seychelles, Mauritius, and even in countries like Turkey. Er.Manohar Singh, the former Principal of Govt. Polytechnic at Port Blair had performed a comparative study of concrete cubes cast with sea sand and with stone dust, substituting the sea sand and found that the concrete cast with stone dust was by far superior to the ones cast with sea sand.

#### Conclusion

We believe that the use of timber as the construction medium and the discouragement of concrete as the construction medium is economically viable, environmentally sustainable and socially equitable. It also enhances the aesthetic value of the islands and which will play a crucial role in the development of the tourism industry. To ensure that timber becomes a popular and viable construction medium, we urge that untreated timber is not sold for construction purpose. More plants to treat timber needs to be developed so as to meet domestic demands sustainably. The sand and stone quarrying ban in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has resulted in the Administration coming under considerable pressure.

We urge you to resist the reconsideration of ban on mining of sand and quarry products, as these would be in the short and long term economically, ecologically and aesthetically devastating for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

We pledge our support in ensuring that the environment of the Islands remains undamaged, and that it continues to attract people as one of the last pristine islands in our increasingly degraded world

#### Scheme No. 1. : Development of infrastructure facitlities

- a) The staff quarters proposed should not be taken up except for the Nicobar group of Islands. HRA, as applicable may be paid.
- b) Compound walls should not be constructed. These should be replaced with green fencing.
- c) Fish markets should be constructed only in areas with large population. The markets should have a roof overhead but no walls around. These should be open.
- d) The proposals for setting up of new cold storages should be based on proper survey, taking into consideration the number of fishermen in the area, fish landing and viability of the project.
- e) The supply of engine spares on 50% subsidy should be effected only to boots genuinely engaged in fishing. It is reported that many fishing boats are engaged in touring of logs and collection of sand.
- f) Supply of EFR to primitive tribes on 100% subsidy should be discontinued. They neither need nor want these.
- g) We should collect data on the number of fishing boats financed so far and ascertain the quantities of fish landed by them annually and whether the boats are still operational before considering this scheme next year.

#### Sishnu Pada Ray MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (LOK SABHA)



Camp.: ANDAMAN HOUSE 12, Chanakya Puri, New Delhi - 21 Ph. 4102017, 6878120, 6871443

> P.O. PORT BLAIR ANDAMAN, PIN-744 101 Tele.: 03192-31004 (O) 03192-33375, 36835 (R)

11th March, 2000.

Dear Mr. Vittal,

Export of timber in the form of round logs from the A & N Islands is normally banned. However, in special cases, the Administrator has the power to grant an export permit.

Recently, the IB at Port Blair found a ship MV Savarkar carrying round logs bound for Chennai from Diglipur in North Andaman. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forest's office had no knowledge of this. They subsequently found out that Mr. B.S. Sajwan, the Managing Director of A & N Forest & Plantation Development Corporation had personally carried a file and got it signed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and the Lt. Governor, thereby keeping the Forest Office in ignorance. The matter was reported in a local paper also a copy is enclosed for your kind information.

The consignment was being carried under four Transit Passes issued by the Range Officer, Diglipur. Curiously, while two Transit Passes are machine numbered, two others do not bear any number at all - (copies of the Transit Passes are enclosed).

I understand that at least three more shiploads of timber had gene to Chennai before this and one more after.

This IB had apparently informed the Chief Vigilance Officer of this matter and suggested a vigilance probe. But the CVO told them that the export had been permitted by the Administration.

I do think that the CVC should take a look into the affair.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Bishnu Pada Ray)

#### FOREST DEPARTMENT

Andaman & Nicobar Islands

ORIGINAL

Transit Pass 1.0.

1. Name & Residence of Pass Holder m/S. Masan

2. No. & Date of permit or certific te or order industry

Kind of Forest Produce	No. of pieces, packages	Measure- ments Cubic content or	Marks Hammer or other	Rate	Amount paid
(3)	or bundles	weight	(6)	(7)	(8)

9. Locality whence collected .....

10. Place from where to i.e transporced Pypun to

Signature & Designation of Salving Officer Range or Rever Boy At Micer

FOREST DEPA

Andaman & Nicob r Islands

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Digitpur

61.

DIPUT DIVISION A BOYREVENUE STATION

Nº 112750

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Diglipur



#### ORGAN OF SOCIETY FOR ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ECOLOGY

September 1997

#### **ISLAND TOURISM**

From the beginning of human civilization man has always been restlessly trying to bring about a change in his society, politically, socially and economically. He has constantly formed reformed experimented and changed the existing order forever seeking novelty. Hence the rise and fall of monarchy, aristocracy, oligarchy, autocracy, democracy, fascism, socialism etc.etc. Hence also the experimentation with polygamy, monogamy, and now simply living together.

But with the "progress" of human civilization and particularly after the Industrial Age, the resource-use pattern of man has so profoundly affected the natural resources and even natural ecosystems that in matters ecological and environmental man has now started attaching ever-greater values to pristineness - an unchanged nature - nature as it was a thousand or a million years ago. This craving for viewing, enjoying and trying to be one with this pristineness in nature is one of the most potent driving forces that promote tourism. This tendency in a (wo) man is inversely proportionate to the pristineness of the natural ecosystem that (s) he hails from. Thus the largest number of eco-tourists come from the highly industrialised North and West where biodiversity has taken a very bad beating.

Coral Reefs and Rainforests are two such greatly diverse systems that awe, amour attract and amaze the tourists from the first and the second worlds. Of late even Japan, following its phenomenal economic boom and industrial development has also joined the bandwagon. This set of tourists from the affluent countries are seeking nature in its most pristine form. They are sick and tired of the civilised 'goodies' and air-conditioned five star accommodations, packaged and processed food and sterile astro-turfed fields where no self-respecting grass would even grow.

They come to such destinations which are mostly located in third-world countries to experience what they have already lost in their own countries. Such tourists are often content with and even prefer an ethnic cottage (if free of biting and flying insects), local fresh food and safe drinking water. Tour operators often provide for them or offer five star comforts and other things that tour-operators presume the tourists want and of course what might conceivably give the operators pecuniary advantages.

In Andamans, we are fortunate to have three such natural elements, the Coral Reefs, the Tropical Moist Forests and the Creeks and Mangroves in relatively near pristine conditions although the forests on the major Islands have taken a beating. Our tourism development must, therefore, package these rare and wonderful assets. We must also make every effort within our means to maintain their integrity and pristineness as their value will continue to appreciate in geometric progression as more and more of similar systems elsewhere continue to deteriorate under pressure industrialization, urbanization and unchecked growth of even tourism itself. Growth of tourism, if unchecked, tends to destroy the very resources that attracted the tourists in the first place.

Every potential tourist has a certain expectation from his proposed destination. An Indian upper middle class tourist visits Dubai or Singapore for shopping - looking for cheap electronic and other bargains. He is not likely to visit the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. Conversely, a British bird-watcher or a German reef-enthusiast is not likely to be attracted by the Bombay megapolis or the duty-free shops in Dubai. So trying to provide a great deal of duty-free shopping or night clubs or marble-chrome-glass clad air conditioned concrete

buildings is unnecessary and perhaps counter productive in attracting the eco-tourists to a nature lovers destination.

In Andamans, we need to ask ourselves, what the tourists expect in Andamans and then to address ourselves to the question of whether we can provide these without compromising the continued health of our natural assets.

It is widely believed that the foreign tourists come to Andamans for its corals, forests and perhaps even remoteness. Our efforts should therefore be channelised primarily to provide these to the tourists in as pristine a condition as possible. We should definitely provide them fresh seafood and safe drinking water. Accommodation for the tourists should be in traditional-looking cottages, made of locally available raw materials as far as possible. Such buildings should blend with the surrounding nature and large structures, particularly concrete-glass-steel ones should be avoided as these tend to stick out like sore thumbs.

Each destination has or gets a character of its own. Many nature-destinations of yesterday not so far from our Islands have today earned notoriety as destinations for perverts, drug-addicts pedophiles, and transvestites. Andamans must learn to say a firm 'NO' to those tourists seeking such services. Andamans must acquire a reputation and a character of a pure nature tour destination.

In the last few years, the number of tourist arrivals has increased in Andamans. But the number alone is not important The development must be qualitative. The earning per tourists need to be monitored and efforts made to boost the figure. Otherwise, we shall run the risk of fast becoming a destination for hippies, and backpackers.

Subsidies, as long as given, will have no dearth of takers. In economics, a customer is one who has the will to buy a product and the ability to pay for it. A tourist, likewise, must be willing and able to pay for the "product" or "service" that the destination provides. To attract the right kind of tourists or rather, to discourage the wrong kind, we need to eliminate all subsidies from the sector whether in

transport, food, water or power, including the invisible/indirect ones so that the territorial economy benefits and the tourist considers it a privilege to visit the destination. Making a destination "prized and coveted" is important.

Efforts need to be made in developing an Andaman cuisine based primarily on fresh seafood and locally available and native vegetables and fruits. The spotted deer is a menace in Andaman Forests and deserves to be exterminated. Hunting and killing of spotted deer in Andamans should be legalized and venison should be made available to caterers on a regular basis. A combination of food, scene and culture would prove to be an irresistible lure to the affluent and accomplished tourist.

Tourism thrives best in a friendly and hospitable community. It is very important to ensure that the local community benefits from tourist-revenue. Educated local youth should be given specialized training to enable them to perform as informed Guides and Escorts. Tourism-based small industries and business, particularly of locally produced souvenirs need to be given special encouragement. Local communities tend to be concerned about and tend to conserve those resources on which their livelihood depends. A responsible tourism industry deeply rooted in the local community is our best bet to ensure conservation of nature including the Coral Reefs in the Islands.

Perspectives differ. We always lament the lack of roads and telephones. But I have heard a rich American praising Havelock saying that there are no telephones on the Island to disturb one and no vehicles spewing noxious fumes. We can turn what we so far perceived as a handicap into an advantage or even an asset. The absence of roads and telephones could be projected in our advertisements to attract a particular class of Tourists. We could tell them, "No canned caviar or champagne, please. But you may have a fresh lobster cooked in a tender green coconut on charcoal fire with Toddy from Nicobar free from all additives and preservatives." Any takers?

#### Note on extraction in Little Andaman.

- 1. A hectare is an area equivalent to a square plot measuring 100mtrx100mtr. An average of 15 mature tree of commercial species are extracted from such a plot. Since these fifteen target trees are randomly distributed in the plot, a certain amount of forest clearance s necessary to access the target trees and to drag these out after felling.
- 2. Such a tree, when felled, normally falls on at least 7 to 10 other trees of 5 to 10 years age and destroy them. A drag path of 1.5 mtrs. width is cleared and leveled to enable an elephant to access it and drag it to the main drag-way wherefrom a tractor/bulldozer drags it our for taking it to the nearest Forest Department. The main path is usually 6 mtrs. wide to enable the bulldozer free movement. Such a main drag path will measure a minimum of thirty mtrs in length. The total of the elephant drag paths would be about 300 mtrs or so. So, the total area of drag paths in a hectare of worked forest is 30x6 mtrs or 180 sq.mtrs for the main path for the bulldozer/tractor plus 300 x1.5mtrs or 450 sq. mtrs for the elephant drag paths that connects the 15 target trees to the nearest point on the main drag path. Thus an area of 630 sq. mtrs are clear felled out of every hectare (10000 sq.mtrs) of worked forest.
- 3. It is necessary to remember that all the drag paths must be neatly levelled, that is, all tree stumps must be cut at ground level or uprooted so that the elephants can drag the logs smoothly. Such paths are considerably longer than the straight-line distances between two points because neither elephants nor bulldozers can drag logs / trees uphill. So the paths must follow the natural contours. Our estimates given above are absolute minimums required.
- 4. For every five hectares or so (on an average) of worked forest, a forest depot (log depot) is set up where the logs are brought and stacked for onward despatch. Such a depot normally measures about a hectare to afford space for free movement of elephants, bulldozers and trucks in addition to the space for storing, sorting and marking the logs. So, one hectare out of every six is clear felled and leveled to facilitate extraction.

- 5. So, in every five hectares of worked forest clear felling is done on 5x630 sq.mtrs. If we add the depot for which 10000 sq. mtrs are cleared, we find that the total comes to 13150 sq. mtrs are clear felled in every 60000 sq. mtrs (6 hectares) of forest. That is, about 22% of the total area.
- 6. Since the average canopy size of a tree is 3 mtrs in dia, and the area of each canopy is about 7 to 9 Sq. mtrs on and average, there are 1111 to 1428 trees in a hectare on an average. The clear felling takes 22% of these, that is ,244 to 314 trees out the total of 1111to 1428. Add to that the 15 target trees and the 105 to 150 trees on which the 15 trees fall, the total comes to 364 to 479 trees out of the 1111 to 1428 in each hectares, fully one third of our forest wealth. All for the sake of a lousy 15 trees that were targeted. Some marksmanship some conservation!
- 7. The whole world condemned the Pakistani Army and militants that killed hundreds civilians to get at just fifteen enemy soldiers and rightly so. What shall we call the Forest conservators who kill three hundred trees to get the timber from only fifteen?



Society of Andaman and Nicobar Ecology Post Box No. 63, Port Blair - 744101 A & N Islands India

11th August, 2001.

Your Excellency,

We gather from media reports that your Excellency was approached by some public representatives to approve granting of water and electrical connection to all encroachers who encroached till 1993.

Ours is a democracy. In a democracy the rule of law prevails. Our Constitution which is the fountainhead of our law stipulates in Article 300 A (Chapter IV) that "No person shall be deprived of his property save by authority of law". The term "person" includes the Government or the State. So, the State cannot be deprived of its property, in this 5instance, land, save by authority of law. No one can claim that the encroachers on our forest or revenue land encroached "by authority of law".

In fact, the founding fathers of our Republic in the Constituent Assembly had made the right to property a fundamental right of the citizens. It had remained a fundamental right till 1979 when it was amended. But respect for private or public property is still enshrined in our Constitution.

Encroachers are rank trespassers. Trespassing is a criminal offence in our Country. Anyone who facilitates a trespasser and encroacher to consolidate his hold on illegal holdings is actually working against the rule of law. It pains us to note that our elected representatives who have sworn an oath to uphold preserve and protect the Constitution are actually engaging in aiding and abetting the criminal elements. We appeal to your Excellency not to accede to such transparently illegal requests.

The cheap populist stuntmen in our body politic usually take the plea that the encroachers are the poorest of the poor and meek. But the reality is that the poor and meek do not dare to encroach on public land. Only those with influence, or money to purchase influence, do so. The encroachers in and around Port Blair include Govt., particularly revenue officials and Police Officers, who can hardly be termed 'poor',

'dispossessed' or 'meek'. Granting such people comfort in their illegal holdings would be illegal, anti-people and unjust.

There is no provision for "regularizing" of encroachment in our Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966. Since there is no scope of regularisation, how can our politicians ask for providing civic amenities till such time as encroachments are "regularised"?

We suggest that if private property is protected by law, public property should be inviolate. Encroaching on a private land is cheating one. An encroacher on public land cheats the Nation. Such an offence is unpardonable. We pray to you to kindly uphold the rule of law and sternly admonish the politicians so that they do not indulge in such populist gimmicks.

The para 4.8.1 of the National Forest Policy of 1988, reads, "Encroachment on forest land has been on the increase. This trend has to be arrested and effective action taken to prevent its continuance. There should be no regularisation of existing encroachments".

How, then, our worthy elected representatives dare to support the law-breakers in contravention of a National Policy?

Your Excellency, we urge you to kindly publicly proclaim that no encroachment beyond what has already been committed by the Govt., i.e., up to 1978, shall be even considered for regularisation. This will protect the lawful Islanders as well as the Islands from the peril that a section of our elected representatives are inviting on us.

With respectful regards.

Yours sincerely.

(SAMIR ACHARYA)

To
His Excellency Mr. N.N.Jha
Hon'ble Lt. Governor
A & N Administration
Raj Niwas
Port Blair.

23rd October 2000

Mr. Anil Baijal, IAS, Chief Secretary, A & N Administration, Port Blair.

#### Sub: Reopening of Plywood factories

Dear Sir,

We had been following with interest various news items and stories published in the local media on the above subject. It appears that the Administration's efforts to prolong the life of the sick industries by providing Oxygen and Glucose drip is not in consonance with the National policy. In these days of economic liberalization, reduction of subsidies and administered prices, where the Govt. is keen to privatize even the profit making PSUs, this effort seems to be diametrically opposite to the declared policy.

It also appears to make little economic sense. The ATI has about 900 regular workmen. All the three units together employ less than 2000. They also provide employment seasonally to another 1000-1500 people. The average wages paid to a regular worker is around Rs. 4500/- p.m. So, the total salary disbursements of the Industry as a whole is Rs. 4500/- x 2000, or Rupees ninety Lakhs per month and less than 12 crores a year. As against this, the Administration pays out Rupees Six crores by way of transport subsidy alone. Substantial amount

are also paid out by way of direct and indirect subsidies on power consumption, water charges and above all, supply of timber at administered prices. It is thus obvious that public funds would actually be saved even if the units were allowed to close down and their employees paid their wages at current rates out of public funds directly.

The larger two of the three units are quite old. Most of their workers have put in twenty years or more of Service. If a voluntary /compulsory retirement scheme is formulated, awarding reasonable compensation to the workers, and forcing the industry to pay this compensation, it will be a much better economic and ecological proposition. In case of default by the Industry, if the Administration takes over their assets and pays out the compensation, it would still cost the taxpayers much less than under the present proposed arrangement.

We find that in the local market a mainland-manufactured plywood is being sold at a rate marginally lower than the local industry's produce. Since the mainland manufacturer who does not get 90% transport subsidy can afford to more than match the local producer's price, either the local units are grossly inefficient or grossly corrupt. Should then the Administration try and give them another windfall in the name of baiting them out?

The Plywood industry uses large quantities of Phenol (a known Carcinogen) and Formaldehyde (a toxic compound) for bonding. The spent chemicals end up in the sea causing much damage to the marine eco-system. No charge is levied for such ecological damage or for any clean-up that might be required later. The concept of a "polluter pays" demands internalization of the cost by adding an appropriate amount to the cost of each unit of plywood.

Keeping in view the depleting forests, in 1991-92 IDA had imposed limits to extraction of logs from our Forests. The Administration had imposed a ban on setting up of new Timber-based industrial units. A notice was served on all Timber-based industrial units asking them to take appropriate action to safeguard their employment potential by setting up non-Timber-based units etc. Even after a decade of making such resolutions, should not the Administration now drastically reduce logging and declare the forests inviolate in near future.

Since it is now recognized that Tourism and Fisheries would be our main thrust area for economic activities, should we not stop logging? A pristine forest is a strong attraction for Tourists. Silt from the logged forests choke off and kill our Corals that attract a large number of Tourists. If Coral reefs are degraded, the fishing industry will die as some neighboring countries have learnt in the hard way.

Thanking you,

Faithfully yours,

(SAMIR ACHARYA)

7th March, 2000.

Dear Mr. Raha.

I went to Mayabunder on the 3rd March, 2000 overland. Beyond Jirkatang check-post I found that the road was being widened, particularly on the western side. I had traveled on this road last nearly a year ago. I noticed a substantial thinning of the forests on both sides of the road and cleaning of about 5 meters on the western side. Thousands of stumps are visible.

Within the Reserve area, at least in three places I saw bitumen being melted by burning firewood (photograph enclosed). I also saw firewood logs being spilt and a truck being loaded with logs for burning (photo enclosed). I asked the workers and they confirmed that the logs were for road work.

In the Symposium Jarawa; Contact and Conflict I had stated that between 12,000 to 16,000 cu.mtr of firewood is consumed every year for maintenance of the Andaman Trunk Road. Since there is not record of such log-bearing trucks passing the check post, the firewood obviously is being collected from inside the reserve.

May I request you to kindly look into the matter and to put a stop to this malpractice. I also suggest that the cost of the timber so far used by the contractors be recovered from them and any other penalties prescribed under the rules imposed if they are unable to produce documents of legal procurement of the firewood used so far.

With regards,

Yours sincerely.

(SAMIR ACHARYA)

To Mr. S.K. Raha. IFS Chief Conservator of Forests Van Sadan Port Blair.

Copy to:- 1.Mr. Anil Agarwal, Editor, Down to Earth, New Delhi.

2.DC, Andamans

3. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests

4. Pankaj Sekhseria, Pune.

5. Mr. Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament

(5)

## (वन्नल जागुरामामिर्यमत

আন্দামান ও নিকোবর আইল্যাণ্ড

# BENGAL ASSOCIATION

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (BAANI)

Head Office; MB-31, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD

MIDDLE POINT, (Opposite to Mount Batten Talkies), PURT BLAIR - 744 101

JO The Shekansing h Commission,

Appointed by the Supreme Count,

Lebject: Regrestatatal Stop of illigate nebroachmentin Andamand Nicothan Islands: - Regarding: -

Kespeeled Sin,
The Bengal Association Andamound Bictory
The Bengal Association Andamound Bictory
Tolands & nay your good bell to look with the follow
They for Symphothetia action and Wind Consideration

1. This Association appreciate the order of calculate supportations lount-for baning fucher felling of tonest I needs but partial modification is needed.

2. As beathe report of the Department of Forest of

This Islands it is up to 80% is under forest.

Cover but in realth, it is hardly 30% buy

10% of the tool area 25000 cohect. and 12000 of heet

of land tended landshin and field erop respectively

I whis neal figure of Revenue Department—

Ond rest-area is totally underly and enchrosed
went (above 50%) of total area. No forest treesare

there but the enchrosche's raised garden which is

of reservany and forest Department to inseder and of onest.

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আন্দামান ও নিকোবর আইল্যাণ্ড

## BENGAL ASSOCIATION

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (BAANI)
Head Office; MB-31, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD

MIDDLE POINT, (Opposite to Mount Batten Talkies), PORT BLAIR - 744 101

Securely and Lavishly and they also bringing their nothand keen from maintand for further enchronch ments of Honest-land destroying the green nees and burning their bashes.

5. That sin, there is a Centain limit-to Stand and maximum himit of potoulation to bean the load for their sustainability which has already exceeded for these islands. The only isotulism for this is stopping duch work ment in Forest and.

I hat Sin the Bongal Association fully justifies the action of the Hon, Calculatingh court because in the name of Falling of I nées the Forest-Deparment-eneousages enchotach ments The Political panies addine Administration is Inying to vacate the orden with the plea wat poor farences and Islanders will hat be able to construct their houses. It is taly a baseless anguement: The bonafide cultivalors are estitetator 12 cm. Metre of limber trees Costand Royally but 901. of them Salethe limbers with Very low price to bussiness manutho expension to mainland and gol- very higher profitation Thot cost- of Islanders and Tosts of ecological blaldince and enlikering enchroach ment There was very recently about 3 to 44 years back a chisofte of highly innequal contraphon with winter expects himsen ditto fankens and to rrupt- Forest officials in NONK Andeman Felling of hees in no way will bearifil the faremens Islander's but-monitary benifit will be of Connugl-Therefore the Bengal association of Andamana Wind consideralim. 990s15 the following for your

Coxa. h.

## (वन्नल जाराजानित्यभत

আন্দামান ও নিকোবর আইল্যাণ্ড

#### ASSOCIATION BENGAL

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (BAANI) Head Office; MB-31, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD MIDDLE POINT, (Opposite to Mount Batten Talkies), PORT BLAIR - 744 101

(1.) Scientific and Systemalie fellings aged Comencial Inées from Forest-aneas to De Continued by the -tonest-Department-only.

(2) The preivale parties and bussiness or aganisation may be complotely stopped and keep away from Jimben

3) The all of ment of 12 currente of himben to bonafide Cullinatorie ( Settlers and Pre-42) only be continued With Eproper care and Supercoisim.

(4) The limbers extracted by the Forest-Departmentto be supplied to the general public for their Construction of houses and domestic use.

5. The export of limber and sawn limber, fur hilines may be completely banned. Therefore We request- your good self to

bok into the matter considering all aspects of the Islanders, ecological strata, population influxand National interest-and suggest-a suitable actionand minister to the Hon. Proposition Calcula. For this kind actioning We will remain ever grade full to you,

PRESIDENT

BENGAL ASSOCIATION ANDAMANDNICOBER LAMES TISLAND

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## (वन्नल जाराजाजिएयमत

আন্দামান ও নিকোবর আইল্যাণ্ড

#### BENGAL ASSOCIATION

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (BAANI)
Head Office; MB-31, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD
MIDDLE POINT, (Opposite to Mount Batten Talkies), PORT BLAIR - 744 101
For 13 AANI/98/1-31
4. 17-12-2001.

To Poof. Shekhar Singh,

Commissioner,
State of Forest and Allied matters

Of AXN Islands,

Ministry of Environment and Forest,

GOI. (comp at Port Blair.)

sub: suggestions for consideration - reg: -

Sir, with Lue respect we would like to state
that this association representing the largest
linguistic community of AbN Islands express
deep concern over the bizarre destruction
Of Environment and Forest in this islands.
We are in favour of me scientific and limited
use of forest-products according to the need
of the local people only. We understand that
the closure of the time major private commercial
Saw mills are in the interest of the islanders
and the nation since these mills caused
migration of large number of Labourers F.

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These labourers and their velatives subsequently eneroach land. Increase in population due to migration pose a threat to the Environment of these islands. Mureover, the islanders remain unemployed.

It is very important to undersland the demography of these islands which is very

unique.

Rotal population of these islands is about 3.8 laws and the composition is as follows:

# 1 Tribals:

- · majority are Nicobari
- . They comprise about 3% of the total population.
- · They have no other statehood. They there
- · Their survival is difficult without using forest produce for the housing, fencing, boat making, food (pandone) etc.

# 2) Pre-42 Settlers:

· Mostly descendents of penal setters (80) brought by British. Others are Krans (at Mayabunder) and few business families.

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-3-

- · Most of them lost-their original identity and are called 'locals'. They speak local Hindi.
- · Most- of them are selled in and around for blair.
- · They have no other statehood and comprise about 5-7% of the total population.
- 3) SETTLERS (mainly from East Bengal) selfled by GO.I. Since 1949 under Colonisation and Rehabilitation Schemes:
  - and remote areas of these islands.
    - · orajority of them are farmers and mostly belong to Scheduled Caste Community.
    - · Most deprived and backward community.
    - · Mostly live in wooden huts, many survive on fishing and on forest moduce.
    - They have no other statehood except

      A & N Islands. (81)
    - population of these islands.

## (বঙ্গল অ্যান্সোজিয়েশন

আন্দামান ও নিকোবর আইল্যাণ্ড

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Each of their families is entitled for 12 cx. metres of timber free of royalty for making house, 5 cx. metres in every 5-year subseasuently for repair and maintenance and 1 cx. metre for making boat. They can not survive if total ban on tree felling is implemented in these islands.

- · Each additional family of so these settlers is entitled for one heetre of agricultural land in these islands.
- About 60-70% of the Robert population of these islands belong to various states of mainland of India, eg. Tamil Nadu, Andhra mainland of India, eg. Tamil Nadu, Andhra fradesk, Kesala, Thakkhand, West-Bengal etc. Indisk, Kesala, Thakkhand, West-Bengal etc. Many of them selfled in these islands for many years while rest are Hoating population.

  Years while rest are Hoating population.
  - A) The provision of royalty-free timber for selflers, ie, 12 cm m. for making house, 5 cm m. in every 5-year for maintenance and 1 cm m. for (82)

#### (वन्नल जाराजाजिएयमत

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1 eu. m. for making boat may be restored.

(3) leople of these islands having no other

Statehood i.e. Tobals, fre-42 settlers and settlers

settled by Gos for from East Bengal, may be

permitted to use locally available forest produce

(eg. cane, bamboo, timber for housing, forming,

fishing, fencing, froating (pandana) for making

jurnitures and toys ex.

They may also be permitted to use sand, stones etc. for making house, ponds, wells, roads etc.

(C) Most of the additional families of settlers are not provided with agricultural land one not provided with agricultural land in these islands; while many outgoders in these islands; while many outgoders and allotted land. Hence, many additional settler families are many additional settler families are their compelled to cultivate frest land for their survivals mainly in hiddle, North and their survivals mainly in hiddle, North and little Andamans, Neil Island, Howelock and Little Andamans, Neil Island, Howelock and little Andamans of South Andamans. These additional families of settlers who have no other statement may not be distincted.

#### (वन्नल जाराजाजिएयमत

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and these lands may be declared as revenue land and alloted to the concerned families. However, it is suggested that a cut-off year may be fixed for the encroachers from the other states of mainland who settled for many years on humanitarian ground.

- D) leaple surviving on wood-based cottage industries, (ag. carpenters) and Jishing may be permitted to procure timber for making furnituses, toys, boats etc. under certain terms and and itions.
  - (E) Export of timber, cane, bamboo est on commercial basis may be banned completely.
  - E) Private and commercial saw-mills to be closed, and only 3-4 good sowmills may be oun to fulfil local needs.
  - (g) Inflow of outsidess may be checked by introducing permit-system for Cimited and fixed period only. North, Middle and

## (वन्नल जागुरमाभिरम्भत

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## BENGAL ASSOCIATION

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS (BAANI)

Head Office; MB-31, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD

MIDDLE POINT, (Opposite to Mount Batten Talkies), PORT BLAIR - 744 101

— # —

of South Andaman may be declared as

RESTRICTED AREA. Only the Torbah, Are-42 Sellers

and Selflers Selfled by GOI may be permitted

to live there. Others may be prevented to

encovach land in these islands.

We hope, the homowrable commission will consider the interests of of the local people especially of those having no the other state hood.

Thanking you stry

your's faithfully,

(Show N.C. Moitra)

General Scerefully,

BARNE, LOVERCAIL.



Regd. No : 1042

Ph: 50438, 50182 STD Code: 03192

#### **HUMAN WELFARE ORGANISATION**

# Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

E-mail: hworg@hotmail.com

#### **OBJECTIVES:**-

- > To Preserve nature and encourage human being to live with nature by preventing disproportion of five elements i.e. Land, Water, Fire, Air and either.
- > To frame world constitution suitable for the welfare of human beings and other living organisms.
- > To provide facts & assist people and Govt. at times of need.
- > To provide legal aids to those who are unable to get justice.
- > To promote and provide environmental based cultural, social, and educational activities.
- > To help providing Private Employment Exchange.
- > To conduct office of alliance.
- > To promote disciplined way of life.
- > To organise, swayam sevaks.
- To release human welfare news bulletins and journals.
- > To provide and promote scientific and technological information through future projects and execute it.

Ref: NO. 16 / HWO / IND

Date: 20.12.2001

To

Prof. Sekhar Singh S.C. Appointee Camp at Megapode Port Blair.

Project Dirctor, IIFA Indraprastha Estate New Delhi – 110002.

Sub:- Facts & figures regarding the S.C Directive for a ban on green felling.

Ref:- Vide advertisement of DCF (HQ) in "The Daily Telegrams dated 15-12-20001".

Sir,

With reference to an advertisement news in "The Daily Telegrams" dated 15-12-2001 by DCF (HQ) inviting various NGO's to meet your goodself for discussing matters relating to the S.C directive on banning green felling in these Islands. We would like to discuss and furnish the following points in the light of past and present situations:

- 1. No opportunity was given to the public who will be the sufferer. As per the Forest Policy, 1988 and in the present context of forestry as practiced in various states, Joint Forest management is being talked off. Every situations of forestry starting from conservation to social forestry needs people's involvement as specified. But why in this present context no people's opinion was seeked.
- 2. Before imposing a ban a separate study could have been carried out as practiced in case of banning limestone mining in Himachal Pradesh when the SC directed MOEF to carry out EIA EMP studies, which was done in coordination with CMRI, Dhanbad.
- 3. Is there any member, who had knowledge of Ecology related to the said subject? Before imposing a ban, had the said petitioner filed the PIL based on some relevant studies.

Ph: 50438, 50122 Regd. No: 1042

STD Code: 03192

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# Andaman & Nicobar Islands Port Blair

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Ref:

Date:

- 4. The Forest as managed in these Islands has only administrative control. The practice of Forestry involves simultaneous two phases. One is the operational phase where regular operations like felling and regeneration is carried out. The other involves the developmental aspect where regular studies to improve the productivity and other aspects associated to improve it needs to be done. Presently the second aspect is totally neglected and needs to be strengthened at the earliest lest there could be a total degeneration.
- 5. Working plan are written on papers but not followed as can be verified from earlier records.
- 6. Forestry should be followed in association with latest research and knowledge for this a research unit which would function in close coordination with the other aspects of forestry should be set up at the earliest.
- 7. There isn't any planning in the establishment / functioning of the industrial units, When the old establishments with huge staffs are existing, why has the new establishment flourished? The new establishments are now about 200 in number which will surely pose a threat to our forests. Why has the Govt. not met to feed the old establishments while special care is being given to the new and emerging ones. The labourers of the old establishments who are in thousands have lost their jobs.
- 8. The GOI had brought and settled about 3000 settler families after deforesting the area after clearance from the Ministry. They are getting every concession for study. financial assistance, jobs etc. Yet after completion of more than 50 years they have not joined the national stream. Every family has minimum three Govt. servants. They are not giving any revenue to Govt. but they are still trying to get from GOI and both the with MPS Ex and the present are favouring. They never talk of Erst while East Pakistan and their property left behind by them. They are inviting and bringing relatives, friends, and known persons and giving them shelter and encouraging them for their settlement by way of encroachment. There are bout 30,000 Bangladesh national of them mostly encroached forest land covering an area of about 20,000 acres deforesting thick forest. Whereas Indian citizens occuppy land for the bonafide purpose such as residential house and Jhopries. May kindly refer to the memorandum submitted to Shri. J.M.P. Nishad, Hon'ble Minister Environment & Forest during his visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands 17th to 19th February 1997 and all the special bulletin published in the Daily Telegrams (A Govt. News Paper) on 15th August and 26th January for the past 5 years.

Regd. No: 1042

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Ref:

Date:

- 9. Did the said petitioner ever talk of improving the productivity earlier or any other alternative before pleading for the closure of green felling? Why had the said petitioner didn't plead earlier so that the present situation would not have been arised.
- 10. As per the say of the Forest Department goes "there is adequate forest and the forests are in its prestine glory". But why the present situation arised. This is due to the fact that they never talked of the productivity of these forests, and no importance was given. While the Tropical Rain Forests through out the world looks evergreen and dense by which the general public were and is befooled that A & N Islands, has more than 90% forests which gives an impression of very good situation of Forestry in these Islands.
- 11. In North and Middle Andamans huge areas of forests have been cut deliberately and are being done presently also. But the authorities have no say to that where encroachments have been done and are still arising even in the reserved and protected areas. Huge acres of forest land which has got heavy and thick vegetation is converted into cleared land overnight. The Administration has no say in this matter then what to talk of improving the vegetation. Your goodself is going on tour these areas you can directly visualize by diverting yourself from the Andaman Trunk Road or the main road, whereas such encroachment are being motivated for shear petty gains by a few people.

The whole matters stated above may kindly be perused / physically verified and the survey of India's maps of 1950 and present map may kindly be seen and appropriate action taken.

Thanking you

Ever in the Service of Nation,

Human Welfare Organization

# MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF ANDAMAN HUMAN WELFARE ORGANISATION

- 1. Name of the society
- 2. The object of the Society

#### **Human Welfare Organisation**

: 1. (a) To preserve nature.

(b) To encourage human being to live with nature.

(c) To prevent exploitation of nature affecting disproportion of five elements i.e. Land, Water, Fire, Air & e ther.

(d) To frame world constitution suitable for the welfare of human beings welfare & other living organisms.

- 2. To provide legal aids to those who are unable to get justice.
- 3. To provide facts and assist people and government at times of need.
- 4. To promote and provide cultural, sports, social and educational activities suitable to the places/region, according to the climatic condition of places where the people live and enable him to become physically fit & mentally sound.
- 5. To help providing private employment exchange.
- 6. To conduct office of alliance.
- 7. To promote disciplined way of life.
- 8. To organise Swayam sevaks.
- 9. To release human welfare news builtein and journals.
- 10. To provide and promote scientific and Technological information through future projects and execute it.

3. The name address and occupation of the members of the executive committee.

S. No.	Designation	Name	Address	() nounce!
1.	President	Shri, K. Perumal	No. 4, Pathar Gudha,	Retd. A.C.
			Garacharma (P.O.),	Treatd. Tr.C.
			P/Blair- 744 101	
2	Vice President	Shri. V. Kumaresan	Haddo, Port Blair	<del> </del>
3.	Vice President	Shri Thirukumar	Pather Gudha,	
			Port Blair	-
4.	Genl. Secy.	Dr. Thiru Selvan	Van Sadan, Haddo,	
		(Ph.D.)		1
5.	Joint Secy.	Shri, V. Saravana Kumar	Haddo Zoo, Port Blair	
6.	Joint Secy.	Shri R. Mohan	Dolly Gunj, Port Blair	
7	Тгеаѕигег	Shri Ramaswamy	Jinnie Bay, Port Blair.	
8.	Member	Smti. Karthigai Selvi	Haddo, Port Blair.	<del> </del>
		(M.Sc.)		
9.	Member	Smti Nagajyothi	Haddo, Port Blair.	
1000		(B. Com.)		
10.	Member	Dr. Vidhya	Pthergudah,	·
	·		Garacharama.	1
11.	Member	Shri. S. Mookandi	Garacharma (PO),	
		(Bsc. B.Ed.)		1
12.	Member	Shri M. Senthil	Haddo, Port Blair.	

(V. Kumaresan) Vice President

(Thirukumar) Vice President (K. Perumal) President

(Thiru Selvan) Genl. Secy.

(V. Saravana Kumar) Joint Secy.

(R. Mohan) Joint Secy.

(Ramaswamy) Treasurer

H-karthigai Selvi (Karthigai Selvi) Member

(Nagajyothi) Member

Blent (Vidhya) Member

(S. Mookandi)

Member

(M. Senthil) Member

## **HUMAN WELFARE ORGANISATION**

(By Laws of Human Welfare Organisation Passed In Its Meeting Held On 4th Feb. 2001 at 1530 to 1630 Hrs.)

1. Name:

"HUMAN WELFARE ORGANISATION".

2. Office:

The central office of Human Welfare Organisation shall be at Port Blair with branches where ever necessary in the country and the world. The central office shall be shifted to capital, city, state/ nations where communication facilities are easily available.

3. Jurisdiction:

BHARAT AND VISVA BHARAT (INDIA AND WORLD)

- 4. Aims and Objects: 1. (a) To preserve nature.
  - (b) To encourage human being to live with nature.
  - (c) To prevent exploitation of nature affecting disproportion of five elements i.e. Land, Water, Fire, Air & e ther.
  - (d) To frame world constitution suitable for the welfare of human beings & other living organisms.
  - 2. To provide legal aids to those who are unable to get justice.

- 3. To provide facts and assist people and government at times of need.
- 4. To promote and provide cultural, sports, social and educational activities suitable to the places/region, according to the climatic condition of places where the people live and enable them to become physically fit & mentally sound.
- 5. To help providing private employment exchange.
- 6. To conduct office of alliance.
- 7. To promote disciplined way of life.
- To organise Swayam sevaks.
- 9. To release human welfare news bulletin and journals.
- 10. To provide and promote scientific and Technological information through future projects and execute it.
- Organisation Year: The organisation year shall be from 2nd
   October, 2000.

#### 6. Membership:

- (a) Eligibility: Any person aged 18 years and above, who agrees to abide by the Rules and Regulations of this Organisation, duly sworn by an affidavit and accepted by the President, will become member without any bar of sex, religion, caste or creed. Any member may be removed from the primary membership by central executive committee if found detrimental to the organisation.
- (b) <u>Prescribed Fee:</u> Yearly = 240/- Life Membership = 1,000/- Student 50% concession or Yearly Life Membership.
- (c) Admission: Membership to the organisation shall be made in the prescribed form as at Appendix "A" to these Rules, to the general secretary of the organisation. The subscription together with the admission fee for the year and affidavit duly sworn shall accompany the membership form for admission.
- 7. Funds: The funds of this organisation includes admission fee, subscription, donation and any other grant received from government or any other Trust or Organisation. The Organisation can raise funds from people as donation or by charity show for the fulfillment of its aims and objects. The organisation can also raise funds from GOI/NRI. Any other organisation complying with the statutory of provisions of Bharat and suitable to the requirement of such laws. All the

funds shall be deposited in any Nationalised Bank or SBI leaving a balance of Rs.1000/-. The Treasurer shall have a permanent advance of Rs.500/-. The President, Secretary and Treasurer will operate the funds jointly.

8. Management: (i) The Central Executive Committee of this organisation shall consist of the following Office bearers- President- One, Vice Presidents- Two, General Secretary-One, Joint Secretary-Two, and Incharge of each steering committee will be the executive members.

The steering committee shall consist of such number of members who may be able to handle the objects as per article 4 as may be permitted by the President.

## 9. Duties and Responsibilities of the Central Executives:

- (a) President: President will preside over all the meetings of the central executive committee and general body. He will also preside over steering committees, if he is present. All the decisions taken are ______ implemented/ executed. Any agreement or contract entered into will be signed by the President.
- (b) Vice President: In absence of President, vice President will discharge all the duties and responsibilities of the President.

- (c) General Secretary: Secretary will be the Chief Executive Officer of the organisation. He will execute the plans and programs approved by the central executive committee and the General body with the help of the other members of the organisation. He will submit an annual progress report of the activities of the organisation in the annual meeting of the General body. All the correspondence on behalf of the organisation will be made by the General Secretary. Agreement of Contract, however, will be signed by the President. In the absence of the General Secretary any member of the Executive body authorised by the President may discharge the duties and responsibilities of the General Secretary.
- (d) The Joint Secretary: The Joint Secretary will assist the General Secretary and will hold the office of the General Secretary in his absence with the approval of the President. He will discharge all the duties and powers of the Genl. Secretary.
- (e) Treasurer: Treasurer and Genl. Secretary will operate the funds of the organisation jointly with the approval of the president. He will keep the accounts of the organisation in proper manner for audit and submit financial statement in the General Body Meeting biannually.
- (f) Constitution of Sub Committee: Sub committee(s) can be formed with the members of the organisation by the executive body to discharge any duty or responsibility.

(g) Election of the members by the executive committee: An election committee will be constituted with three members and not candidate for the same to conduct election. This committee will be appointed by the President.

#### 10. Meetings:

- (i) General Body: General body meetings will be called at least half yearly by the General Secretary. Agenda will be chalked out by him. Any five members can also insist any agenda with a day's notice. If required, any time, extra ordinary meeting can be called by the General Secretary. A Seven days notice for ordinary meeting will be served. In case of emergency a notice of 24 hrs. will be sufficient for the meeting. 1/3 of the members will form the quorum. The signed request of the 1/3 members of the organisation, extraordinary meeting can be called.
- (ii) Executive committee: The general secretary will call the meeting of the executive committee as desired from time to time on the agenda chalked by him. Three members of the committee will form the quorum. On signed request any three members a meeting of the committee can be called.
- 11. **Tenure:** Tenure of the Central Executive Committee of the organisation shall be 5 years subjects to the extension by a maximum of 1 year.
- 12. **Term of office:** The term of office shall be for a period of 5 years. However any E.C. members willing to quit the office

shall, address his/her resignation to the President and may be accepted by him.

#### 13. Legislative functions:

- (i) The power to frame rules within the perimeters of the constitutions, to run the affairs of the organisation shall be with the Central Executive Committee of the organisation on the basis of Majority Rule.
- (ii) Any amendment in the constitution shall be made with 2/3 majority of Central Executive Committee of the organisation provided that the proposed amendments be thoroughly examined by the Central Executives of the organisation.
- 14. Rule Making provision:
- 1. The central executive committee may frame rules to facilitate implementation of aims and objects of this organisation.
- 2. There shall be a board, which will have control over all the committees (of each aims and objects of article-4) in consultation with Central executive Committee.
- 15. Resolution of the organisation: This organisation can be dissolved by a resolution passed by ¼ majority of the General

body of the organisation at the Extra-ordinary meeting of the general body called for this purpose and satisfied by equal majority of the member of association. The General body shall also decide the manner in which proper disposal of the assets and liabilities of the organisation shall be made.

Certified that the above constitution of the organisation is true copy of original.

(V. Kumaresan) Vice President

(Thirukumar) Vice President (K.Perumal)
President

(Thiru Selvain) Genl. Secy.

(V. Saravana Kumar)
Joint Secy.

(R. Mohan)
Joint Secy.

(Ramaswamy) Treasurer H Karthigai Selvi) (Karthigai Selvi) Member (Nagajyothi) Member

(Vidhya) Member

(S. Mookandi) Member (M. Senthil) Member

# NO. STATUSING 2001 THE ANDAMANS, PORT BLAIR

Port Blair, dated the ... 4 ... 2001....

#### CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

Post 13 lair ... " has been registered as a society under the Society Registration Act, 1860.

The Registration Number is 1042.



Registrar of Joint Stock Companies
District of Andamans
Joint Stock Companies

strict of Andaman

To, Prof. Shekhar Singh Commissioner, Govt.of.India. (Camp: Port Blair)

#### Respected Sir,

You are fully aware that A&N Islands is famous for its fauna and flora. According to official report 86% of the land is covered under forest. Both indigenous and exotic species are found in the forest. Padauk is one of the finest timber of the world and is found in these Islands. It would not be wise/correct to suppress the fact that the forest timber is not exploited in an unplanned manner and damaged by unscrupulous persons. Encroachers are also responsible for causing heavy depredation to the natural forest wealth.

You may also be aware that there is a working plan prepared by the forest department long back after the reoccupation of these islands by the Britishers. The same was prepared by the senior most forest officer Mr.Chingappa who hailed from Coorg (Brother-in-law of the then Field Marshal Karriappa). I understand that subsequently this working plan was revised but unfortunately it is learnt that officials of the Forest Department are not working properly according to working plan. The clear felled area of the land is also not brought under artificial regeneration, which is a must in proper forest management.

The Supreme Court judgement delievered recently has imposed total ban on cutting of even a single tree from out of naturally grown forest in A & N Islands. Resultantly as per the direction of the A & N Administration all the small scale wood based industries have been either closed down or are in the gasping stage. Even the forest saw mills which are located in Chatham Island and Middle Andaman are no exception. Logs are neither reaching these mills nor timbers are sawn. Almost all the Plywood factories have already been closed down for want of timbers. As a result of this closure, the employees who where earning their livelihood from these factories/small scale industries are facing great hardship and are passing through mental agony. The small scale industries which were drawing their raw material/timber from Chatham Saw Mill are suffering miserably and many workers have been thrown out of job .As you know this territory is not having big industry except timber based industry, thousands of workers have become jobless and are passing through very critical period. They are roaming from place to place for earning livelihood to support their family.

Consequent to ban, the poor villagers have also suffered very badly as all these years they depended on ballis, bamboos and canes etc for annual repairing of their huts as they are know unable to cut and remove these minor forest produced from the adjoining forest land.

Other builders who were engaged in construction activities are also the victim to these ban as they cannot procure timber for shuttering purpose which is an essential material for taking construction work of the concrete building.

You are also aware that these islands are coming under seismic zone and construction of concrete building is not advisable and is being discouraged. So it is but natural that in times to come the tendency of the people would be to shift from concrete to timber construction. In that case the requirement of timber for local consumption, which was less till now, is bound to increase.

In view of the position explained above in brief, we feel that a judicious view should be taken so that the forest is not exploited haphazardly and timber based small scale industry also do not suffer and the poor people may also continue to earn their livelihood as before.

We therefore strongly believe that you will very kindly make most appropriate and favorable report/recommendation and help the existing industry/ small-scale industries and the suffering masses to survive in these islands.

Your sincerely

(Smti. Shanta Singh)

Sharta Sings

**Ex-Chaiperson** 

Social Welfare Advisory Board,

A&N Islands

&

General Secretary All India Womens Food Council, Port Blair.

## LOCAL BORNS' ASSOCIATION ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

(A REGD. N.G.O. ESTD IN 1921)

SUBMISSION BEFORE HON'BLE SHEKHAR SINCH COMMISSION APPOINTED ON THE DIRECTION OF HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA ON TREE CUTTING IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR.

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SUBMISSION OF LOCAL BORNS' ASSOCIATION,
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, PORT BLAIR BEFORE
HON'BLE SHEKHAR SINGH COMMISION APPOINTED ON
THE DIRECTION OF HON'BLE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
ON CUTTING OF TREES IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR
ISLANDS.

#### Introduction:

Local Borns' Association is the first ever registered Non Governmental Organisation of Andaman and Nicobar established in 1921. It is the Association of descendents of Penal Settlers of Andamans popularly known as Local Borns, which is a race sprang out of many races hailing from almost all parts of Indian Union. Notwithstanding the sacrifices of our great freedom fighters and the tortures metted out to them during their transportation to Andamans under Penal Settlement by British, the credit of evolution of a new civilization in these far flung and inhospitable islands originally inhabited by hostile aboriginal tribes is certainly attributed to this community of Penal Settlers, which after its detachment from the mainstream of a well established society in India and incarceration in this exile under compelling circumstance never looked back and permanently settled here. Most of the residential houses owned by the members of this Community standing on small parcels allotted at Port Blair and other parts of island territory during Penal Settlement are timber structures. Thus a total embargo on tree cutting in these islands, if finally imposed by Hon'ble Supreme Court will seal the fate of these people settled prior to 1942 as well as others who came and settled in these islands after independence for

their habitats and survival. Therefore, this humble submission before the Hon'ble Commission, with reasons and justifications as enunciated below.

#### 1. Encroachment on Govt. Land:

History of forestry in Andaman dates back to the Penal Settlement. Besides incarceration of freedom fighters and other convicts in this remote exile, exploitation of virgin natural forest resources of these islands was the other main aim of the British Empire. As per Censes Report, 1931 "the recommendation of Jail Commission 1921 that the Penal Settlement should be abolished was impracticable for the reasons -(1) the existence of a free population of about 3000 "Local Born" (descendents of convicts) who should not be repatriated to any particular province in India (2) the commercial value of the Forest and (3) the strategically importance of the Islands and the large scale amount of money spent on establishing the settlement". Establishment of Chatham Saw Mill, Asia's largest Saw Mill by the British is another evidence that exploitation of rich forest resources of these islands was one of the main objectives. Yet, with a meager strength of one Chief Forest Officer assisted by two Assistant Chief Forest Officers and few Rangers and Forest Guards, the exploitation as well as conservation of forest was well managed till independence. Inspite of manifold expansion of forest Department which is presently having 1 Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, 1 Chief Conservator of Forest, 4 Conservator of Forest, one Chief Wild Life Warden, 15 Deputy Conservator of Forest/Divisional Forest Officers, about 28 Assistant Conservator of Forest and a battalion of Range Officers, Foresters

and Forest Guards, the management of forest in terms of exploitation as well as conservation has gone from bad to worse. The main reason being unchecked influx of population in these islands, particularly after 1952 when the system of a strict check on any individual immigrant to these islands was withdrawn. The decadal growth of population from 1951 to 1961 was an at alarming height of 105% (1951 Censes = 30,971 1961 Censes = 63,548). Availability of vast government Revenue as well as Forest land for encroachment, lack of stringent legal provision to check the encroachments, better job opportunities and rich natural resources including forest wealth of these Islands have been the main attraction for such abrupt increase in immigrant population . A copy of background note on immigrants -Views and recommendations of the Department of Environment and Forest is enclosed at Annexure -'A'. The policy decision of the Govt. of India to regularize encroachments committed on govt. land prior to 31.12.1978 opened a Pandora box for committing new encroachments and subsequently claiming its regularization. Though the policy aimed at putting a full stop on new encroachments after regularizing the encroachments committed upto 31.12.1978, it miserably failed as while on one hand the Revenue Department of A & N Administration has regularized more than 7200 encroachments, 1367 cases of Pre - 1978 encroachments on Forest land have not yet been regularized though the Ministry of Environment and Forest, GOI conveyed its approval for diversion of 1367 hects of Forest land for regularization of these encroachment vide letter No. 8-274/87-FC dated 19.8.1988. A status note of Revenue Department on encroachment and a D.O. letter No. 16G-1/23 dated 10th March, 1998 from Shri S.R.Mehta, PCCF to Shri X.K. Mahto,

Dy. Commissioner Andamans are enclosed at Annexure -'B' and 'C' respectively. As a result of this 2072 new (post 1978) encroachments on forest land covering an area of about 2252 hects have been committed and are still existing as per the report of Forest Department. A statistical chart of number and area of forest encroachments prepared by Forest Department is enclosed at Annexure - 'D'. All these encroachments whether on Forest land or on Revenue Land have caused severe damages to forest and environment as besides forest land the revenue land was also mostly covered with have been simply cut down and burnt by the forests, which encroachers to grab the land. Inspite of strict instruction issued by the Lt. Governor (Administrator), authorities in both the departments ie Revenue and Forest are beating about the bush in the matter of eviction of all post 1978 encroachments and total check on new encroachments. This trend still continuing unabated is causing extensive loss of forest resources worth crores of rupees besides posing a serious threat to the fragile ecology of these islands. Copy of Lt. Governor's instruction is enclosed at Annexure - 'E'.

It is, therefore, humbly submitted that all encroachments on government land committed after 31.12.1978 be evicted and no new encroachment should be allowed at any cost and all such areas should be brought under aforestation. As a matter of fact, if the menace of encroachment on government land is really intended to be curbed, then encroachment on government land needs to be declared a "Cognizable Offence" suitably amending the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 and Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966.

### 2. Export of Timber :-

What SANE sincerely intended while filing the case before the Hon'ble Supreme Court was to protect the forests and environment of Andaman and Nicobar islands mainly threatened by large scale unauthorized cutting and extraction particularly from the tribal reserve of Little Andaman and its subsequent export from the islands through fraudulent means. Though the official figures of the Forest Department as well as Andaman & Nicobar Forest Plantation and Development Corporation on export of timber appear very meagre and reasonable, the same are far from ground realities as unauthorized cutting and export of timber through fraudulent means (in clear words smuggling) does not find a place on record. Export of timber whether as round logs or as sawn timber of any size and variety, therefore, needs to be totally banned not only on papers but such ban be enforced strictly.

### 3. <u>Illegal exploitation of forest and marine</u> resources by poachers:

Large scale illegal exploitation of rich forest as well as marine resources by poachers as well as immigrant population has ben taking place abruptly in the North and Middle Andamans, particularly in the western coast and at Little Andaman. Needless to mention that almost all such areas of the Union territory are notified as "reserved areas" under A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956 vide A & N Administration Gazette Notification No. 3 dated 2nd April

1957 as amended from time to time. Copy enclosed at Annexure - 'F'. While the poachers from Mynmar extract the timber and other marine resources and go away, the illegal immigrants mainly from Bangladesh cut and burn the trees to encroach the land. Once settled it also becomes difficult to distinguish and identity them due to their racial similarity to Bengali colonisation settlers in respect of appearance and language. It is pertinent to mention here that though Coast Guards have apprehended many of such poachers, yet their limitation to enter into brackish waters/creaks and on land renders their efforts ineffective.

Therefore, forest conservation and vigilance to check such illegal activities of exploitation of forest and marine resources needs to be given a new thrust by opening Sub-Divisional Offices/Check Posts, jointly manned by Forest and Police personnel duly equipped with radio communication and arms/ammunition. Such Sub Divisional Offices should be actually located in the above mentioned coastal forest areas and be headed by an officer not below the rank of Assistant Conservator of Forest assisted by Foresters, Forest Guards and Police Personnel. In view of the all India austerity measure already in force, additional posts of the above mentioned ranks, if required may be created by diverting/abolishing too high posts like that of Chief Conservator of Forest, Conservators of Forest and Deputy Conservators of Forests presently accommodated in Van Sadan at Port Blair Head Quarter. Head Office of any department is mainly vested with the responsibility of policy making for which besides Principal Chief Conservator of Forest one post of Conservator of Forest and one post of Deputy Conservator of Forest(HQ) to assist him shall be the justified proportion at headquarters. It may be in the context to mention here that to manage the administration of the entire Union Territory while there are only 8 IAS officers, in the Forest Department alone there are about 22 IFS Officers, out of which 8 are accommodated in the Van Sadan (HQ) which is highly disproportionate. Copy of organizational chart is enclosed at Annexure - 'G'.

### 4. Extraction and export of royal trees viz Padauk and such other varieties:

Few famous varieties of trees like Padauk, Chui and Marble wood have been classified as Royal Trees. The Sawn timber of such trees are mainly used for furnitures, ornamental/decorative items and doors and window frames. Though there is a ban on cutting of these trees by private parties and only Forest Department is extracting these timbers, large scale export of such timber in the shape of finished goods i.e. furnitures, doors and windows frames and decorative/ornamental items is going on unabated on production of fake receipts of Small Scale Industrial Units engaged in manufacture of wooden furnitures etc. Once converted into the above mentioned finished goods, stringent provisions of Forest Conversion Act also fail to apply check and mere production of a receipt enables one to take these items out of the islands. Large number of SSI units have been established in Port Blair as well as North and Middle Andaman for this purpose which ultimately affects the forest and environment of A&N Islands. Once the scope of speculative gains by export of finished

goods like wooden furnitures, door and window frames and decorative/ornamental items made of Padauk is fully banned, the ultimate effect on ecology because of this trade will automatically be reduced.

It is, therefore, most humbly submitted that cutting and extraction of Padauk may be reduced only to the local requirement of furnitures or essential use in construction and there should be a total ban on export of these varieties of royal timber including any finished goods made of these timbers.

# 5. Exploitation of natural resources vis-a-vis local employment generation:

The basic policy of the Government behind exploitation of natural resources in a planned manner in the public interest is to generate local employment out of such exploitation. Though clear instruction of GOI exist in this regard, they are not implemented in respect of local SSI units i.e. Saw Mills and Wooden Furniture Marts of private sector. Not even one fourth of the workers engaged in/by such units are local. As such any argument that ban on cutting of timber will adversely affect the employment generation is truely not in the interest of the islands or islanders. On the contrary engagement of non-locals in such private sector units is an incentive for the influx of population from mainland of India.

It is, therefore, humbly submitted that this Hon'ble Commission may kindly recommend for a mandatory provisions that all such industrial units of private sector must provide atleast 2/3 of the total employment locally, strictly as per the definition contained in GOI, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi letter No.U-14011/10/(8-41)/79-ANL dated 14th February, 1984. Copy enclosed at Annexure -'H' In the

event of failure/lapse on the part of any private sector unit in this regard, their registration as well as other incentives such as subsidised financial assistance, availability of raw material on special quota, capital/transport subsidy etc shall be in withdrawn forthwith. Such restriction, if imposed, will not only ensure local employment generation in such industrial units of private sector but will also reduce the exploitative and speculative aims of such entrepreneurs and will ultimately help in reducing the threat to environment.

#### 6. Incentives to S.S.I units:

It has been the policy of the Government to provide various incentives such as subsidised financial assistance, loans from the special quota and banks, availability of raw material on capital/transport subsidy etc. to Small Scale Industrial Units. Availability of such incentives easily in the A&N Islands has lead to mushrooming of small scale industrial units engaged in manufacture of timber based items such as wooden furnitures, doors and window frames and other decorative items etc. We have no hesitation to say that the above mentioned incentives have been granted to the entrepreneurs mainly belonging to the immigrant population on such lenient considerations that even the possibility of Bangladeshi foreign nationals running SSI units in this sector at Port Blair cannot be ruled out.

It is, therefore, humble submission of this Association before the Hon'ble Commission that all such incentives to SSI Units as mentioned above should be so restricted as to be available only to the "Islanders" possessing local certificate in terms of GOI's letter dated 14th February, 1984 as stated at Point No.5 above or possessing

Islanders Identity Card which is likely to be issued by the Administration to all islanders/permanent inhabitants by July 2002 with cut off date as 31.3.1993. Such restriction, if imposed, will not only reduce the mushrooming of wood based SSI units in and around Port Blair but will also ultimately be in the public interest in respect of check in influx of immigrant population, check in illegal exploitation of forest resources and will ultimately be a concrete step in protection of the fragile ecology of the island territory.

### 7. Minimum need based cutting of trees:

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands cover an area of 8249 Sqkms, out of which 6408 Sakms are in Andaman group and 1841 Sakms in Nicobar group of islands. Forests cover nearly 86% of its geographical area. The remaining 14% of non-forest area is also frequently filled with trees. Out of the 86% forest area, 56% is still maintained in its pristine/virgin glory in the form of Coastal Forest Belts (13%), small islets and protected areas(7%), tribal reserves(36%), National Park and Sanctuaries. Biosphere Reserves(over-lapping) etc. without any biotic interference. above information is based on the note of the Department of Forest and Environment, A&N Administration. Copy enclosed as Annexure -'I'. Still the hue and cry in respect of tree cutting and resultant threat of environmental degradation proves the failure on the part of the authorities in regard to the management of the Forest as per Forest(Conservation) Act 1980. As already stated in the above mentioned paragraphs, the threat is mainly due to illegal extraction and export of timber from these islands. Therefore, a strict check on such illegal activities is essentially required to protect the environment of these islands.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands fall in Seismic Zone V. As such RCC construction though going on is absolutely not advisable in this area. The Ministry of Environment and Forest has already imposed a ben on extraction of sand from the sea coasts of A&N Islands and periodically releases limited permits for collection of sand. Such rationing on sand has already resulted in illegal trade syndicate for sand by some people and the department of Environment and Forest, A&N Administration is a meek spectator to such illegal trading of sand which is costing too high for the common man. Total ban on cutting of trees will, therefore, leave the local population with no alternative for their survival as minor forest produce like bamboo and leaves are also of "Tree" as contained in the covered under the definition Forest(Conservation)Act 1980. Further. It is pertinent to mention on the basis of past experience that while sawn timber of various sizes of local requirement is not available in Chatham Saw Mill, at the year endthe godowns of saw mill are full with unsold sawn timber because the sizes are so which are not required or consumed locally and such timber are ultimately auctioned and exported out of these islands.

Further, the geographical location of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is not only strategically important but has a vast scope of tourism development as an alternative economic activity, particularly in the wake of the necessity to reduce forest/timber based economic activities. As such for various developmental works such as rehabilitation of tribals and indigenous population, construction of roads to connect settlement villages and also for other tourism related

activities minimum cutting of trees will be essentially required. As already stated above, besides 86% forest land, major parts of the revenue land are also covered by trees. Thus a total ban on cutting of any naturally grown tree, if permanently imposed, will bring the sustenance and development to a stand still in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

### Prayer:

In the light of the above mentioned facts and circumstances it is the most humble submission of this Association that the Hon'ble Commission may kindly appreciate the situation and apprise the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India that while there should be a total ban on export of timber whether as round logs or in the shape of sawn timber or any other finished goods(except personal use items), and a strict check on unauthorized cutting and smuggling of timber, in order to suitably protect the interest of the local population and to meet their requirement of sawn timber for construction of residential houses and for various sustainable developmental activities cutting of trees on a Minimum Need Basis may be allowed. There may also be a direction upon the department of Environment and Forest, Andaman and Nicobar Islands to ensure that sawn timber of specific sizes required for local constructions are produced in Government Chatham Saw Mill.

Port Blair 16th Dec.,2001. (JOHN LOBO)

President of
LOCAL BORN AND STATION
Andaman & Nicolar Insansa

BACKGROUND NOTE ON IMMIGRANTS – EXISTING SCENARIO AND IMPLICATIONS WITH REGARD TO FORESTRY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS – VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT

Forestry in this territory dates back to 1883. Harvesting of timber was confined to a very few species for ship building and for constructions here, in the mainland and at England. Later, a government saw mill and a private match industry came into existence, in the early twenties, which initiated the processing of wood. The islands went through a chain of events such as the world war and Japanese Occupation. Then partition of the country resulted in large scale induction of displaced persons for permanent settlement in the islands. This problem posed demands on forestry programmes as the department had to utilise most of its resources for forest clearance and preparation of agriculture lands. Simultaneously the islands saw a progressive increase in enterprise in the wood processing sector in the form of plywood industry and saw mills thereby necessitating an increase in the organised exploitation of forest produce. Most of the forestry operation s being labour intensive, it necessitated employment of a large contingent of labourers. Forest labour force was mostly manned by the Adivasi recruited labour popularly known as Ranchis from Bihar, MP and Orissa. These people were recruited through authorised agents of the Forest Department on Contract for two years and subsequently extended. These labourers have remained back and have settled in various pockets. Now, therefore, the islands three kinds immigrant populations, the penal settlers and others of that time, the now settled contract labour and the refugee settlers

The populations of each type swelled with the passage of time. Parallel to that the islands saw a lot of development and enterprise coming up. This attracted lots of people from mainland India seeking employment opportunity either as job seekers or to acquire land [mainly through encroachment] and practice cultivation. Sometimes the decadal variation in population went upto 40% mainly because of immigration i.e., influx of job seeking population from the mainland.

The so called Ranchi labourers who had been brought in as contract labourers have been absorbed in the forestry sector [amongst others such as APWD] and became regular employees. Children of the refugee settlers also began to seek jobs in the skilled and unskilled manpower requirement of the department.

In later years, forestry operations began to wane in light of the growing pressure for conservation of forests by reducing extraction of timber. Moreover many areas were placed under protected areas network. Therefore, intensive work in the forestry sector reduced a lot. The department is now burdened with a large labour force already in existence forcing it to put a moratorium on further appointment of regular labour i.e., trying to diminish the liability. In fact the position is such that job opportinities for the local population i.e., settlers' children are not easily forthcoming causing large scale unemployment and resultant resentment.

A second ramification of the situation is the land-grab problem. Immigrant people and newly formed local families tend to grab land for dwelling as well for agriculture. The local families tend to operate in an organised manner and reoccupy after being evicted. The unorganised encroachments are those made by newer immigrants, and are scattered resulting in honey-combing in the forests causing not only loss of forest cover but also damages the ecology and environment to a great extent.

The situation now warrants that an effective check be put on this problem, needed to be tackled immediately. Firstly, any further immigration

- 49 --

into these islands should be firmly prevented as the islands already seem to have a population beyond carrying capacity. The possibility of sending back fresh immigrants could also be explored. Those who cannot be sent back and settling them here is a fait accomplii, atleast could be relocated in compact blocks so that honey combed encroachment pockets can be reclaimed as forests. This would reduce the chances of these pockets developing into large ones, having seen the tendency of isolated settlements developing into villages.

***

 $\hbox{C:\sc My Documents} \\ \hbox{ general\sc BACKGROUND NOTE ON IMMIGRANTS.} \\ \hbox{doc}$ 

### POINTS FOR MEETING AT RAJ NIWAS

### 1. Regularisation of Pre 78 encroachments:-

As per decision taken by the Govt, of India and conveyed by vide A & N Administration letter No. 54-1/86-U&R dated 17.08 1987 encroachments on Govt land committed on a date OF before 31.12.78 have been regularised . The encreachments beçn the basis of list prepared by regularised on lligh Committee. When the encroachments as per HPC list regularised, complaints were received stating that genuine of encroachments committed prior to 31.12.1978 were not enlisted by the HPC. Consequently applications were invited from genuine adcroachers and a list was prepared which was called other MPC list.

A total number of 7212 (5330 house sites and 1882 agricultural land) encroachments have been regularised. Still whenever Hon'ble Lt. Governor or other senior officers go on tour, applications are being presented for regularisation of encroachments. The real genuine cases of pre-78 left out cases are approximately as follows:—

1. Port Blair - 125
2. Ferrargunj - 100
3. Rangat - 50
4. Diglipur - 40
5. Mayabundor - 40

There was a Committee under the chairmanship of the then Councillor when regularisation were done earlier. Similarly a Committee may be constituted now to process and finalise these cases within a deadline so as to close the issue of regularisation of eneroschment taking a clear decision not to enfortain any such application after that.

ANNEXURE -G

Phone: ++91 (0)3192 33233 Fax :++91 (0)3192 30113



S.R. Mehta IFS

Andaman & Nicobar Administration Department of Environment & Forests

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Secretary, Environment & Forests

D.O. No F.16 G-I/23 .....

10th March, 1998.

My dear

I am to draw your kind attention to the important issue relating to regularisation of Pre-1978 encroachments which had occurred on forest lands. In this connection, it may please be recalled that in the meeting of the Island Development Authority held on 27.12.1986, it was decided that all encroachments in forest to 31.12.1978 would up occurring regularised. Subsequently, a proposal for de-reservation of 1367 hectares of forest land was moved to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India by this Administration for settlement of encroachers, on the basis off a list of encroachers prepared by High Power Committee in 1981-82. Accordingly, the Ministry of Environment & Forests conveyed approval for diversion of 1367 hectares of forest land for regularisation of encroachments vide letter No.8-274/87-FC dated 19.8.1988. This Administration vide Notification No.Sectt/12-9/37-88/H&R dated 27.6.1989 de-notified 1367 hac, of forest land for the purpose of regularisation of 1367 encroachments as per details in Annexure- 1 enclosed herewith.

2. Vide letter No.CF/G/25-A/549 dated 21.9.1988 and D.O. letter of even number dated 11.11.1988, the office of the Conservator of Forests (Andaman Circle) forwarded the details of encroachers and maps of forest lands identified for settlement of encroachers to you (copy appended as Annexure -II&III) for regularisation of the encroachments by distribution of Pattas @ 1 hac. per family or the actual area in their possession which-ever is less. In this connection, it is reiterated that, consequent on issuance of Administration's Notification No.Sectt/12-9/37-88/H&R dated 27.6.1989 and other similar notifications in respect of different

with effect from the date of notification and therefore, process of awarding pattas to all identified/eligible pre-1978 encroachers was to be initiated thereafter by revenue department. On this issue, you may also like to refer to D.O. letter of CF(Andaman Circle) No.CF/G-5/25-A/444 dated 13.7.1989 addressed to DC(Andamans). (Annexure - IV).

- 3. Thereafter, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India vide its letter No.U.1701/3/89-ANL dated 18.12.1989 requested Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration to provide a quarterly report ending 31.12.1989 on the factual position of regularisation of encroachments in Andaman & Nicobar Islands (copy appended as Annexure V).
- 4. Vide Order No.269 dated 3.7.1989, issued by Assistant Commissioner (Settlement), A&N Islands' revenue officials were directed to take over forest land already de-reserved for considering regularisation of encroachments after showing the boundaries by the Forest Department", deadline for which fixed as 31.7.1990 (copy appended as Annexure- VI).
- 5. The above issue was further pursued with you vide our letter dated 17.5.1995 and 10.7.1995 seaking confirmation whether allotment of land on patta to each Fre-1978 encroacher has been made or not so that Government of India could be apprised. (copy appended as  $\underline{\text{Annexure VI \& VII}}$ ). No response to these have been received as yet.
- 6. It is relevant to mention that as indicated under column 8 of Annexure 1, in all 1367 number of identified/pre-1978 encroachers are required to be settled in the total de-notified area of 1367 hac. Out of these, 645 are already occupying the de-notified area and therefore are to be settled in-situ and balance 722 are to be re-located by shifting from the notified forest areas (which they are presently occupying) to this de-notified area. Division-wise break up is given under column 6 and 7 of Annexure 1. Therefore, before shifting of 722 families into the de-notified areas, 722 hectares of land is required to be identified in the de-notified

patta 0 1 hectare per family or actual area in their possession which ever is less for which District Authority was to initiate action after the de-notification of the various plots in 1989 for this purpose, as shown under remarks column (9) of Annexure - 1, in respect of different divisions of Andaman District.

I shall be grateful if follow up action for regularisation of pre-1978 encroachments is speeded up and we are also informed of the progress achieved so far for apprising the position to the Gowt. of India about compliance of the conditions, subject to which diversion of forest land was agreed to vide Ministry's letter No.8-274/87-FC dated 19.8.1988 (Annexure IX).

With

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- (s.R.MEHTA

Shri X.K.Mahto IAS, Deputy Commissioner Andaman District, Port Blair.

#### Copy to:

- 1. P.S. to Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration for kind information.
- P.S. to Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Revenue, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, for kind information.

[S.R. Mehta]
Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
&
Secretary, Environment & Forests

OFFICE COPY [ONE COPY TO GO TO EACH FILE DEALING WITH ENCROACHMENT]

EAR		IGLIPUR	MAYABU	NDER		RANGAT	DAR	ATANG		NDAMAN	NIC	ODAR		TOTAL
	NO.OF	AREA (In Hact)	NO OF	ARTA	NO OF	AREA (In Hact)	CASES	AREA	NO.OF	AREA (In Hadit)		n Hact)	NO.OF CASES	AREA (In Hact)
1979	4	6	2	3.5	0	o	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	9.
1980	58	56.5	б	10,6	52	60.5	0	o	7	6.438	0	0	123	134.03
1981	11	14	21	29.8	55	55.3	0	0	0	. 0	O	υ	85	99
1982	70	75.7	4	G	30	38.4	Ú	U	O	0	υ	Ü	104	120
1983	29	38.5	4	4.44	20	23.4	0	O	O	0	O	. 0	53	66.
1984	23	26.1	22	27.1	40	43.7	: 0	O	o	0	0	O	85	. 96
1985	22	22	13	17.2	10	13	0	O	5	4.075	O	0	50	50.2
1986	54	55	69	95.66	6	8.3	0	0	O	0	0	0	129	158.
1987	95	98	38	55.9	4	4	25	2.415	14	24.4	0	0	176	184.7
1988	92	108.4	30	38.5	1	1	12	8.158	0	0	0	O	135	156.0
1989	90	82.2	67	87.9	16	27	1	8	0	0	0	0	174	205
1990	68	76.3	62	84.5	0	0	8	€.065	0	0	0	0	138	166.8
1991	60	74.1	75	100.9	υ	0	J	1.567	0	O	O	O	138	176.5
1992	83	73.1	2	2	0	O	14	8.268	5	3.714	o	O	104	87.0
1993	46	45.0	ย	10	5	3.49	2	0.82	1	0.5	o	O	62	ευ.
1994	32	31.8	24	26	î	0.73	, ,	U	5	7.15	48	80	110	145.
1995	27	23.8	1	1	1	0.34	. 1	0.02	35	41.27	O	υ	CS	CC
1990	16	10	22	28.2	1	3.25	. 2	0.01	52	36.62	в	0.23	102	84
1997	27	26.46	υ	0	168	117.35	ï	1.934	18	25.12	U	U	220	. 170.8
1998 pto Decem	U	U	O	0	o	O	0	0	13	6.098	0	U 	 F3	6.0
TOTAL	907	949,56	470	629.2	411	399.76	. [75	37.257	155	155.445	54	80.23	2072	2251.

REMARKS :- 1.

^{1.} FOREST AREA ENCROACHED POST 1978 (UPTO 30.12.1998) = 2251.452 HACTARES
2. NO.OF FOREST ENCROACHMENT CASES POST 1978 (UPTO 30.12.1998) = 2072 CASES

^{3.} NO.OF CASES EVICTED SINCE 1978 AND ITS AREA = 145 CASES ( 144.603 HACTARES) (DIGLIPUR-41 CASES (45.8 HACT.), SOUTH ANDAMAN-40 CASES ( 15.470 HACT.), DARATNG-10 CASES (3.103 HACT.), NICOBAR-54 CASES (80.23 HACT.)

^{4.} TOTAL NO.OF ENCROACHMENT CASES FENDING AND ITS AREA AS ON 30.12.98 = 1927 CASES ( 2106.849 HACT.) (SOUTH ANDAMAN-115 CASES (139.975 HACT.), DARATNAG-65 CASES (34.154 CASES) MIDDLE ANDAMAN-411 CASES (399.76 HACT.), MAYABUNDER-470 CASES (629.20 HACT.), DIGLIPUR-466 CASES (903.76 HACT.)

I. P. GUPTA LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

PARTITIONS PORT BI AIR-744 INT

14 Lui 21311 14 ft. + 71 hell

7th May 1997

ORDER

Andaman & Nicobar Islands have more than 86% of the geographical area recorded as forests. The tropical rain forests of this territory because of their unmatched richness of rare endemic flora and fauna have been accorded special status in the National Forest Policy 1988, which also envisages the need for totally safeguarding these forests. However, endeavours of the A&N Islands Administration to scientifically manage and project these forests notwithstanding, forest areas have been encroached at several places during the last few years which, if not checked immediately, would not only lead to serious ecological consequences but also affect the livelihood of the people. The Andaman Administration has already taken a policy decision to regularise all pre-1978 encroachments in the forest areas. Consequently, all post-1978 encroachments have to be evicted. Despite this clear policy directive, encroachments in forest areas have been going on unabated. Even where eviction orders have been issued by the Divisional Forest Officers, acting as Estate Officers under the Public Premises (Exiction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971 the actual eviction could not be carried out in most cases due to lack of coordinated action by Forest, Police and Revenue Departments.

2. ` In order to deal with the problem of encroachments effectively, all Divisional Forest Officers should pay utmost attention to the task of vacation of the encroachments of forest land. Eviction should be done in a phased manner and new and recent encroachments, say a year or two old, should be taken up for vacation first on priority basis. That will also carry message to older encroachments which may tace similar deal in the second phase. Any structure, if raised, on the encroached land should be demolished, after giving due notice to the encroacher.

P.7. 0



RAJ LIWAD PORT BLAIR-748 101 TEL.: 21331

BFS.: 21100

Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of the concerned district should give instruction to local Magistrates/DySPs/SHOs to make available on priority, services of Magistrates and Police Force as and when required on a demand made by the concerned DFO. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests will review the progress of eviction periodically and keep me informed.

- 3. Similar steps should be taken for vacation of encroachments from revenue land on crash basis.
- 4. Any let up or dereliction of duty in this direction and any lack of cooperation in coordinated effort of Magistrate/Forest official/Police/APWD will be severely dealt with and may even invite disciplinary action.

(LP,Gupta) Licutenant Governor Andaman & Nicobar Islands

### **DISTRIBUTION**

- 1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, A&N Islands
  2. The Secretary (Home) (Secretary Champ) (1)
- 2. The Secretary (Home)/Secretary (Revenue). A&N Islands
- 3. The IGP/SP (Andaman)/SP (Nicobar)
- 4. Deputy Commissioner (Andaman)/(Nicobar)
- 5. The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration
- 6. The Superintending Engineer, APWD

### THE ANDAMAN AND MICOBAR CATHETE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLISHED BY AUSHORITY

No.3, PORT BLAIR, TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1957

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF UMINATIONER And aman and Nicobar Ellands.

### HOTIFICATION.

Port Blair, the 2nd April, 1967

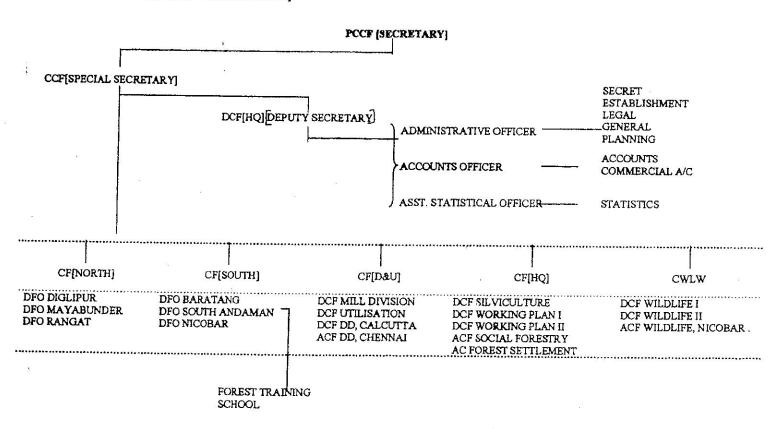
No.ANPATR/3(1)/1.— In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-mection (1) of section 3 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aberiginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 (Regulation No.3 of 1956), the Chief Commissioner, A&N Islands, is pleased to declare cash of the following areas to be a reserved area, namely:

- (a) The area in South Andaman to the West of an imaginary line staarting noth-eastwards from the mouth of constance Bay along Bajalunta Jig to the Southern tip of Cholunga Range and then proceeding north-wards to Mount Cadell and from there eastward to Moanhang Creek and thence along the eastern coast of Bouth Andaman Island proceeding to a point approximately 600228 (mitting James, Kyd and other Islands and islets) and thence from that point northwards along an alignment to be aligned by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Department taking into consideration the suitability of termain and water points to join Putatang Jig and thence northwards along Putatang Jig and Amitla Soicha Passage of Madule Strait along the east coast of South Andaman execuding Belle Island, Ponng Island, Oral Kaicha and Baby Island proceeding to Yeratil Jig via Madham Reach and Port Anson enclosing Bluff and Spike Islands.
- (b) The area in Middle Andaman to the period an imaginary line emerging from South Andaman and proceeding archimends from Yeartil Jig to Ranger's Channel along the Dark Wille Line subject to an adjustment that the line may coincide with an adjustment to be aligned by the A&N Islands Forest Department in Portal and Benota Yol areas between the Yeratil Charalungta Bush Police provided that sufficient land is left to the West of such alignment on the eastern side of the Ranger to provide enough analysis ground to Jarawas will they are on the move and bearing in mind the suitability of such a jignment from the point of view of water and terrain, as a patrol path.
- (c) The entire area comprised in, and enclosed within the coast line of each of the following islands.
  - (i) Rutland. (ii) North Sentinel. (iii) Cinque. (iv) Passage (v) Sisters. (vi) Brothers (vii) South Sentinel and other islands and islets situated south wards in the territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands upto and including Little Andaman.
- (d) The entire area comprised in, and enclosed within the coast line of each of the following islands but excluding the area comprising the air-field in Car Nicobar and the posts of Comorta and Car Nicobar :-
  - (i) Car Nicobar (ii) Battl Malv. (iii) Chowra (iv) Tilangchong (v) Teressa (vi) Bompoka (vii) Camonta (viii) Trinkat (ix) Nancowry (x) Katchall. (xi) Merce (xil) Trik (mii) Treis (viv) Menchal (xv) Little Nicobar (mvi) Fulo Mult (mii) Great Nicobar (xviii) Kondul (xix) Kabra.

T.G.M. AYYAB, COT - DETOSTONES, A & N ISLANDS. DETOS OF A -G/57

 $f_{\pm 2} g$ 

#### ORGANISATION CHART [AS ON 1ST DECEMBER 1999]



Copy of letter NotU-14011/10(S-41)/79-AHL dated 14th February, 1984 received from the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi addressed to Chief Secretary, ASN Administration, Port Diair.

Subject:- Andomen & Nicober Islands - Nedefinition of term
'Local' - Preference in appointments to Group C
and U posts under Administration and award of
scholarships and admissions to professional
courses regarding.

The Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is an area which is backward economically and in respect of the educational facilities available to its inhabitants. It is desirable to ensure that the people of this territory are adequately represented in various services, particularly at the lavelobiding C & D posts in the Administration, It is also, therefore, meassary that the facilities by way of example of scholarships for higher education and allotment of scats to professional courses are made available to the permanent residents of the Union Territory so that they are raised to the level of the more advanced sections of society in the rest of the country. This Ministry had vide its letter No.U-14011/4/76-ANL dated 29-12-1976 defined the term 'Local' with a view to enabling the local Administration to work but special measures for achieving these objectlys-However, over a period of time, this definition has been found to require meetings of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee from time to time for redefining the term 'local' and after consulting the Andeman & Hicober Administration, the term 'local' is redefined for the purposes of employment to Group C & D posts under the Administration and also for the purpose of allotment of seats in professional courses and in the matter of award of scholarships and other educational faci-

The term 'LOCAL' in so far as the Union Territory of Andaman and Hisburg Islands is concerned, shall mean:

- 1. A person who is permanently residing in the Ardeman & Nicober Islands; and is
  - (a) (i) an old inhabitant, i.e. one who has been by the destands since prior to 1942;
    - (11) a person either of whose parents were born in the Islands; or
    - (III) spouse/children of porsons mentioned in (1) & (II) above; or
  - (5) (1) a person settled in the Islands under any scheme of rehabilitation/colonisation; or
    - (ii) spouse/child or children's spouse of such a person; or

...2/-

A person who does not belong to any of the categories at (1) whove, but who has had a minimum of 10 years continuous education in the Islands leading to acquiting of the minimum educational qualifications laid down for the post under the Andaman & Nicobar Admn., to which appointment is sought;

Provided that a person either of whose parents has been residing in the Union Territory for a continuous period of not less than 10 years shall be deamed to be a local in respect of appointment to the post of Mazdoor for which the educational qualification is less than class X.

3. "Permanent residence" for this purpose will mean a period of continuous residence in the Andaman & Hicobalslands for 10 years.

The existing procedure for issuing certificates will continue to be followed by the Administration.

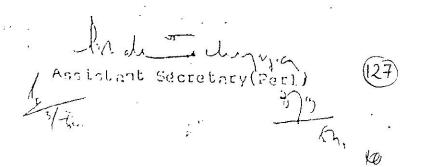
The revised definition will take effect from the data of issue of this order. The earlier definition given in this Ministry's letter dated 29-12-1976 dited above will stand repeated simultaneously.

# ANDAMAN AND NICCOAR ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAT.

Port Blair, dated the 3rd March, 1984.

Delhi letter No.U-14011/10(3-41)/79-ANI dated 14th February, necessary actions:-

- 1. The Deputy Commissioner(A) and (Car Nicobar.)
- 2. The Assistant Secretary(Pub); AGN Administration.
- 1) Copy also endorsed to All Heads of Deptts/Offices.
- 2) All Sections in the Secretariat for information.
- .3) Spare copies-20.





### Andaman & Nicobar Administration Department of Environment & Forests

#### Introduction

Majestically set in the Bay of Bengal, mid-way between peninsular India and Burma is an off-shore out-post of the Indian Union, the Andaman and Nicobar islands forming a narrow broken cabin spreading like a necklace in the North-South direction, covering a length of about 700 kms with 572 islands, islets, coral reefs and isolated rooks at a distance of about 1200 kms from the eastern coast of mainland India. These islands are said to be a continuation of the Arakan Yoma mountain ranges of Western Burma, considered to be the summits of submerged mountains, except for some sporadic islands of coral formation and two islands namely, Barren and Narcondum, which are of volcanic origin.

These islands cover an area of 8249 Sq. Km. 6408 Sq. km. in Andaman group and 1841 Sq. km. in Nicobar group of islands. The topography of these islands is undulating and hilly, level land being rare, found only in narrow valleys or along the sea coast. Being exposed to both south-west as well as the north-east monsoons, it rains for almost 200 days in the year maintaining a variation of soothing and balmy temperature between 22° to 34° C and an average relative humidity of 80%. Heavy down-pours are experienced during July to September because of the south-west monsoons.

Forests cover nearly 86% of its geographical area. The remaining 14% of nonforest area is also frequently filled with trees. Out of the 86% forest area, 56% is still maintained in its pristine Airgin glory in the form of coastal forest belts (13%), small islats and protected areas (7%), Tribal Reserves (36%), National Parks and Sanctuaries, Biosphere Reserves (Over-lapping) etc. without any blotic interference.

### Natural Resources :

Nature has endowed these islands with tropical sylvan wealth covering almost from water's edge to hill tops. Sir Harry Champion, a noted world authority on forestry has aptly remarked - "Forests in its pristine glory, if it is found anywhere in south-east Asia, it is in Andaman Islands". At the first sight, these forests look like a chaotic mass of vegetation in which leaves and stems are packed up closely, occupying almost every inch of space; huge trees jostle with one another for room to live, slender growths of cane and other plants stretch upwards, as though in agony; towards sunlight and life.

#### Biological Diversity;

Both compositionally and taxonomically, the forests present a variety, unmatched anywhere else, in the world, the vegetation and its dependent fauna have Polynesian, Indo-Malaysian and Assam-Burmese affinities, besides unique characteristics of occanic islands. The general forest composition is characterised by the presence (or absence) of certain species as one travels from north to south. For example, occurrence of Padauk (Pierocarpus dalbergioides), an endemic species in the islands, is limited to the main Andaman group of islands excluding the Little Andaman islands. Similarly Gurjan (Dipterocarpus sp.) does not occur in the Nicobar group of islands.

Considering the diversity and uniqueness of animals and plants and the fragile nature of ecosystem, the Administration has established 96 Sanctuaries [466.218 sq.km] and 9 National Parks [1153.938 sq. km.] within a view to protect and preserve these rare assets. One Biosphere Reserve has also been established over an area of 885 Sq. km. at Great Nicobar which covers 2 National Parks viz. Galathia Bay and Campbell Bay National Parks with a view to protect the virgin hunriant tropical rain forest systems and several rare and endemic species of animals and plants of the islands. The other important area of conservation are the Narcondum Hornbill Sanctuary. The North Reef Sanctuary (for water birds), Megapode Sanctuary, Nicobar Pigeon Sanctuary, South Sentinel island Sanctuary ( for Giant Robber Crabe) and Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park,

### FOREST AREA STATISTICS

1.	Reserved Forests		(Sq Km)
2.	Protected Forests	•	2928.76
7	Un-classed Forests	1.	4241.93
. C .	or crescot Lought	-	Nil
	Forest area by Major Forest T		1 2
1.	Tropical wet over greens	M&I (2d K	m)
<b>Z</b> .	Tropical somi evergreen	=	2124.80
3,	Tropical Most deciduous	=	2465.37
4	Grassland	=	1538.20
5.	1-4	=	106.34
		0-20	

### EXTENT OF FOREST AREA (CATEGORY WISE) [50 KM]

777.69

Forest Division		AREA (CATEG	ORY WISE) [Se	
I. South Andaman	Area 1658	Reserved	Protected	Total
2. Baratang	721	1208.28 646.51	111.66	1319.94
Middle Andaman     North Andaman	965	53.07		646.51
5. Nicobar	2325	314.41	074.05 1784.15	857.12
6. Little Andamen	1841 739	- 1	1572.07	2098.56
Total	8249	706.49		1542.07 706.49
STAFE DOGWES		2928,76	4241.93	7170.69

#### STAFF POSITION

Group	Sanctioned Strength	200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 - 200 -
Group "A"	and Strength	Staff in position
Group "B"	31	3
Group "C"	33	2
Froup *D*	880	84
	694	661

Industrial		
Group C	Senctioned Strength	Staff in position
Group D	198	
	3569	3092

### The Dy. Conservator of Forests (HQ), Van Sadan, Haddo.

Sub: Interview worth Mr. Shekhar Songh - 9kg. Str.

We have had an interview with Mr. Shekkar Birgh and also made our submission on the issue of tree enting in the U.T. of AAN Islands. duping his I visit in December, 2001. He himself had distude us to have a disenssion during his next visit in Jan, 2002 before Dubmission of final prepart by him to How ble Supreme Const.

Convenient appointment to our deligation may, therefore, be allowed during his envolent visit.

Md. 16-1-2002. Yours faithfully,

hung

(John Labe)

fresident

Local Browns Association

Port Blair.

The Chairman ,
Shekhar Singh Commission ,
Camp at Port Blair .

Sir,

A & N Islands is known as Mini India. Beautiful Sea beach and Pollution free environment are the main attraction of foreign and home tourist. The brutely damaging of forest wealth and produces has adversely effected the environment of the Islands. It was due to mis-management of Forest Dept. A group of people having their vested interest for earning a huge amount/ monies have played a vital role in cutting of trees very brutely. Allotment of Coup to some Timber based industries without proper checking and Control over it by the Competent authority i.e Forest Dept. has not eny damaged the forest wealth, it has also dis-balanced the ecology and environment of this Island leading to a great Crisis even for drinking water in very near future. It is here noteworthy that such agencies have earthened the logs in the forest failing to bring them out side the forest by this or that reason putting a great damage of the National Wealth .

The A&M Admn. has failed to exercise the power given in A&M Islands Land Revenue & Land Reforms Act 1966, Indian Forest Act 1984 and also Environment Protection Act 1986.

For example in Little Andaman there is none of a Single employee of Forest dept. The Total forest area is under the Control of A&M F P D C Ltd under an Agreement resulting they have been doing at their oun damaging the forest and disturbing the lively mood of tribal people, Natural water "all areas are also bruttelly damaged.

In this Context, I would like to produce my views to be taken into Consideration while submitting the report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and they are as follows:

- 1. Accountability to be fix with Forest Deptt.
- 2. A Boint-Committee should be Constituted with particulation of elected members of the Panchayati Resolution.

2 - 1 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 2 - 3

- 3. Forest Depot plying at Calcutta and Chennai should be closed.
  - 4. Transportation and shipment of Logs & Sawn Timber even to mainland should be stopped.
  - 5. The Construction of R.C.C./C.C. building should be stopped and Wooden Structural building should be allowed only .
  - 6. Sawn Timber after dry treatement and Seasoning should be supplied to the Islanders for Construction of their houses at low rates.
  - 7. Sawn timber should also be supplied to the small scale Industries for making of house goods furnitures etc. to protect the job of workers/ labourers.
  - 8. Scheme for issuing of Royallity free timber to the bonafide Cultivators/Settlers should be restarted.
  - 9. Influx of Population should be controlled and checked considering 1993 Voter list as a base year by means of issuance of Island's Identity Card .
- 10. Cutting of trees should be allowed to the extent of minimum requirement of the Islands taking into account the Eco-system and environment and bio-sphere conditions.

Thanking you .

Dated :-

17.12.2001.

Yours faithfully ,

(Bimal Kumar Biswas )

ala armon

Pramukh , Panchayat Samiti , Ferrargunj.

### **ISLANDS**

### FRAGILE

### ECOSYSTEM

# UNITED FORUM OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTION FERRARGUNJ SOUTH ANDAMAN

#### ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

To His Excellency Prof: Shekhar Singh, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Commissioner to inquire into the Existing state of Forests and Environment, Camp. Port Blair.

Subject: Islands fragile ecosystem - Protection regarding

#### MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH.

We consider it as an act of providence that your Excellence is present in the A & N Islands with a mission to prevent further ecological destruction of the A & N Islands, due to thoughtless and indifferent attitude and the psyche of the officers in general and particularly those in the Forest Department of the A & N Islands. We extend our gratitude and pray that divine assistance may always be with your Excellence in the important assignment so very vital to the very existence of the A & N Islands as a whole.

We submit the following few lines for your kind consideration and favorable order in the wider interest of the Islands.

1. It has always been a debatable issue with the public and the A & N Administration that the influx of population is taking a here by toll of the natural resources of these Islands. It thus is apparent there has to be a system as prevailing in the Lakshadeep Islands relating to stay in the Islands. As a result of influx there is a large scale of encroachment even in the reserved forest areas. Degradation of fresh water sources, sand mining and un-wise use of natural resource is some of the many problems threatening the Islands today.

The more vulnerable unique, but Islands ecosystems are more vulnerable than large land masses. They have also have a smaller capacity to recover and thus any large scale damage may be almost irreparable. The making of fields of forests and mangroves has to be given a dead stop.

- 2. The orders/judgment of Supreme Court imposing ban that no naturally grown trees will be cut until further orders is most welcome in the larger interest of the very existence of the Islands. The present state of environment and forest is most deplorable due to primary and ultimate mal-administration of the Forest Department A & N Islands. It is high time that efficiency and discipline is toned up and the present functioning of the Department is streamed line and made cause effective.
- 3. It is left those private mill owners to be given strict instructions not to sell untreated timber.
- 4. Minor Forest produce from the protected/revenue forests should be placed at the disposal of PRI with due regard to achieve sustainable development and conservation of forest resources. Besides it may augment the revenue of the PRI.
- 5. Social Forestry should be placed with the PRI. For more effective and better implementation and sustainable growth for which the PRI would be solely responsible.
- 6. During the British Rule there used to be no payment of royalty by the recorded land holder having Occupancy land. Likewise is submitted that there should be no charging of royalty payment to forest Department from Occupancy Right land having logs.
- 7. The logs, that have already been felled should not be sent out of these Islands but should be exclusively reserved for local use.
- 8. The public should be permitted to raise forestry both commercial and non commercial for their own use including those known as ornamental of any kind.

- 9. The coastal patrolling of the Islands is to be strengthened so as to avoid poaching of shells protected species of marine life and timers.
- 10. It is reliably learnt that a working plan has been approved by the Forest Department in which extracting of logs has been provided for from the reserved forest which is illegal and most objectionable and against the Environments (Protection) act. 1986. and forest act, 1927.
- 11. It is also learnt that the Forest Department has extracted logs for above 70% from the tribal reserved areas ranging from Tirur to Middle strait for about 100 Km in length.
- 12. The PRI should be authorized by proper notification under the relevant Regulations to take cognizance of offences violating Forests Act. 1927 and Rules and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and the rules and Act framed under wide life (Protection) Act. of 1927.
- 13. The PRI should be taken into confidence in matter relation to implementation of the Acts and Rules referred to above. As it is felt that the protection of the environment is one of the responsibilities of the PRI, as they have the permanent interest in the Islands.
- 14. The PRI, would to be informed whether the Government of India Ministry of Environment and forest provided fund A & N forest Department out of the their ambitious National Forestry Action Plan (NFAP) amounting to Rs. 134,000 Cores to achieve sustainable development and conservation of Forests resources.
- 15. It is understood that there is joint Forest management committee under which forest protection committee has been constituted. It is imperative that PRI should be associated with the forest Protection committee so as to create awareness about the protection of environment. The National Forest Policy 1988 provided for Social Forest Project and Joint Forest Management Project to afforest/reforest degradation revenue and forest land to regenerate denuded forests involving people.
- 16. It is well known that the Islands are coming under earth quake prone zone. The construction of RCC Building is a risk to human habitation. The alternative is to have wooden building for residential purpose for

which there should be little relaxation in the procurement of timber from protected/ Revenue Forest.

We would like to be heard in person so as to explain in detail the deterioration of ecosystem of these Islands.

Closing with good wises for the New Year.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Morning ox

Manik Dey (President)
United Forum of Elected,
representative of PRI

#### No.01/ZP/Adhyaksh/2001/08

# OFFICE OF THE ZILLA PARISHAD A & N ISLANDS

***

Port Blair dated the 17th December 2001

To

The Hon'ble Shekhar Singh Commission (Appointed by the Supreme Court of India)

Sub: Ban on felling of trees – regarding.

Hon'ble Sir.

It is to bring to your kind notice the following few facts for your kind necessary action please. That some developmental projects such as construction of rural roads/other roads, laying of water pipelines, laying of electric power lines etc. has to be taken up through the Forests area for providing basic amenities to the citizens of revenue villages. For which there is well laid down procedure for obtaining Environment and Forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India under relevant Forests act. also standing There are some trees revenue areas/villages/alongside roads/near electric poles etc. that needs to be pruning/felled as the case may be for widening of roads and for other developmental activities. All the above developmental activities has been halted due to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's ban on felling of trees.

Some projects, which have already been taken up such as "Suryachakra Power Project" at Bambooflat, have been affected by the above ban. The Power Plant is to be commissioned by January 2002 and before that Overhead power lines has to be laid down for evacuation of power generated by the above Power Plant to Port Blair. But due to the above ban the overhead cable laying work has been halted as some trees has to be felled for the purpose for which necessary Environment clearance has already been taken.

Hence it is submitted that exemption may be given for felling of trees for non-timber purpose for implementation of developmental problems value taking approval/clearance from the competent author.

The Divisional Forest Officer, South Andaman, Ferrarguni

Sub: Mature trees standing on OR agri-cultural landsy.No 170/52 at Village Chouldhari in Ferrargunj Tahsil, felling of for planting fruit trees in their place.

I am to state that I am the tenant of OR agricultural land measuring 1.10 Hects vide Sy.No. 170/52 at Choultural in Formation maked dari in Ferrargunj Tahsil.

The OR status was conferred on the said land as far back as 1983.

There are a few mature trees of different catego-ries standing on the said land. I have a desire to plant fruit trees like, coconut, arecanut, mango etc. after felling mature trees; I shall not cut down young/immature trees.

Without cutting down mature trees I cannot plant the intended Truit trees.

consent/no objection in the above matter at an early date. to the cutting composing said the narting the while the time cate of the said land received from the Rev. Department.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,

T.Ramakrishnan, s/o Thangavelu, R/O Badmash Pahar (Choul-

Copy forwarded for information, To The Chief Conservator of Forests, A & N Islands, Van Sedan, Haddo.

T.Remakrishnan

139

Park.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOUTH ANDAMAN.

DATED AT WIMBERLYGUNJ THE 9th AUGUST'01.

To, Shri.T.Ramakrishnan, S/o Thangavelu, Badmas Pahar, Chouldari.

### Through Range Officer, M/Tang.

Sub: - Permission for extraction and removal of trees standing in the allotted land - Regarding.

Ref:- Your application dated 28/2/2000.

000

sir,

With reference to your application cited above, it is informed that as per the order of the Hon'ble SupremerCourt dt. 12/12/1996 the provision of Forest Conservation Act will apply to all the land having natural tree cover irrespective of legal status and ownership and no tree felling can be allowed over such land having natural tree cover without prior approval from Govt. of India.

In view of the position explained above your request for extraction and removal naturally grown trees available in your allotted land bearing survey No.170/52 situated at Loha Barrack cannot be acceeded to.

Yours faithfully

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
DSOUTH ANDAMAN.

#### Copyto:-

1. The Range officer, Manglutan with reference to his Tim/II-MT/388 dt.17/7/2001 for information.

> 5 - Elm: T. Roma boustineau Rio Bodanos patros wie Co e bouldern for in Krosa trans

Tura (0)

whe mivistonel corest Officer, south Andamen,

sub: Permission to fell trees standing on alloted Occupancy Might -holding- refusal by DFO

Ref: DEO letter Mo.4-6/mim/MT/Vol.TT/ 297 dt. 13th Aug., 2001.

Sir,

Tom to refer your letter above mentioned by way of reply to my request letter dt. 28/2/2000 and state the following for your kind consideration.

letter. whe reply has come 18 months after the request

vour good self has stated that in view of a Supreme Court ruling trees naturally growing on public or private holding cannot be felled; this requires a few clarifications. the land in question is meant for cultivation/agriculture. If trees are not removed agriculture becomes impossible and the Standing trees themselves cannot be treated as part of agriculture. A former who receives allotment or purchases agricultural land cannot put the land to purposes of agriculture.

Further, most of the forest in A &?N TSlands consists of natural Browth; plantation of tek, padauk etc. started only a few years also. Man mode plantations are not ripe yet for harvesting, whe A & N Forest authorities are felling valuable commercial trees, which are naturally Brown. If the prohibition exainst cutting down trees is strictly enforced the Forest papartment will have no duty except to preserve timper.

Thope there is no discriminatory orders against individuals.

Your reference to/ citation of Supreme Court ruling is not at all helpful to find out the extent of the alleged prohibition. A reported court ruling is ferred to by a particular case No./ Court wise Page No. of the Reporter etc.

Names out parties and the scape of the ruling etc. could be searched onlt on the basis of such particulars.

It shall be very kind of your Mood salf to furnish me the particulars of the said 30 ruling to me at an early date, so that I could do my bit to obtain measury relief.

trouble; but it is only on account of insufficient particulars as stated above and in my own desire to mack relief.

Copy forwarded for checking you information and kind you meessary action, together with applicate ion and the reply referred, to

L. mbe P.O.O.F, A & N Talanda,

you Yours foithfully,

TROMAN Solution, Solution Thousavelu, polymore controlly controlly

-, 1

Ms Excellency the Lt. Covernor,
A & N Telends,
Port Blotr.

sub: Refusal to Eront permission to foll out standing timber on agricultural land-reg.

Sir.

to your information;

s.No. 170/52 at chouldari T applied to the DFO, South Andoman, wimberlygunj on 28/2/2000 for permission to fell standing mature trees from that land.

After 18 months the DFO refused permission under cover of an alleged supreme court ruling dt. 12/12/96.

A tenant of agricultural land whether by way of allotment or by way of purchase has naturally to remove the trees for proper cultivation. The existing Land Revenue & Land Reforms Regulations, 1966 recognises the tenant as the owner of the trees on his holding in case the Forest Deptt. failed to remove them after a specific period since the land became Occupancy Right holding.

who DFO olleges that naturally grown trees cannot be allowed to be cut down, whether standing on Govt. land or private holding in view of the said alleged Supreme court ruling dt. 12/12/1996. He/She has not furnished particulars of the said alleged ruling.

Thave raised certain doubts in my letter dt. 27/8/2001 addressed to the DTO and also requested for particulars of the ruling. Tom enclosing a copy each of my original application, the DTO's said reply and my present letter to the DTO for your kind perusal.

T wish to point out that in case the alleged prohibition on felling trees from a private holding is real, the farmers can no lower hope to raise food grains or other agricultural crops on their agricultural holding. I hope, there is no such prohibition.

Trequest your Excellency to make recessary inquiries from concerned authorities to establish the truth and also toremove the feared obstacle on the way of private extendituries.

Mnol: Ad montioned above.

phanicing you

vours forthfully,

TD C-Lmm

m. Ranckrishman, 5/0 lt. mhanago.

19/8/01

खात शि- वह R.P. - 54

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DEPARTMENT OF POSTS, INDIA তদ্রিপ ছাপ মোহর
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Name-Stamp of Office of posting

Date Stamp
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UNIVERSAL GRAPHICS, DIAMOND HARBOUR.

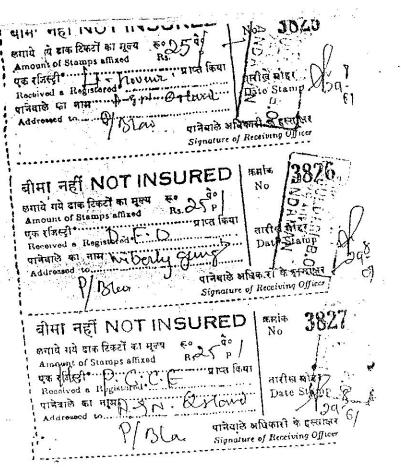
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# ANDAMAN & NICOBAR GOYT. EMPLOYEES & WORKERS FEDERATION

(Registered Under the Trade Unions Act. 1926)

CRUSADE HOUSE • PHOENIX BAY • HADDO P.O.,
PORT BLAIR • ANDAMANS - 744 102.

Ref. No : ANGEF /2001

Date 17.12.2001

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED PROF. SHEMKHAR SINGH, COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO REPORT ON THE STATE OF FOREST AND ALLIED MATTERS OF AND AM AN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

AND NICOBAR

The Andaman Govt. Employees & Workers Federation representing the Govt. Employees and Workers working in the various departments under the Andaman and Nicobar Administration is very much concerned with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order banning felling and conversion of trees and we would like to submit the following few poits for kind consideration in the matter of protection of environment and forest of these islands and to sustain supply of timber to the local in-habitants.

- 1. That the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is having 80% of the total area covered by forest as per the statistical data and out of which 15% area is earmarked for primitive tribes of these islands and about 20% under settlement. Over the years, the Andaman and Nicobar Forests Department which was established in the year 1883 has extracted the commercial timber to meet the local requirement as well as shipment to mainland and foreign countries. The forestry sector is generating most of the employment as well as revenue.
- 2. That the Andaman and Nicobar Forest Department have 2 (two) saw mills one at Betapur and another at Chatham. About 1000 fkk (thousand) workers are working in the above saw mills. Besides this about 50 (fifty) saw mills under the private sector employing about 4000 6 4500 workers are there and out of which 2 (two) medium plywood/veener units viz. M/s. Andaman Timber Industries Ltd., Bambooflat and M/s. Jayshree Timber Products, Bakultala have been closed and the third unit M/s. Kitply, Long Island has suspended its operation in view of Apex Court's order and workers were laid. The two Government Saw Mills are also not functioning efficiently due to wantam mismanagement. As a result thousands of workers have lost their job and prospect of future generation of employment has become bleak.

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## Andaman & Nicobar Islands

# Forest Corporation Workers' Union

Regn. No. 2 of 1989 (Affiliated to AITUC)

H.O.: HUT BAY * LITTLE ANDAMAN-744 207.

**HUT BAY** 

Rof. No. FCWU/ 12/16

Dale 16.12.2001

To

Prof. Shekar Singh, Commissioner Appointed by Ministry of Environment & Forests, Camp: Port Blair.

Sub: Lifting of ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 10.10.2001 on felling of naturally grown trees in Andaman & Nicobar Islands with the specific mention about illegal encroachment of forest land in Little Andaman Island - submission of Memorandum.

Sir.

In relation to the subject matter, I am to state that the felling of trees in Little Andaman and North Andaman is done by the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited which is a Government of India Undertaking. The Forest Corporation employes, a total of 1923 servants of different categories of which 1500 workmen are represented by this Union.

The reserved forest coverage of Little Andaman is around 70000 Ha. of which around 50000 Ha. is Tribal Reserve Forest. The Corporation is alloted an area of only 15024 Ha. of Forest for scientific management of forest under the unique "Andaman Canopy Lifting Shelterwood System" introduced by Shri B.C.Chengappa, Conservator of Forests in the year 1952. Ever since the formation of the ANIFPDC Limited in the year 1977, the Corporation is engaged in Govelopment of logging, marketing and raising of plantation.

Presently the felling of trees is carried out strictly in accordance with the Working Plan for the forest of Little Andaman (1999-2009) which is approved by the Govt. of India on 15.11.1999 with a view to obtain increasing sustained yield of standard timber to meet the various requirement without damaging the ecology of the forest land of Little Andaman Island.

Thus it will be seen that the extraction of timber has been done only from an area of 10000 Ha. during the period from 1977 to 2000 and left over area covers 5000 Ha. for forestry operation upto 2009. The entire harvested area has been brought under the natural regeneration and high priority and emphasis is accorded to this natural regeneration scheme. As such the fear that this area may be converted to a desert if allowed to continue felling of trees in the present manner does not carry any weight. Moreover, the latest satellite survey of

(Contd.)

### Andaman & Nicobar Islands

# Forest Corporation Workers' Union

Regn. No. 2 of 1989 (Affiliated to AITUC)

H. O.: HUT BAY * LITTLE ANDAMAN-744 207.

**HUT BAY** 

Rof. No. FCWU/

-: 2 :-

Dale....

forest coverage carried out by the Satellite Survey Agencies has revealed an increase of 3 % green cover over the extent of such cover as existed three years ago.

As to the critical point raised by the Hon'ble
Supreme Court regarding illegal encroachment of forest
land in Little Andaman, it is to state that this illegal
encroachment of forest land is not done by the Forest
Corporation, but the general public who are not checked
by any authority at any time. Since the said encroachments
are done in the area not under the jurisdiction of the
Forest Corporation, they are not able to check the same
properly and efficiently. The malpractive will continue
with increased xi vigour. In order to put an end to this
fradulent activities of poachers, it is suggested that
a special task force for forest protection directly under
the command and control of the Forest Department should be
stationed at Little Andaman. It is pity that the Forest
Corporation officials are not even fully empowered to deal
with offending public properly (i.e. issuance of search
warrant etc.). The maximum people living at Little Andaman
Island are very poor and they have to depend fully upon
forest produces for construction of their dwellings
and that they cannot afford to go in for construction of
RCC buildings. Also it is a point to note that the A &
N Islands is a highly sensitive earth quake prone area
where houses of wooden materials would be highly suitable.

The Onges (aboriginal Tribes) in this Island number less than 80 and they are provided with protected habitats alongwith all modern facilities in order to bring them to the main stream of civilized life and they are in no way affected on account of the scientific forestry operation undertaken in Little Andaman by the Forest Corporation. A large area of more than 50000 Ha. has been reserved as the 'garden of Eden' for this few tribal folks which does not sound meaningfull in a poor nation that ours. This aspect in the case demands logical thinking.

All this apart, the most grievous part of this ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court is that thousands of people who are directly or indirectly engaged in the forestry operation and wood based industries would be put into starvation if the ban is not lifted immediately. Nearly 2000 employees of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Forest & Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. will be the worst hit victims of this tragic order of ban. The Forest Corporation Ltd. has already sustained a loss of more than 3 crores rupees due to the ban imposed on felling of traces. It is logically said that 'man is not for law but had is for the man'.

### Andaman & Nicobar Islands

# Forest Corporation Workers' Union

Regn. No. 2 of 1989 (Affiliated to AITUC)

H. O.: HUT BAY * LITTLE ANDAMAN-744 207.

-: 3 :-

**HUT BAY** 

Ref. No. FCWU/

Dale .....

Hence it is requested that the Commission may give due recognition and consideration to the facts stated ibid to render justice by way of lifting ban at the earliest to save souls of thousands of poor peoples effected by the unexpected ban.

Yours faithfully,

(SWAMY OMKARANAND) General Secretary.



# ANDAMAN & NICOBAR GOYT. EMPLOYEES & WORKERS FEDERATION

( Registered Under the Trade Unions Act. 1926 )

CRUSADE HOUSE & PHOENIX BAY & HADDO P.O.,
PORT BLAIR & ANDAMANS - 744 102.

Ref. No : ANGEF /2001

Date 17-12-2001

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED PROF. SHEAKHAR SINGH, COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO REPORT ON THE STATE OF FOREST AND ALLIED MATTERS OF AND AMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

AND NICOBAR

The Andaman Govt. Employees & Workers Federation representing the Govt. Employees and Workers working in the various departments under the Andaman and Nicobar Administration is very much concerned with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order banning felling and conversion of trees and we would like to submit the following few poits for kind consideration in the matter of protection of environment and forest of these islands and to sustain supply of timber to the local in-habitants.

1. That the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is having 80% of the total area covered by forest as per the statistical data and out of which 15% area is earmarked for primitive tribes of these islands and about 20% under settlement. Over the years, the Andaman and Nicobar Forests Department which was established in the year 1883 has extracted the commercial timber to meet the local requirement as well as shipment to mainland and foreign countries. The forestry sector is generating most of the employment as well as revenue.

2. That the Andaman and Nicobar Forest Department have 2 (two) saw mills - one at Betapur and another at Chatham. About 1000 (tk (thousand) workers are working in the above saw mills. Besides this about 50 (fifty) saw mills under the private sector employing about 4000 6 4500 workers are there and out of which 2 (two) medium plywood/veener units viz. M/s. Andaman Timber Industries Ltd., Bambooflat and M/s. Jayshree Timber Products, Pakultala have been closed and the third unit M/s. Kitply, Long Island has suspended its operation in vdew of Apex Court's order and workers were laid. The two Government Saw Mills are also not functioning efficiently due to wanten mismanagement. As a result thousands of workers have lost their job and prospect of future generation of employment has become bleak.

14%

- 3. That the Chatham Saw Mill which was the integrated unit having two workshops and Marine Section having a large fleet of water crafts, a small slip-way, power house and saw doctoring unit is in a mess as the saw mill has not been modernised so far, though a huge amount has been pumped into the mills without proper planning. The logs converted in the mill are not only the left out logs by the private parties but also the logs which were extracted long back could not be transported in time are fed in the mill which produce less out turn. There is an urgent need to modernise the mill to cater the entire needs of the local population. It may also be pointed out here that the Govt. as well as the private saw mills are not converting logs as per the demands of the local people and piling huge stocks to pressurise the Govt. for export permit.
- 4. That in the entire territotial division of the Andaman and Nicobar Forest Department, about 3000 workers are employed as regular as well as daily rated. These divisions are also not functioning properly as most of the divisions are run by the junior I.F.S officials having inadequate experience. Due to inefficiency in the divisional level, illicit felling and encroachment of forest land has become a serious problem. As per the information huge quantity of logs extracted during the last two years or more are lying in various depots including forests which is already under process of deterioration.
- 5. The forests have been damaged to a great extent in the name of hilly land extraction. In the recent past in the name of hilly land extraction, a large number of trees felled from the govt. forest from Diglipur to Middle Andaman and exported to mainland though there was an official ban on export of timber.
- 6. That the Andaman and Nicobar Forest Islands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., a Govt. of India Undertaking has done a enormous damage to the forests of Little Andaman and North Andaman as the Corporation has not re-generated the areas from where extraction has been done. The Andaman Forest Department which is supposed to monitor the extraction and regeneration in leased area has also failed to do its duty.

Contd....3/-

- 7. That a huge quantity of timber is consumed a fuel as there is no cooking coal available in these islands. Hence the the entire population of rural area is depended on jungle fuel which is a great pressure on forest. This situation can be controlled to a great extent by increasing supply of cooking gas and kerosine oil to the rural population on a subsidised rate.
- 8. That the status of forest in South Andaman is very worst due to illicit felling and encroachment on forest land. The Rutland which is having a very rich forest is threatened by encroachment and illicit felling.
- 9. That there are number of furniture manufacturing units which have come up in the recent years in and around Port Blair as well as in outer areas are utilising ornamental timber and these timber are mostly collected through illicit felling.
- 10. That the Andaman Forest EXPARENCE is also exposed to foreign as well as local poachers which could not be efficiently controlled so far. It can be controlled by the joint efforts of police, defence and forest. At present the Forest Department is not having a single touring boat nor the staff are not provided with proper equipments to prevent the poaching.
- 11. That the Forest Department has so far could not effectively protect and preserve the forest and we feel that without
  stopping the influx of population from mainland the protection
  of forests cannot be ensured.

It is submitted before the commission that there are reports of the expert groups that the carrying capacity of these islands is only 4.5 lakks and this limit has already been crossed. Hence there is an urgest need to stop further influx of population from mainland in order to protect and save the environment and forest of these islands.

Before conclusion, we submit before the Commission that an Expert Committee may be constituted in order to asses the damage of the forest doner so far and the actual re-generation done in the worked over areas.

In the light of the above, we suggest the following measures may be adopted for protection and preservation of environment

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and forest of these islands:

- a). Extraction of timber may be permitted only to the extent of local requirement.
- b). Linatham and Betapur Saw Mills may be modernised to cater to the needs of the local population and to avoid wastage in conversion.
- c). The supply of substitute fuel to rural population at subsidised rate to avoid dependence on jungle fuel.
- d). Necessary measures may be introduced to stop the further influx of population from mainland in order to balance the population as per the carrying capacity of the islands.
- e). Necessary effective steps may be taken to stop illicit felling, encroachment and poaching.
- f). The Forest Department should take necessary steps to monitor the activities of the Forest Corporation in terms of the lease agreement.
- g). The furniture workshops should be checked as per the provisions of the license and proper vigil should be kept to avoid use of illicit timber.

h). Forest administration may be toned up and the executive staff should be properly trained and equipped to stop the encroachment, poaching and illicit felling.

(K. SRINIV AS AN), CHAIRMAN.

To,

PROF. SHEKHAR SINGH, COMMISSIONER, ON THE STATE OF FORESTS AND ALLIED MATTER OF ANDAMAN NICOBAR ISLANDS, CAMP- PORT BLAIR. His Excellency Professor Shekhar Said;

(Authority fined by Honble Supreme Course)

Homble Sir

We the underigned approach your honor
On behalf ofthe general public of wowdoor are a as

(1) That, sir, frest dept. uses sand collected from wandow beach for construction of their soul - dings but don't permit general public even to collect a few begs ifor construction of laterines for which they are given four by the lanchayar. There approaches us to request freet department for such pelly excemptions but to mouse.

Co-ratation between freet department better results in controlling the fish of timber, ivrequestionent of forest land and other decades ett. ett.

with Sauguine hope.

Jours feit hofolly Bharel Kr Shaw P.S.M. H. Greet To
Shri Shekhar Singh ,
Commissioner ,
Enviournment & Forest ,
Tealhouse ,Room No. 09,
Port Blair .

Subject :- Some Important Suggession on uplifting of Ban on Extruction of Timber, Cane and Bamboo - regarding.

Respected Sir,

I beg to state that hereunder I am suggesting some Important Points regarding the uplifting of Ban on Extraction of Timber,Cane and Bamboo in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- 1. Free Royelty should be stopped for all.
- 2. Timber should be given only to the Pre-42 and Settlers on payment of Royelty.Only 05  ${\rm C}^{3}{\rm M}$  zgix should be given after the intervel of five years .
- 2. Lease should be cancelled given to the Forest Corporation in A&N Islands, Because the Corporation missused the benefit of Lease. It can be seen in Little Andaman Island. The Corporation Extracted Timber from Tribal Area(Hamendar Bay resettled Nicobaries).
- 4. Cane and Bamboo's Extraction per unit should be given only to Registered SSI Units on payment of Royelty .
- 5. Coast Guard Out Post should be opend in Land Fall Island kikke Andaman/ Northern Point of North/Andaman, Great Nicobar Islands, Little Andaman.
- for enrolling the trees in the Forest by the concerned Range Officer and the trees may be extracted only the age of at least 100 years as followed by the British/ Japanies Officers.
- 7. Only 10 C³N of Timber may be given to the Mill owners to meet the expenditures and Labour payment.

Contd...P/2.

8. Timber may not be Export as Raw Materials.

Minimum quantity of timbers may be given to the
Govt. Saw Mills.

I hope that your kind honour that you will look into the above suggessions carefully and necessary suggession be given in the report would be submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

I am very very thankful to you and your team for given valuable time for the Islanders. The Islanders may not forget to our beloved former Chief Commissioner, Mr. Mahavir Singh for his contribution for the uplift of Higher Education in these Islands.

Jith regards ,

Dated :- 20.12.2001.

Yours faithfully ,

Shri Kala Chand ,

Primary School Teacher,

Kala Chand

3/o Late Brij Lal Bathore ,

R/o Sipighat,

South Andaman ,

Fin - 744103.

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# ANDAMAN NICOBAR TERRITORIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE GANDHI BHAVAN PORT BLAIR 744101

Ref. No. F-7/ANTCC/2001. Date. 17/12/2001.

70

Professor Shekhar Singh, Commissioner to report on the State of the Forests and allied matter, Camp at Port Blair.

#### Hon'ble sir,

Andaman and Nicobar Territorial Congress Committee filled with joy and happiness welcomes you to these beautiful islands. Your visit is a valuable mission of great significance at this point of time.

We would like to furnish few facts and figures for your kind perusal for attuning a realistic view of the matter highlighted hereunder.

As per last report on State of Forests more than 92% of the 8249 Sq. K.Ms of geographical area of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is under forest cover. Out of this about 86% is under recorded forests. Of the total recorded forest area of 7171 Sq. K.M about 2929 Sq.K.M (40%) is under Reserve Forest and balance 4242 Sq. K.Ms (60%) under protected forest, comprising wild life sanctuaries, national parks, tribal reserve and biosphere reserve overlapping with each other which can be categorized as under:-

<u>Particulars</u>	Dense forest	Open forest	Maugro	4	Sq. K.M) <u>Recorded For<b>est</b></u>
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2	2520	127	\$46.45 ************************************	7613	7170.89

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#### Management:-

The Department of Environment and Forests is the nodal Department which does the planning, formulation and implementation of policies and programmes for conservation, protection, utilization and management of the Forests and wild life in the Tedrritory.

#### Main Activities:

Main activities are conservation, protection, sustainable development of Forests and Wildlife, harvesting, conversion, re-sawing and trade of timber and forest produce, regeneration of forests and protection of ecology. These functions are carried out through implementation of various schemes, programmes, projects under State Pian and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

#### The Working Plan prescriptions, Annual Cut and Revenue earning:

The Department of Environment and Forests has been one of the major revenue earners. However, due to the shift in emphasis from production to conservation the Department scaled down the timber extraction activity and have regulated the hervests of Forests strictly as per the working plan prescriptions. The average annual cut is estimated by its below 70,000 cum, which is expected to yield around Rs.30 crores. However during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 there has been significant reduction in the revenue realization because of recession in the timber and plywood market. Despite the reduction in the extraction, the Forest Department maintained a steady level of revenue realization by annual revision of royalty rates and selling prices of timber.

Out of the torm forest area 86% or the geographical area, two-third is managed the protection and conservation of whilife and biodiversity.

#### Plan Boltomer

Han be an assemble of the comment and Access is implementable shout 15 day for all as such as improposition in Management, Siercaliums, Training of Staff, factural Regularization of Corest, Survey, Oeman about and Settlement, Workness than, Construction of anishings, thought longing and Trilization, Communication, construction of buildings, thought by and wild-life conservation, and acceptaining and respectively. Settlement See If the plant of the Settlement See If the Construction of the Construction of the See If the plant of the Settlement See If the Construction of the Construction See If the plant of the Settlement See If the Construction of the Construction of the See If the plant of the Settlement See If the Construction of the See If the Se

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In addition to the above, 5 Centrally sponsored schemes are also in operation meant for Management and conservation of the eco-system and biosphere reserve.

#### Environment:

Our Islands are fortunate to have a clean environment so far, obviously due to the existence of extensive forest cover of more than 92% of the total geographical area, with limited population and very little industrial activity. The Development of environment and Forests is also dealing with the issues related to the conservation of environment. The cases relating to diversion of Forest Land for non-forestry purposes are also dealt by the Department under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1998.

A Coastal Zone Management Plan is also in operation here.

An Organizational structure for pollution control is also constituted here to attain the objectives of pollution control.

The following Acts and Rules notified by Central Pollution Control Board are being enforced in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- 1. The water (Prevention and Control Pollution) Act, 1974 as amended up to 1988.
- 2 The water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules, 1975.
- 2. The water (Prevention and Control of Poilution) Cess Act, 197 as amended by Amendment Act, 1991.
- 3. The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended by Amendment Act, 1987.
- 5. Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules. 1989 and son on.

The scheme-wise break-up of Annual Plan 2001-2002 of the Department had been studied by us and observed that the total budget outlay of Rs.1190 lakhs has been divided into Rs.910 lakhs as Revenue and Rs.280 lakhs as Capital i.e. Recurring and non-recurring expenditure).

Cont...4/-

We are so concerned about the employment generation if we see the dismal picture of target and achievement sides. The agencies involved in the implementation of schemes such as Department-self, APWD, ALHW etc. did not make any progress.

While justifying the objectives of Natural Regeneration we would like to emphasize that the forest area harvested for timber is required to be regenerated through the process of aided natural regeneration to maintain and improve the productivity of forest lands on sustainable basis. About 2100 Hectares of area harvested annually should immediately need to be regenerated. The Britishers even shown and followed that ideal approach in Andaman and Nicobar Forest lands when this Territory was their colony. We suggest regeneration of tropical forests of these islands should be done under a disciplined Silviculture system which involves lending of advance growth of economically important species through canopy manipulation as well as planning in the gaps till young generation gets established.

#### Survey, Demarcation and Utilization:-

In our Party's view, survey, demarcation and settlement of Forest Land are pre-requisite for scientific management of forest reserve and to protect them from encroachment and other damages. In Andaman and Nicobar Islands 4242 Sq. K.Ms and 2929 Sq. K.Ms have been legally declared as protected Forests and reserved forests respectively Their physical survey and demarcation are yet to be completed.

The people settled under Colonization Scheme were allotted 5 acres of agriculture land and 5 acres of hilly land. In the absence of proper boundary demarcation of forest and revenue lands the settlers face untold sufferings to identify their land and to begin their farming activities. PRIs also suffer to do their developmental activities due to the same reason.

#### Working Plan:

Everyone knows that Forests are the biological resource and constitute basic life support system expected to provide goods and services on sustainable basis to the society in perpetuity. To ensure judicious use of forest resource,

Cont--5/-

the Management should go on scientific lines with a working plan. This plan should revise periodically to meet the scientific goal of the management. But we have seen that the Department does not have appropriate plan and infrastructure to facilitate its effective functioning.

#### Forest Minor Produce:-

Minor Forest Produce (Non-timber Forest Produce) viz., Cane, Bamboo, fuel-wood, ballies, thatching leaf etc. are required to meet the basic needs of the population for shelter and cottage industries. These non-timber forest produce based Cottage Industries, Provide employment to rural artisans. But all these Forest Minor Produces are covered and defined as trees in the Indian Forest Act. The ban on felling of trees by the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been applied to these minor produces also giving a frightening impact to the rural people. Andaman Forest is rich with these produces in abundance. We propose to raise the area of cultivation of mainly cane and bamboo to meet the local requirements.

#### Forest Entension:

Keeping in view of the need for conservation and protection of invironment. Forest and Wildlife the Department should play a gigantic role. To meet the ever-increasing demand for wood and various other non timber forest produce both domestic as well as industrial we feel that there is a need to promote plantation of fuel, fodder, timber and fruit-bearing species in the vacant land.

There are 402 villages in these islands and the present population is around 4.00 lakhs. Similarly cattle population also seen as rapidly increasing. More than five hundred wood-based small Scale Industries should close down their operation as a result of this ban, resulting a heavy loss of job for hundreds and thousands of people. The 2 major Plywood Industries (Andaman Timber Industries and Jayashree Timber Products) haves been closed. The 3rd one (Ettply) is also moving towards closure. The frightening news of an absolute halt of all forest based operations, and functioning of more than 20 Saw Mills including the Chatham Saw Mill etc. have its dangerous impact on that islands lives.

Cont.....6/-

#### Logging and Utilization:

Out of totals timber to be extracted annually by the Department, provision to meet the expenditure to harvest about 20,000 cum is made under this scheme.

We have noticed that the works of preparation of working plan for the management of forest resources by various divisions are not promptly done. Working Plan Division, as per the norms approved by the Govt. of India, are not functioning.

The Department of Environment and Forest had been one of the major revenue earners for the Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. However, due to shift in the emphasis from production to conservation the Department has sealed down the timber extraction activity. Mismanagement is also a reason for an all-round deterioration in activities and revenue earning.

#### Conclusion & Prayer:

These islands fall under the dangerous seismic Zone No.V and therefore the building materials other than wood and forest produces are not at all advisable. Right from the initial settlement programme in these islands, wood and other minor forest produces were only used for building of dwellings.

It is understood that about 30,000 cum of logs are lying in Forest which may go waste gradually if not lifted.

The tree has a life span and may naturally fall and perish after maturity causing irreparable damage to the neighbouring lot. We have to choose here an economic option.

Keeping in view of the existence of all section of people viz., old inhabitants, settlers, aborigines, farmers and workers, we request your good-self to be kind enough to see the humane angle of our submission.

May God Bless You for the successful completion of your hely mission.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Jagnarayan) 19/2/2001 Atting President

Andaman Nicobar Territoriai Congress Committee

Phone: 38578



### COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (MARXIST-LENINIST) LIBERATION

# A&N Islands State Commitee MAZDOOR BHAVAN, P. B. No. 641 DELANIPUR, HADDO, P.O. PORT BLAIR

Ref To CPI(ML)/2001-12/AN/7.

Dale 17-12-2001

то

Prof. Shekhar Singh, Commissioner for Reporting State of Forest and Allied Matters of A&N Islands,

Camp at:

Port Blair.

Sir,

While welcoming you in these islands for study and report on the State of Forest and Allied matters of A&N Islands in compleance with the Order of Supreme Court, we would like to prefer certain facts and figures XBXXX on these topics for your kind consideration.

Since you have spent some years of your childhood in these islands the memory of the those days with may help compare with the present state of affairs regarding Forest, Envisonment and its alleed matters.

These islands remain polution free environment zone due to RM non-development of Industrial RMM Activities, though the economy and employment solely depend upon the forest wealth. A AM Administration neglected Govt. Sector Industries like Chatham Saw Mill, Betapur Saw Mill Etc. and at the same time encouraged private sector Industries based on plywood, Maches Etc. allowing Industrial Coups on long term hasis in South Andaman, Middle Andaman and Little Andaman areas on payment of royalty. On the other hand the Administration did not take any initiative to set up Industries MM in Govt. Sector to utilise other available natural resources.

When Forest Department allotted Industrial Coups to 3 Major English Wood based Industries during 1960.70s and 80s on long term basis, they got free hand to fell trees indiscriminately beyond the boundaries of Coupsx and Rules. The Forest Department had no control over them. Accordingly they destroyed the Forest for their

(Contdd...2)

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grown trees can not be justified in the name of environmental reasons.

( Contd... 3)

ecconomic gain without caring the environmental aspects.

Though very old and outdated, there is working plan guideline for operation in forest areas regarding exploration, regeneration process and protection measures. But the unfortunately it appears that no working plan-guideline has been made applicable while felling trees, spending in the name of Forest Protection and Regeneration. Forest Department *** extracted timber from protected areas and even Jarawa reserves to feed private industries. Involvement of Private Contractors for regeneration, bushcutting and cutting of inspection parths by forest department turned as licence to exloit the forest as well as led deforestation due to their irresponsible and unscientific approach on work.

In 1980s the A&N Forest & Plantation Development Corporation came into existance and a major part of Forest area of Little Andaman, Noth & Middle Andaman were transferred to them for exploitation of Forest wealth. Forest Corporation engaged large number of private contractors, even from mainland to exploit the commercial kinexer timber and all other standing crops in the corporation area which badly effected the environment of this region. The Forest Corporation ax or their Contractors never followed the norms of working pixem plan guidelines prescribed for forest area operations. They never bothered about regeneration in worked out area. Hence the commission should conduct proper study about the working of this Forest Corporation and its worked areas.

About 86% of the total land area of this Islands Territory is covered with forest within 7170 Sq.KH. This is much higher in percentage in comperision with any other part of India or even with many other countries in this Universe. Hence total prohibition on felling of naturally grown trees can not be justified in the name of environmental reasons.

( Contd... 3)

The poor islanders solely depend upon the Timber for their dwelling purpose. Instead of providing timber on cheep rate for construction of knidking building the Administration increased the cost of timber beyond the reach of these poor adding all the overhead charges of expenditures of pay, and allowances and other parafehalia of 27 IFS Officers. Though the x lower strata employees and forest activities have been reduced considerably, the department is planning to increase high-officers strength like Additional P.C.C.F., C.C.F., etc.

Yet the islanders are fully dependent on wood for creamation of dead bodies.

We therefore urge upon you to consider all the aspects narated above and the points of suggestions given below while EMMEXICATION concluding your report and appreciate that total ban on felling of naturally grown timber and its utilisation will not be in favour of the islanders in any way.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

- 1. XXX There is natural death to all the matured trees in forest. Stopping of felling and utilisation of matured trees will be nothing other than wasting of natural wealth and national economy.
- 2. The extraction should be, but in such a way without causing damage to the forest and its land. Plucking the matured trees through selective felling and transprting the same to the nearest water source (river or sea) by temporary rope-way at overhead kink height on cuppy-pully system with specially trained man-power for the man purpose will prove the safest way. This will help avoid deforestation through causing through road cutting and erosion of kink soil through the channels creating out of dragging process of logs.
- 3. Buildings made of timber can only viable, sustainable, economic and truble free in view of earth quack being ASM Islands under immenant danger-zone of tremor. Construction of RCC buildings can not be encouraged in these area on safty measure.
- 4. Unavailability of timber for dwelling purpose and increase in cost of timber will encourage construction of RCC building which will lead to extraction of sea sand and quarry product from kkie these area over and above the fear of danger mentioned above. It will pose threat to the environment again.
- 5. No process of felling, extraction or any other process undef Forest be allowed to any private agency/contractor as had done in the past at Little Andaman and other areas like South Middle and Noth Andamans.
- 6. Export of timber in any shapeks to main land or to other countries be banned and at the same time fixf sufficient timber be made available for local consumption on low-

(Contd. . . . 4)

low-cost to meet the need of kwk building construction purpose in these islands by exploring the vast resources from the matured trees posing to natural death otherwise.

7. Matured timber subjected to "Chemical Treatment Process" will last for several generations of the mxxx man kind and this will reduce the increase in demand of timber at long run.

Yours faithfully,

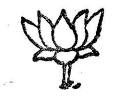
(M. Sadasivan)

Secretary, CPI(ML) State Committee, A&N Islands.

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Ø: 31004 Fax: 03192 - 33161 (PP) 33016 (PP)



### BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

### ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

SUPPLY LINE 🐵 PORT BLAIR - 744 101

bust 200. A-2/BJP/PB/2001/5046

Date 20.12.2001

Prof. Shekhar Singh, Commissioner for Independent Survey of A & N Ecology, Camp: Port Blair.

Sir,

Our Party welcomes you and wishes you all success in your mission and hopes to achieve a balanced result.

There is no doubt that the conservation of Forest are very important not only to keep the balance of ecology but also for the survival of mankind, animals and various living and non-living elements. But at the same time the survival of wood based industries, the labourers, the people, villagers connected directly or indirectly and the economy and development of the Islands also depends on the Forest Produce. Hence, a balance formula is to be chalked-out. As per the Statistics about 86% of Forest is available in these Islands, hence, there shall be no difficulty in allowing reasonable extraction of logs considering the requirement of existing Saw mill, wood based industries, SSI Units of furniture making already established in these Islands.

I was also present in the ACCI meeting had with you on 16th morning in the capacity of the Vice-President of ACCI. The Memorandum given to you by the ACCI is comprehensive. I like to add few more points that are related to the closure of 2 Plywood Factories viz. ATI, Bambooflat and JTP, Bakultala besides allied matters.

### 1. Shortage of Supply of logs and increase of price of logs every year:-

The Xerox Copy of the letter No. F(4)/85/160 dated 13.10.200 from the Department of Environment & Forests addressed to JTP Bakultala shows an allotment of 13.630 cbm Plus 1370 cbm against their requirement of 21,000 cbm which was viable for running their

mill in full capacity as per the strength of their workforce. Similar letter might have been issued to the ATI Bambooflat. As verbally told to you in the meeting there are 2 reasons for the closure of 2 Major Plywood Industries:-

- (i) Shortage of supply of ply logs;
- (ii) Increase of price of logs ever year.

I also enclose herewith allotment sheet of the Forest department form 1996-97 to 1999-2000, which shows a decrease in the allotment of logs to the 3 Major Industries.

# 2. Illegal cutting of trees by the Foreign Poachers

It is very common that the poachers who comes from Myanmar and Thailand use to camp in deep forest in the far-flung forest of Andaman District and illegally cut the costly trees like Padauk etc. and take to their countries in the Powerful Engine Boats. With their modern machineries and techniques they cut the half of the girth of the tree upto full available length and the trees shall keep standing for few months and our forest security Guards cannot check until or unless they visit the spot. Further, the poachers use to keep automatic weapons and other arms and ammunitions for their safety and therefore, our security guards are scared. To check this poaching, a Marine Police Force with the necessary infrastructure had been sanctioned before about 1 1/2 years ago but still it has not been fully operated.

Similarly, poaching of seashells fishes, Prawns, Crocodiles are going on in the entire A & N Sea, Although Coast Guard, Local Police apprehends them but the poaching activities are still in progress and it may continue. In our opinion, more and more Indian Entrepreneurs should be given deep fishing licensee for fishing of permissible items, who shall not only explore the sea wealth but also check the foreign poachers.

#### Collection of Minor Forest produces: -

The collection of DHUP RESIN was earlier allowed by the Forest Department till 1993 on the terms of calling Tenders and payment of Royalty of Rs. 1 per kg. But, it has been stopped thereafter. DHUP RESIN is a substance which automatically leaks from the various trees and accumulated on the grounds into the forest, which does not put any harm to the standing trees. It generates the employment for hundreds of villagers who collects the materials from the jungle and sell to the Licensee, who in turn dispatch the goods to Kolkatta /Chennai for further sale. The labourers/ villagers/transport/shipping /stevedoring have been badly affected.

Similarly, the Forest Department has stopped the collection of Seeds of BAITPHAL, KATTAPHAL etc. which are naturally fallen from the trees. These seeds are collected by the Licensee through the villagers and exported to Kolkatta/Chennai and after processing and converting into the decorative items are exported to foreign countries and earned foreign currency. We fail to understand the reason for the stoppage of collection of fallen seeds.

#### 4. Encroachment in the Forest Areas:-

There are many encroachments of a big land for cultivation and plantation by the cultivators/villagers (settlers) in the forest area of Diglipur Tehsil in a honeycombing way since many years back and day-by-day their boundary of encroachment is expanding. In fact the number of family members of the settlers have been increased manifold during the last 35 years of their settlement and the land about 2 Hectares which was earlier allotted to them as become insufficient because of subdivision among the family members. They should be settled in peripheral places to avoid further encroachment of the forests.

# 5. Proper settlement of Ranchi labourers in Baratang Island, Rangat, Mayabunder, Diglipur and Campbell Bay Tehsils

Sufficient number of Ranchi Labourers are living in their huts in the forest land of Baratang Island and above noted Tehsils, revenue area of Gandhi Nagar of Campbell Bay and some other Islands since their incept in these Islands. These Ranchi labourers were brought from Bihar State around the year 1950 on wards for the clearance of forest for the settlement of the refugees of East Bengal (Now Bangladesh) after partition of India in the year 1947. The Ranchi Labourers of Campbell Bay were brought by Border Roads Organization (GREF). The Forest Department has so far not made any arrangement to settle these labourers on proper place in the Baratang Island and other places. It is said that their residential huts are standing on the forest encroachment lands. This problem needs to be settled immediately by the forest as well as revenue departments.

## 6. Non-availability of Sea Sand

Due to non-availability of required quantity of sand the civil construction work related to the development of these Islands are badly affected. Similarly, the public is also facing hardship for getting the sea sand for construction of their houses. The Pulverized dust is also not easily available to the public. However, some pulverized dust shall be available after sometime. The sand is still required for casting of floors, Plastering etc.

Although the sanction of the Ministry of Forest & Environment is sought every year by the Administration for extraction of limited quantity of sand from the beaches but a long term policy is required to be made to solve this, because there is always a break of about 3 to 4 months during the time of the renewal of the sanction from the Ministry. There is about ______cbm of sea sand is required annually, which can be extracted from the beaches of various Islands by rotation.

Our party is concerned for the earning of bread and butter of the poor villagers, labourers, traders who are directly or indirectly connected with the forest and sea produce which are resources for the improvement of the economy of the General public of the Islands on one hand and conservation of forest to a reasonable limit on the other hand. You being an expert on this subject can find out a moderate way out and recommend the Apex Court accordingly.

We hope that you shall submit your interim report to the Apex Court at the earliest to allow the transportation/conversion of the accumulated logs outside the forest and lying in the Government and Private Saw Mills to avoid its deterioration during the passage of time and survival of thousand of labourers.

#### Thanking you

Yours faithfully

(H.N. Arora)
BJP State President
A & N Islands

#### NOTE:-

The Forest Department has banned the sale of Padauk logs to the Private Saw Mills established in various places and the SSI Units of Furniture Manufacturing of out side areas are forced to purchase their requirements from the Government Chatam and Betapur Saw Mills and take back to Diglipur/Rangat/Havelock etc. for making furniture. This unnecessary ban/condition of Forest Department involves extra transport expenses and result in high price on the finished products and uncompetitive with the Port Blair market price.

For the benefit of out side areas' SSI Units and for house constructions, the' Padauk logs should be sold/sawn by the Private Saw Mills in all places in the A & N Islands.

I fai mã

FONDURABLE
SHEKAR SINGH COMMISSION.

(M.P.) Sir,

हमारे गांव विजय गर्-2 में
जुन्ह लोग Revenuar क्या आकर क्ट्रक्
णग्रह Ancross किये है उन लोगो
को आपका मक्द कारन है।
इन लोगो क्या जाग

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# Andaman & Nicobar Peoples Voluntary Organisation

MP. VIJAY RAVINDER

PRESIDENT

Head Office No. 20, OPP. HEAD POST OFFICE PORT BLAIR, ANDAMAN - 744 101

Ref. No.....

Date. 17-12-2001

To His Excellency Prof: Shekhar Singh, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Commissioner to inquire into the Existing state of Forest and Environment, Camp. Port Blair.

Subject:

Triggered problems of aborigines and Islands fragile ecosystem –

Protection regarding.

Most Respectfully Sir,

It gives us great pleasure that you have been appointed by the Ministry of Environment & Forest, GOI as commission to report on the state of forests and allied matter.

After going through an Article dated 9th December 2001 of "The Hindu" titled "who speaks for the Jarwas" we were deeply moved. (Enclosed is a cutting of that article by S. Theodore Baskaran) seeing this opportunity to speak for them we decided to do our bit. In that article the writer seems to be in all awe of Mr. SAMIR ACHARYA of SANE (society for Andaman and Nicobar Ecology) recents developments here in Andamans have made us change our view about SANE as they are back tracking. SANE seems to have backed out due to some compulsions either political, commercial or even materials. saddening to hear over All India Radios local news bulletin Mr. ACHARYA's statement that he did not meant a total ban on tree felling for timber as he meant only Little Andaman in his petition before the Honorable High Court.

What we have seen as local residents of these Islands since Britishers colonised these Islands and brought us here is a big change in our Environment. Rain is becoming scantier by the day, maximum temperature is going up by the day, Accute water shortage is the order of the day, population is increasing by the day with people coming form outside and settling here, land covered with forest is becoming thinner as encroachments in collaboration with the Revenue and Forest Officials is common, Agriculture land is converted in to concrete jungle. All these are leading to situation which is forcing the so called civilized world to venture into the Tribal Reserve. These Jarawa's are being pushed back and are on the brink of extinction only because of us. The Administration of Regd. No. 893

# Andaman & Nicobar Peoples Voluntary Organisation

## MP. VIJAY RAVINDER

PRESIDENT

Head Office: No. 20, OPP. HEAD POST OFFICE PORT BLAIR, ANDAMAN - 744 101

Ref. No	Date

Andaman and Nicobar hasn't being able to come up with proper plans to safe guard the interest of these Jarawa's and other Tribes for ages

- 1. Population influx should be immediately stopped.
- 2. Ban on Timber is a welcome move.
- 3. No Construction in Jarawa territory.
- 4. No Extension of Andaman Trunk Road.
- 5. Law Enforcement agencies should be accountable.
- 6. Tribal Welfare should be accountable.
- 7. Medical personals posted in Tribal area should be accountable.

For the last so many decades nothing substantial has been done by the policy makers of Andaman and Nicobar Administration. They haven't manage to spare a thought for these Tribal people. The law enforcement agencies, Adim Janjati Vikas Board, Doctors of areas like Jirkatang, kadamtala, baratang etc. are known to be very casual in their approach towards the Jarawa's. Corruption is the root cause here as them money given for Tribal Welfare is grossly misused. The above mentioned officials are supposed to look after them, feed them and care for them but they do otherwise. Tribal Welfare department hires jeeps, which is used by Police for their own use and making visits to Jarawa's with fruits etc. only occasionally but the records and ground reality varies a lot. These Tribal Jarawa's treated as inferior by one and all. Poaching activities from overseas poachers (Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia etc.) and locals alike have left these people stranded. Overseas poachers are a major threat as they have faint regard for Jarawa's and go to the extent of killing and even raping the Jarawa's. Earlier there are tales of how the forest officials also lent their hands in eradicating these Jarawa's Tribe with indiciplined forest guards. Now the people occupying the police check post go about deer hunting in Jarawa area and grant permission with some cash.

We firmly believe that the Jarawas should be left alone in their habitat. We firmly believe that their environment should be preserved. We hail that judgement of the Hon'ble courts. We firmly believe that the Tribals like that Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese etc. are the owners of Andaman Islands and they should be treated us such. We believe that they are in now way inferior to us. We firmly believe that Tribals hold the key to the survival of these Islands, our rain forest and our future. We don't need dozens of timber mills, we don't need to travel by bus through their areas, we want poaching by foreigns to stop, we

# Andaman & Nicobar Peoples Voluntary Organisation

#### MP. VIJAY RAVINDER

PRESIDENT

Head Office: No. 20, OPP. HEAD POST OFFICE PORT BLAIR, ANDAMAN - 744 101

Ref. No	Date
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want a caring and accountable administration who will see light at the end of the tunnel for these Tribal people. We want Tribal prosper and survive.

It's saddening to note that our Member of Parliament has suddenly risen up to speak for our poor people for lifting of Ban on cutting of trees in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Our Member of Parliament plea is guided by compulsions which is very short sighted. The whole Administrative machinery has to shed its compulsions (whatever it may be whether political, social and material) and be more far sighted. We pray to God to save our trees, our oceans, our Tribals, our present and our future.

Sir, whatever report your wisdom may allow you to submit please spare a thought for these Tribal people who are made to beg, borrow and steal, they are made up as laughing stock of the on-lookers, they are considered as wild animals and no-one to really care for them. We have our doubts as to whether these Tribals will be given an audience with you in their pitiable state. By now they might have been thrown back deep inside the forest by the Local Authorities in their areas or made up more presentable and well fed for a day so that they can show they are well cared for.

Please do spare a thought for them and we in our hearts are with you.

Closing with good wishes for the New Year.

Thanking you

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(i) Cetting of (THE HINDU) dt: 9.12.200)

(2) Cutting of Local duily (THE DAILY TELEGRAMMES)

(3) Cutting of Local duily (THE DAILY TELEGRAMMES)

(4) Cutting of Local duily (THE DAILY TELEGRAMMES)

(5) GHAYAS MESHACK

General Secretary

Phone: 30389.

# Who speaks for the Jarawas?

In 1997, a group of Jarawas made contact for the first time with the outside world. It was a move that triggered numerous problems for them and has left them teetering on the brink of extinction. S. THEODORE BASKARAN writes of efforts to save them.

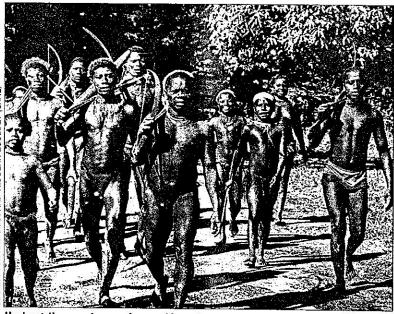
you drive along the road leading to Mayabandar from Port Blair in the Andamans, you might catch a glimpse of the Jarawas, one of the indigenous tribes of the islands; often they come out of their jungle homes to accept fruits and coconuts from visitors. Their white teeth gleaming against their dark skin, the children look like ebony carvings. The story of the Jarawas has been the same as the vanishing people elsewhere in the world, until a group of concerned people came forward to speak for them.

The Society for Andaman and Nicobar Ecology (SANE) a non-government organisation based in Port Blair that taken up the cause of the Jarawas and sought legal remedies. On April 9, 2001 the Circuit bench of the High 2001 the Circuit bench of the High & Court of Calcutta, sitting in Port Blair passed a significant order, directing the Central Government and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to form a committee of experts, including sociologists, nutritionists and doctors to study the problems of the Jarawas

Inhabitants of the dense rain forests of the Andaman Islands, the Jarawas have been living for millennia as hunter-gatherers. In the last century, loggers, settlers and poachers pillaged the forests, sealing the fate of the hapless Jarawas. Reduced to just 350 to 400, they are now teetering on the brink of extinction. Hidden from civilisation and resisting all attempts at contact, they had kept to themselves. In October 1997, in an inexplicable move, a group of Jarawas ventured out of their forest hideout and made contact with the outside world. And this has triggered a cascade of problems, provoking SANE to take up their

Before intervening in a Public Interest Litigation petition in the High Court, SANE, led by one of the founders Samir Acharya, an islander, went about the task of collecting data on indigenous reople, they contacted leading anthropologists and sociologists, all around the world, many of whom were familiar with the issues connected with the issues connected with the indigenous people of the is-lands and recorded their views.

Dr. Vishvajit Pandya, anthropologist at the Victoria University, New Zealand, who had studied the indigenous people of Andamans, felt that the Jarawas should be made culturally safe and that policy makers should take a well thought out stand on their future. Stephen Corry of Survival International said that small populations of tribal people are unlikely to



Hunter-gatherers who now face problems from the civilised world.

survive the effects of sedentarisation. He cautioned that settlement of the Jarawas in a reserve — a common but disastrous solution — would constitute a violation of their human rights. The lives of many indigenous peoples are linked to the specific topography of their land and relocation can wipe them off the face of the earth. Other experts warned that allowing the Jarawas to mix with other people might cause them serious medical problems. Extinction through an epidemic is a

Indigenous people such as the Jarawas may hold the key to some mysteries of human history. Recent DNA studies point out that the Jarawas are closely related to the Bushmen of Africa. If proved, this will lend support to the "Out of Africa" theory of human descent. Its proponents say that humans left Africa about 100,000 years ago and moved on land westward, eventually reaching Asia. Peter Bellwood, an anthropologist at the Australian National University, Canberra, suggests that these migrants arrived at the Andamans about 35,000 years ago when the islands were connected by land with the Arakan mountains ranges of Myanmar. Later, when the sea rose, cutting off the land and creating many pockets of elevated land, people survived in these islands and developed a distinct culture and language. In fact their languages may contain keys to the riddle of human migration. Their intimate knowledge of plants, birds and other creatures of the tropical jungle could help advances in medical sciences.

Samir Acharya speaks with passionate concern for the Jarawas. He points out that the attitude of the mainlanders is not very different from that of the British colonisers towards Indians. The belief of the dominant society that the Jarawas are backward and that they need improvement is actually a racist notion based on an ethnocentric viewpoint. SANE has pleaded in its petition to ban all contact with the Jarawas, to evict all encroachers, camps and outposts from the area traditionally occupied by them and to close the Andaman trunk road to all traffic.

The Honourable High Court in its epoch making order has directed the A and N administration to prevent poaching and stop anything that encourages the Jarawas to beg by the highway. The order also prohibits any new construction in the Jarawas territory and not to make any extension of the Andaman trunk road, as it would cut right into the forests, the home of the tribe for millennia. However, the main thrust of the order is that it directs that the report of the committee of experts should come within six months. The final judgment in the case will be delivered after that,

In its order the court has also directed the administration "to teach the local people that the Jarawas are not inferior but different". In a non-egalitarian society like ours, such a realisation would be a consummation devoutly to be wished for. •

For more on the Jarawas read Action Plan to Save the Jarawas by Subramanya Nayudu. Centre for Future Studies, Pondicherry University, 1999.

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जी. क्रमाराव

#### G. Kurma Rao

सदस्य MEMBER जिला परिषद
Zilla Parishad
अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपसमूह
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Ref. No. F3/M2P/SQ/ET/2K-01/ 195

Baratang, the 18th Dec., 2001.

To

Shri Sekhar Singh Commission, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, NEW DELHI, Camp at HARATANG.

#### His Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Baratang Island, we take the opportunity to hearty welcome you to our Island of this UNION TERRITORY and we would like to bring towards the factual burning problems of Baratang Island.

#### 1) PROBLEMS FACED DUE TO RULING OF HON' BLE SUPREME COUFT

The people of CHOTANAGEUR were brought to these Islands in 2 phase in the year 1959 and 1962 and settled in this Island.

The people were provided with 5 acres of paddy land and 5 acres of hilly land for construction of houses and other mostal purpose. As the people were mostly from backward area and they built houses using locally available M.F.Ps. Now in the present context ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court banning the felling of all naturally grown trees. People of this area are unable to even renovate their huts using Bamboo, Jungle post, Thatching Leaves etc. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands comes under Seismic zone of 6 Prone to high Earthquake area. So building of R.C.C. houses t is not encouraged. So if the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is implemented in toto, then most of the residents will be without a roof over their heads.

The forest department is only and fully responsible for the present problems. Since they had cut logs/trees according to their whims and fencies and did not give importance in replantation of trees and most of the logs were left back in the Forest and swamps which got deteriorated due to time.

(Contd. . P/2)

जी. कुर्रमाराव

## G. Kurma Rao

सदस्य MEMBER जिला परिषद
Zilla Parishad
अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपसमूह
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Ref. No.

	2		Baratang, the
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For the above act of the forest department, the public are made to suffer, so we request you to kindly put-forth our views before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Forest is natural resources where we can get 'Thup Resin' and 'Ehat Phal' since it generates a good amount of revenue to the forest department and also to the locals for earning their bread and better, so you are requested to put-forth our views in this regard, as it will solve employment problem in this Island to some extent.

# 2) DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Development activities were in the vital stage and main activity there was forest lentered. As per allotment norms laid down by the A & N Administration 10 Hectares of land including paddy and hilly were allotted to each family. The clearance of the land carried out by the Forest Department and handed over to the Revenue Department.

Later on while the developmental activities got on progressing problem naturally developed, which were not properly addressed, proper demarcation of land for civil activities and provision for providing public amenities by the Government Agencies as well as civil bedies were the natural issues arised there. In the absence of P.R.I. at their functional form every thing remained unsettled. After the formation/Introduction of P.R.I. the developmental activities had been naturally fallen to be taken up by the P.R.I. Due to lack of proper demarcation of village boundaries of both the Forest iaxad and Revenue Department the developmental activities could not be taken up properly. The matter was rightly taken up with the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

Having reviewed the seriousness of the problems the then Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri I.P. Gupta had visited the area and taken stock of the situation and passed an order with an instructions to जी. कुर्रमाराव

# G. Kurma Rao

सदस्य MEMBER जिला परिषद
Zilla Parishad
अंडमान एवं निकोबार द्वीपसमूह
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Ref. No.

ŀ	3	ŝ		6	Baratang, the
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Forest and Revenue Department for initiating a joint survey of the whole area in Baratang Island on a first step to address the demacation procedure and constitute a 3 Tier Committee under the Chairmanship of Divisional Forest Officer, Baratang with Assistant Commissioner Settlement and Tehsildar on member entrusting them to submit a report on the following long pending issues:

- (1) Reconciliation of Village Boundaries
- (2) Submission of proposal for deforestation of Forest land for developmental activities, like c/o Village Raral Roads, C/o Play Ground for school going children, Allotment of Ouarry Products, Allotment of House sites and Regularization of pre-1987 cases.

# 3) THREE TIER COMMITTEE

Sitting of the Committee were taken place twice without producting any result with the non-coeperation of the Forest Department to settle the matter. Then the Revenue Authority proposed the Forest Department to allot 300 hectares to them on the ground that they will hand over equal area of Revenue land some where other than Baratang. But the Forest Department in keeping silence on this issue till to-day. The matter remains unsettled giving room for a complete halt on various developmental activities of different departments such as A.P.W.D., Agriculture, Education, Animal Husbandary, Police Department, Health Department and P.R.I. etc. The real loosers are the local people who are deprived of their legitimate rights of enjoying the benefit of various developmental programmes.

# 4) ENCROACHMENT BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

When people were brought from mainland they were given 2 choices, either to whoms choose Government job (OR) Agricultural land. The people who choosen Government job and had served throughout their life in Government services. Now after their retirement

(Contd., P/4)

they are left to fend for themselves and have encroached on Sovernment land. So if an early alternate Island is provided they can be settled thre.

We, therefore, request your kind honour to kindly look into the matter and consider our earnest request mentioned in this letter to fulfil the dream of the inhabitants of this Island. The development of the Island is must in all point of view this can not be achieved until and unless the land dispute is exists and also the Minor Forest Produce may please be re-commended in the interest of General Public of this Island.

We hope honour will give a concrete prompt action to fulfil the demand of our public.

Yours faithfully.

Fradhan
Gram Penchsyat
Nitambur, Baratang

ANTCHY MAYALT

La Promoder

Polit Inyat Servity

Transport

France

Fran

G. Kurma Rao Member

## Zilla Parishad Andaman& Nicobar Islands

Ref.No.F3/MZP/SG/BT/2K-01/195

Baratang, the 18th Dec., 2001.

To

Shri. Sekhar Singh Commission, Appointed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, Camp at BARATANG.

#### His Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Baratang Island, we take the opportunity to hearty welcome you to our Island of this UNION TERRITORY and we would like to bring towards the factual burning problems of Baratang Island.

1) PROBLEMS FACED DUE TO RULING OF HON'BLE SUPREME COURT: The people of CHOTANAGPUR were brought to these Islands in 2 phase in the year 1959 and 1962 and settled in this Island.

The people were provided with 5 acres of paddy land and 5 acres of hilly land for construction of houses and other purpose. As the people were mostly from backward area and they built houses using locally available M.F.P.s. Now in the present context ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court banning the felling of all naturally grown trees. People of this area are unable to even renovate their huts using Bamboo, Jungle post, Thatching leaves etc. The Andaman & Nicobar Islands comes under Seismic zone of 6 Prone to high Earthquake area. So building of R.C.C. houses is not encouraged. So if the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is implemented in toto, then most of the residents will be without a roof over their heads.

The Forest Department is only and fully responsible for the present problems. Since they had cut logs/trees according to their whims and fancies and did not give importance in re-plantation of trees and most of the logs were left back in the Forest and swamps, which got deteriorated due to time.

For the above act of the Forest Department, the public are made to suffer, so we request you to kindly put-forth our views before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Forest Department is natural resources where we can get 'Dhup Resin' and 'Bhat Phal' since it generates a good amount of revenue to the Forest Department and also to the locals for earning their bread and better, so you are requested to put-forth our views in this regard, as it will solve employment problem in this Island to some extent.

(Continued page-2)

2) **DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:-** The Development activities were in the vital stage and main activity there was forest centered. As per allotment norms laid down by the A&N Administration 10 hectares of land including paddy and hilly were allotted to each family. The clearance of the land carried out by the Forest Department and handed over to the Revenue Department.

Later on while the developmental activities got on progressing problem naturally developed, which were not properly addressed, proper demarcation of land for civil activities and provision for providing public amenities by the Government Agencies as well as civil bodies were the natural issues arised there. In the absence of P.R.I. at their functional form every thing remained unsettled. After the formation/introduction of P.R.I. the developmental activities had been naturally fallen to be taken up by the P.R.I. Due to lack of proper demarcation of village boundaries of both the Forest & Revenue Department the developmental activities could not be taken up properly. The matter was rightly taken up with the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Principal Chief Conservator of Forests.

Having reviewed the seriousness of the problems the then Hon'ble Lt. Governor Shri.I.P.Gupta had visited the area and taken stock of the situation and passed an order with an instructions to Forest and Revenue Department for initiating a joint survey of the whole area in Baratang Island on a first step to address the demarcation procedure and constitute a 3 Tier Committee under the Chairmanship of Divisional Forest Officer, Baratang with Assistant Commissioner (Settlement) and Tehsildar as members entrusting them to submit a report on the following long pending issues.

- (a) Reconciliation of village boundaries.
- (b) Submission of proposal for deforestation of Forest land for developmental activities, like C/o Village Rural Roads, C/o Play Ground for school going children, allotment of quarry products, allotment of house sites and regularization of Pre-1978 cases
- 3) THREE TIER COMMITTEE: Setting of the Committee were taken place twice without producting any result with the non-cooperation of the Forest Department to settle the matter. Then the Revenue Authority proposed the Forest Department to allot 300 hectares to them on the ground that they will hand over equal area of Revenue land some where other than Baratang. But the Forest Department is keeping silence on this issue till today. The matter remains unsettled giving room for a complete halt on various developmental activities of different departments such as A.P.W.D., Agriculture, Education, Animal Husbandry, Police Department, Health Department and P.R.I. etc. The real loosers are the local people who are deprived of their legitimate rights of enjoying the benefit of various developmental programmes.

(continued page-3)

4) ENCROACHMENT BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS: When people were brought from mainland they were given 2 choices, either to choose Government job (OR) Agricultural land. The people who choosen government job and had served throughout their life in Government services. Now after their retirement they are left to fend for themselves and have encroached on government land. So if an early alternate Island is provided they can be settled there.

We, therefore, request your kind honour to kindly look into the matter and consider our earnest request mentioned in this letter to fulfil the dream of the inhabitants of this Island. The development of the Island is must in all point of view this can not be achieved until and unless the land dispute is exists and also the Minor Forest Produce may please be recommended in the interest of General Public of this Island.

We hope honour will give a concrete prompt action to fulfil the demand of our public.

Yours faitfully

विला परिषद संदर्भ / Zilla Parished Member सुन्दरमङ्ग, वापाटांग Sundargeth, Baratano सदस्य MEMBER जिला परिषद Zilla Parishad अंडमान एवं निकोवार द्वीपसमूह Andaman & Nicobar Islands

To

Port Blair, the 12/12/01

The Commissioner.

To report on Forest & Environment on Andamans.

Sir.

It is for your kind information that, the Govt. of India settled Bengali people in the year 1952 and allotted 5 acres of paddy land and 5 acres of hilly land to each family.

The Forest Department extracted all kind of trees from the allotted land. Some of the settlers made horticulture on their hilly land most of them could not do it due to various difficulties.

Different type of trees grown up on the allotted land. Few settlers extracted trees from their land and sold. But maximum settlers could not extract the trees standing on their land due to the ban order of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The Hon ble Supreme Court has also issued an order in the month of October 2001 to stop any type of extraction of natural trees. The people of these Islands cannot make building even a bathroom in want of sand &s the forest department has reduced the quantity. Three plywood industry clossed. On the people of these Islands are helpless now.

The innocent illeterate people have been awaiting for fruitfull favourable order of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

In the light of above, I request your base the greenery of these Island and to fulfill the minimum necessity of the people of these Island as under.

- 1. Making of Forest protection committee in every village.
- 2. Settlers should get right to sale any kind of tree standing In their lands as it was done earlier.
- Pree royalty timbers to settleh should provide.
- 4. All kind of Forest products should provide on royalty to all domiciles of these Islands.
- 5. All wood based industry should get their minimum required timber.

The economy of Andamans is majerly depending an Forest Products. The present axis economic condition of the people of Andaman is Very bad.

I therefore request you to kindly consider the above mentioned points as early as possible.

With regard sir,

Yours faithfully,

Dated: 18:12.2001

Shri. B. Koma Rao Member of Home Minister Advisory Committee.

#### NO.ZP/KT/2001-2002/65 OFFICE OF THE ZILLA PARISHAD KADAMTALA, M.ANDAMAN.

K/Tala, dt.18,12,2001.

To

Shri Sekhar Singh, Ministry of Forest and Environment, New Delhi.

Sub: - Appeal for litting Ban on collecting forest produces reg: -

Sir,

It is brought to your kind notice that recently an order has been passed by the Hon'ble Suprim Court of India, New Delhi about the Stoppage of cutting of Jungle including Minor Forest Products.

In this connection is brought to your kind notice that in Andaman about 95% Villagers use to construct their residential house by utilising forest producch like Jungle post, Bally, Cane, Bamboo and leaves etc. Moreover some people who construct their house Pucca and each and every Panchayat needs Sea Sand for construction of Bridges, culverst, Buillings etc. But the Forest Department does not issue permit to collect forest Producch and Sea Sand. As Such the entire Villagers and all the Panchayats are facing an untold problem to Survine.

Under the above fact you are requested to be kind enough to make such arrangement. So that the people fof Andiman and Nicobar Islands can getridof from this Ban to favilitate the general mass of Andaman Islands to collect forest produces to mend their Katchha hut to have a roof over their head.

Yours faithfully,

(DEBEN MAZUMDER)
DPC, MEMBER, AND ZPM
KADAMTALA.

#### Copy to:-

- 1. The Chairman, Zilla Parishad, Port Blair for information and necessary action please.
- 2. The News Editor, AIRPORT, Port Blair, with the request to broadcast through AIR Please,

( DEHEN MAZUMDER) DPC. MEMBER AND ZPM KADAMTALA.

#### NO.ZP/KT/2001-2002/65 OFFICE OF THE ZILLA PARISHAD KADAMTALA, M.ANUAMAN.

K/Tala, at.18.12.2001.

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ZP/DFC M ......

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KADAMTALA.

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( DEBÉN MAZUMDER) DPC, MEMBER AND ZPM KADAMTALA.

# OFFICE OF THE PRADHAN Kadamtala Gram Panchayat

## MIDDLE ANDAMAN

No GP/KT/2001-2002/1191

Dated 18.12.2001.

 $T_{\mathcal{O}}$ 

Shri Shekher Singh, Commission for forest and Environment, New Delhi.

Camp at Kadamtala.

Hon'ble Sir.

I on be helf of Kadamtala Gram Panchayat beg to bring to your kind Notice that on 23rd Nov.2001 the Hon'ble suprim Court of India passed an interim order having on cutting naturally grown Trees in this Islands including Minor forest produce such as Bamboo, Cane, Leaves, Jungle posts, Ballies etc.

Here in Andaman about 90 to 95% Villagers leaves in Temporary Huts who needs the above M.F.P. to constructs and repair of their house. Moreover, Dhoop and Cane fruits (Bet Phal) are available in Jungle which the unemployeds used collect for earning their livelihood.

Moreover stone quarries, and Sea Sand in required for construction of Building Bridges, Culverts, Roads etc. But the imposing of BAN by the Suprim Court become a problem to the entire public of these Islands specially to the poor people.

Some people are dependent on carpentary Trade. Over and above fire wood which also comes under M.F.P. is a must for the poor Villagers.

Therefore, it is brought to your kind Notice that these the Villagers of Kadamtala & Uttara. Some settlers were got their free Royalty Timber. And some Settlers are not get their free Royalty Timber. Aswell as more than 50% villagers are not cleared their allotted Land. In this connection self requested for granting of free Royalty and removel of allotted Land, timber and also permit us for utilised the same as use like.

Under the above fact I beg to request you to be kind enough to make such arrangement, so that the interim order of the Suprim Court 1s withdrawn.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

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PRADHAN PARCHAYAT KADAMTALA.

Shri. Shekar Singh Commissioner Headed by One man Commission Appointed by Hon'ble Court.

Dated 18th December 2001.

#### Respected Sir,

We wish to put forward following few lines for kind consideration and positive response from your end please.

That the PRI Members and people of the Middle Andaman are basically farmers/Settlers belonging to Poor families. Their life is based on Agriculture and minor forest products like sand, Ballies, Bamboos, Patti, & Cane. Most of the people are leaving small huts made by above minor forest products.

In this connection if the collection of minor forest products by the poor peoples is totally band the most of the villagers will be homeless with in few years. People in the Middle Andaman villages are using dead woods like branches of fallen woods and leaf for their domestic needs.

We the people of Middle Andaman strongly opposed at the random Executes of forest products by the private bodies and also by the forest department. Further we feel that the actual damage to the forest and environment is due to such extensive exertion of forest products.

As per the Colonization scheme the settelers are supposed to get free Royalty/Royalty of minor forest product for construction cum repair of their huts. If we are not permitted to use such product it will be an obligation to our right.

That we strongly oppose of extensive cutting of logs and other forest products, export of forest products and we further demand that a spot enquiry may be conducted at site from where the logs and the forest products are being collected.

We feel that massive replantation programme may started as soon as possible for maintaining the Ecological balance.

At present department collecting forest products are not maintaining any proper utilization the same. Huge quantities of logs are still laying unused at different collection and dumping spots.

P.T.O.

This should be physically verified at the spots and necessary action may be taken against the defaulty. Also suggested to constitute Van Sanrakshan Samiti (Forest Protection Committee) under the Chairmanship of Pradhans who shall be in charge of issuing necessary permits for minor forest products.

Thanking you,

PRI Members & People of M/Andaman. Grampanchaval RANGAT 4 ANDAMAN-74425 3 4. 51 6. Sabari, M. Andamaa

Professor Shekhar Singh, Commission Appointed by Hon'hle Supreme Court of India, CamP: Port Blair.

Sub:- Submissions of Zilla Parishad Member and Pradhan, Gram Banchayat, Long Island.

Sir,

Consequent on the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Long Island Plywood Factory run by the Kitply Industries Ltd., has been closed from 10th December 2001 due to non-supply of logs by the Forest Department. This closure has affected more than 800 families directly and around 3000 families indirectly. As you are aware, there is no other activity on this/except this very factory-not even agriculture. The entire population of the island have to move out of the island for earning their bread which means desertion of the infrascture created by the Govt. spending many crores, during the last 52 years. Already three major industries like WIMCO, Jayshree and ATI have been closed down and many families have moved out of these places resulting in infructuous expenditure for the govt. on the facilities created when these units were in working condition.

We would like to state there that a huge quantity of harvested logs are allowed to rot in the forests due to negligence of the Forest Department Officers and lack of judicious planning on their part. Commes of worth timber has been allowed to rot in the forest all these years. If a proper forest policy is implemented in a transparent manner in association with the local elected representatives, the forest wealth of the islands can last for many more years giving bread to the people of these islands. It is, therefore, prayed that your Honour may kindly spare some time to visit Long Island and see for yourself the conditions prevailing there, so that you will be in a better position to explain the situation in a its right perspective, resulting in resumption of supply of raw a materials to this industry which will provide bread to about

# 4000 families and save their future.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

PORT BLAIR,

17.12.2001

- 1.Jeevan Walter Ming,
   Zilla Parishad Member.
- S. Jaya Kumar, Up+Pradhan.
- 3. A. Rama Nathan, Unit President, BJP.
- 4. g. Kama Raj, Mazdoor, KITPLY Indust.
- 5. W. Kodanda Rao, Mazdoor, KITPLY Indust.
- 6. Bheema Rao, Mazdoor, KITPLY Indust.
- Dev Raj, Member, Ward No.4
- 8. Narayan,
  Worker, KITPLY Indust.

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T.K.R.AO

Zilla Parishad Member Long Island, Middle Andaman.

To,

The Hon'ble Shekhar Singh Commission (Appointed by the Supreme Court of India)

Sub: Ban on felling of trees – regarding.

Hon'ble Sir,

It is to bring to your kind attention the following few facts for your kind necessary action please. That Sir, there is a plywood factory namely M/S Kitply Industries Ltd. in Long Islands which ceases activities consequent upon the ban imposed on felling of tress by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India with a policy of no work no pay in respect of workers of the factory.

Sir, due to this policy of "No work no pay" the workers are facing serious financial problem and starvation. There are also no other developmental activities in the area so that the worker can earn their livelihood.

Hence it is hereby requested that exemption may kindly be given for felling of trees for running the factory and also direct the concerned authority to arrange for the pay of the worker during the lay out period of the factory.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

Date: 18/12/2001.

(Jeevan Walter Minj)

End: Notice of the factory in this regard.

## NOTICE

We would like to draw the amention of staff & workers of Kitply Industries Ltd, Long Island unit to the VIIF message No. IIM/78-MA/769 dated 27-11-01 of the Divisional Forest Officer, Middle Andronan, Rangat which is quoted below:

"TO: THE MANAGER MIS KITPLY INDUSTRIES, LONG ISLAND.

INFO: THE RANGE OFFICER, LONG ISLAND.

FROM: DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER, MIDDLE ANDAMAN, RANDA

ORIGINATOR'S NO. TIM178-MA/769 DT. 27-11-01

- AS PER THE DIRECTION OF HONOURABLE SUPREME COURT DATED 23-11-01 IN LA. 502 (STOP) YOU ARE DIRECTED TO STOP CONVERSION AND DISPOSAL OF NATURALLY GROWN TREES AND ITS PRODUCT IN YOUR UNIT WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT UNTIL FURTHER ORDER (STOP) YOU ARE ALSO REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE DETAILS OF STOCK OF ROUND LOGS, SAWN TIMBER, VENEER, SEMI FINISHED PRODUCT. AND FINISH PRODUCTS UNDER YOUR UNIT AS STOOD ON 27-11-01 (STOP) MATTER MAY BE TREATED AS MOST URGENT (STOP) -

# Sd/ DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER MIDDLE ANDAMAN, RANGAT."

We would also like to reproduce the contents of the Supreme Court order dated 23-11-2001:-

"Till further orders the Administrator, Andaman & Nicobar Islands is directed to ensure compliance of this court's order dated 10-01-2001, namely, no naturally grown tree will be cut by any one and no saw-mill, vencer or plywood factory shall utilise any naturally grown trees without further orders from this Court".

In view of above, neither the Forest Department will supply the naturally grown trees nor our mill can utilise such timber till further directions of the Supreme Court.

Contd.p/2

Ander the circumstances, there is no alternative left with the Management except to Suspend the operation of this unit. Accordingly, the operation of the factory i.e. Kitply Industries Limited, Long Island unit, Middle Andaman, will be suspended from the commencement of 1st shift of 10th December, 2001 until further direction from the Hon'ble Supreme Court. As the suspension of appration is beyond control. of the management the principle of 'no work no pay' will apply.

The essential office staff. Security Guarda and workers of essential services whose names will separately appear on the notice board will be outside the purview of this suspension order.

> MMM For KITPLY INDUSTRIES LTD (LONG ISLAND)

Dated: 08-12-2001

Co: to. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Port Blair.

Ce: to: The Divisional Forest Officers, Rangat.

Ce: to: The Asst. Labour Commissioner, Rangat.

Ce: to: The Labour Commissioner, A & N Islands, Port Blair.

C: to: The S. H. O., Long Island.

Cc: to: The Secretary, Labour Dept., Port Blair.

Co: to: Superintendent of Police, Long-Island.

Ac: to: All Unions.

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To,
The Hon'ble Commissioner,
To report on the state of Forest and Allied matter.

#### Hon'ble Sir,

With profound regard we wish draw your kind attention that, we have settled in this island under colonization scheme in the year 1954. The Government of India has allotted us 5 acres of Paddy land and 5 acres of Hilly land.

The Forest Department extracted all suitable trees from the allotted hilly lands.

Some of the settlers have done horticulture on hilly land and some of them could not done it for which various types of trees grown up on the hilly lands.

Few settlers have extracted the trees and sold it. But due to interim order of the honorable justice of Supreme Court the extraction of trees from the allotted hilly lands has stopped.

So we the settlers in a large number cannot extract the same and cannot make horticulture.

So, we pray to your highness to kind enough to us and arrange to facilitate us to get necessary permission to extract and sale the trees from our hilly lands and to get all kinds of Forest products for our domestic use in normal course.

Your kind consideration will be heavenly bless to us.

With regard Sir, Your Sincerely Settlers

Place - Ballet Lalv.

Dated: 18th December 2001.

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4. " Subodhe Ray

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T.

Prof. Shekhar Singh, Faculty of Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

( Camp at Harinagar )

Sub:- Review on the ban imposed on the felling of naturally grown trees - regd;

Sir.

We like to produce the following before you for the review and reconsideration of *Ban imposed on felling or naturally grown trees.

- conservation of Forest and Environment is the judicious exploitation of forest resources and it's regeneration. It is not that ban on felling will serve the purpose and the tree felling of the trees will not serve the purpose also.
- If the matured trees, dead, dejings and meribund trees are not removed, these trees will be perished and it will not add anything to the environment, but will deteriorate the environment and hygine of the rest trees will also deteriorate by spreading deases and the nation will loose a huge amount of revenue, side by side, the local people of the area will be deprived of getting their day to day requirement of Minor Forest produces as well as timber product.
- If the ban on felling of trees is continued, then the livelihood of the people dependent on manufacturing of wooden product, will be badly effected and even they will go on starving, and also developmental works will be hampered, rather stopped to a greater extent. Hence, judicious felling of trees may be allowed.
- 4) Mest of the people of the Andaman and Nicober Islands, are displaced persens/refugees from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), Kerala and from various states of India, settled under Colonisation/Rehabilitation and Ex-serviceman settlement scheme, are economically backward. They are not able to construct their houses with cement concrete, but they totally depend upon

M.F.P. in order to construct their hutments/dwellings. so, the judicious exploitation of M.F.P. may be allowed and supplied to these downtroaden people as it was prevailing procedure to supply M.F.P. on free or revalty/free of cost.

- serve the purpose rather to protect the forest like open breasure, but we have to protect the forest by heart and soul. In order to do this thing, Indian Forest Act 1927 required to be reviewed and stringent clauses are required to be inserted. This will prevent encroachment upon forest land, indiscriminate felling of trees and forest produces thereby conservation of environment is done. The encroachers are destroying the forest wealth worth of Crores of rupees in order to produce nominal agricultural product worth of very less cost. This is the loss of the national and dwindle of GDP.
- The forest wealth of Andaman and Nicober Islands is stolen by the people of neighbouring countries like Mainmar, Thailand, but these could not be prevented, rather can't be prevented without the proper infrastructure provided to the Forest Department with man and materials to combat with this menace and thereby saving the national wealth from being stolen by the foreighners.
- 7) The ferring in tribal area is totally stopped as the tribal area is already notified. Tribals are in some portion or Middle and South Andamans, Little Andamans, and some portion of Nicober Islands.
- In order to protect Forest and Forest land the lawyer is required to be appointed to deal with the lorest cases booked by the Forest Officials as the Forest officials can not deal with these cases judicially, as they are not fully aware of the law. This will bring these offenders behind the bars and thereby discourage the affinity of doing offence. The lawyer should be provided either by the Administration or by the Forest Department.

We, therefore, request your goodself that you will be kind enough to put forth the heart selt prayer of the public of these area to the Honourable Supreme Court, so that the Honoble Court will appreciate and understood the hardship of the people and will pass favourable order.

Thanking you sir,

#### Yours faithfully

(The people of Harinagar, Swadeshnager, Basanti Pur, and Shivapuram)

is The Divisional Forest officer, Rangal, for favour of information please. Enti Bunda Sutar (Framer Kh. Panchayat Samety M/ butby 1950 Um. Hrain tray Koy, Gram Panchayas 2. Kishore Kr. Roy 3. Shi Ameresh Mondal A. Marrider 4. Shi, Anauka kr. Mondes 5. " Promgopal Deg Nakul Mendal " Hiralal Biswas 8 1. Krishna Kanda Majunder 9. n Marindra Nath MAllek " Nivor Buidya 11 Dukhiram Kintamia 11 Harbilash Bairaji 12 " Sushen Bourage 13 " Jiban Ray 14

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कर चाम ख्बार Gopal Poisusons Gopal Bisual Kiran Mondal Kiran Monda 45. Priswagit Mondal Bis Dajit Kir. Mondel 46. Sumaila Karmakar 47. Das Das 48. Prisnogit Ray -48. Nirmal Mallick Subrata Roy 50

Telegram : VANEM

73244 732040) Phone: (03192) <del>84323 (0</del>, 73179 <del>84269/84313 (R</del>) Fax: 03192 <del>. 84211</del>

### VANVIKAS EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

(The only representing body of the Employees of A & N Islands F. P. D. C. Ltd.)

(Affiliated to the Andaman & Nicobar Employees Federation.

Gandhi Bhavan, Port Blair)

No.....

Date 18.12.2001

To

The Commissioner to report on the state of forest & alied matter, Camp - Mayabunder.

Sir,

On behalf of the Vanvikas Employees Association of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation Limited, We are to submit the following facts for your kind consideration.

On the recommendation of the National commission on Agriculture, on itsize report in 1976, the Forest Development Corporations were established in many states with the aim to convert low productive mixed forests into high yielding man made forest with commercial plantation. In these Islands the Forest & Plantation Development Corporation was established in 1977, with activities at Little Andaman and in 1979 at North Andaman with an objective of intensive management of the Tropical Forests in Scientific way in the in-accessible areas for the sustained utilization of the forest resources by the system popularly known as 'Andaman Canopy Lifting Shelterwood System' without going for clear felling of forests.

In Andaman, the forests cover is still 86% of Geographical area. It is much higher than the forest cover anywhere in India. One may urge that as per the Geographical location and the topography of these Islands, we should preserve the forest as it is to maintain a well balanced eco-system, otherwise it may effect adversely the atmosphere of the Islands. But it does not hold good, if one knows the system in which the Andaman forests are being worked.

...2...

We work in the forests with well known system of 'Andaman Canopy Lifting Shelter Wood System'. In this system we are only enumerating the matured and over matured trees for felling and that too for the purpose to create healthy atmosphere for the growth of young. regeneration, felling. The injuries, we are causing to the forests, at the time of our working, is made good by added regeneration of gap filling/casuality beating etc, alongwith aided Natural Regeneration. The combination of the species remain unaltered and after few years of Natural regeneration, the different storeys of the forest cover remains to that of Natural forests, besides the improvement in the hygenic condition of the forests. Our working interference has least effect ever on the plant succession towards edaphic or climatic climax of the forests. The flora and found including micro organism both in land and on the sea may not get disturbed, which, in fact positive effect on the ecosystem of the Islands. Though, it is only a hypothatical observation, there is no any established fact on the basis of the scientific research specifically on the bio-diversity differences in the regions of worked ister alia unworked forests in Andaman. Besides one may agree that certain level of biological diversity is invitable for providing material basis to the survival of human life.

Hence the extraction of timber by the Andaman and Nicobar slands Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Limited in the leased out area has no any adverse impact on the ecology/environment of these islands.

By the way of doing the extraction of timber in the system as explained in the foregoing paras the corporation also contributing to the national exchequer and feeding the daily bread for the survival of its two thousand and odd employees and their family members.

Hence we are still confident that there is no alarming situation to the forest of Andaman to think twice for reviving the system of timber harvesting. Despite of these facts if there is any unfortunate decision in the Hon'ble Supreme Court for the extraction of timber, thus Association would like request you to emphasise to find a place in the report for giving alternative employment to all the employees of this organisation or montery package in terms of compensation.

Yours faithfully,

GENERAL SECRETARY

#### 1-1"/GP/R/GEN/2001-02/1590 OFFICE OF THE GRAM PANCHAYAT RAMPUR, MAYABUNDER.

 $^{
m L}$ ucknow, dated: 18/12/2001 $_{
m au}$ 

Prof. SHEKHER SINGH COMMISSION Comped of Mayabunder.

sir/Madam,

With due respect I would like to draw your kind attention regarding the problems arrised in the aftermath of the recent Supreme court decesion. According to the supreme court order the felling of any naturally grown flora is totally banned. Though the decesion may be a boon to our ecological stability yet gave birth to some grave problems which the local public are facing now a days. hey include

Due to this order even there is serious unavalibility of timber even for the coffin of dead bodies.

2. Most of the people are solely dependent on the MFP's such as bamboos and cames for their huts and fencing but even this Poor man's gold is now provided in the wake of this order.

3. The situation is really got worsen for the farmers who desperately

need Jindabaklies and bamboos for their fencing.

4. Most of the people are poor and they really can't afford for the costly LPG and Kerosene and hence they depend on firewood for their cooking for livelihood. Butthe recent order made their livelihood in grat trouble.

5. Eood, Clothing and Shelter are the basic needs of any human being. But Shelter won't be constructed by the poor people because of this

Cursing order.

6. It also affected many fisherman who depend on timber for the making

dug out dhinghi for fishing.

7. It also affected the economy of innummerable Karen community who make their living by the collection and selling of sea shells and sea cucurmber.

Hence it is kindly requested that you may kindly look into this genuine matters and kindly recomend for the revoke of the recent Supreme court decesion .

Thankinyou,

GRAM PANCHAYAT

ours faithfully,

Mayabunder

Jo. The Divisional Forcest Officer. Foguest Dept. Mayabunder. Sub: Bay on MFP personil issue we the following isigoradosics to draw jobs reind and do beg sympathelical ottention to the fact that, booker, we were maintaining our families by collecting and delivéring lue MFP isuba la pedonit holders, for their bonafied domastic purposes. to know that your kinds dept -has usered slapped such issue either on regally for on frice of sogeth, This has redulted -steen vertion 010 6 farouly. At this stage, since we donot have service, land their care 100% of such collectors nohose breads are brosed on MFP, do beg live issue of personil cos carly cas passible, or planse sin, suggest us ter some other job under your Kind telept. se en la l'enable us la feed of o'ce children Thanking good Siongocons facilitate D) Mayabunder. Maryadas - M. Lill 17/12/01 2) PHONOR FOR - DELEGARING
3) PERO

Actor Ringh Mokya Susany Mchan. S SAHN GERE Schaffen Lather. Mustan Rhon Vincert- Purela Proce Frist (11) in opposition. (13) Taracis ( tal Silly Ram ---MA morney & private a (17) (16) Charles -Mandinga A-co (11) C18) M. Achaiaz Alice Margaduania C 20) 131) (20) (23) Vis no Vinod Mbun (JW) ed alpunne. (2 C) wdow for gradow (26) Echanch Carp CDT (48) Buyyel Ray (21) Dhoure No horaco 136) Shyam-dian try Drepay, - for favorer of rection places.

### REPRESENTATION BEFORE PROF. SHEKHER SINGH COMMISSION,

#### AT MAYABUNDER.

We the Pradhans of Panchayat Mayabunder area wish to represent following :-

- 1. Commercial woods logs are extracted regularly but public at Mayabunder are not provided for their urgent house repairs etc. Whatever logs have been extracted it is enough for the public for next 10 years, but public is not issued timber though logs are kept aside and it is exported. It can be seen at vaious depo of Forest Department even if some Hindu person dies, for the funeral no timber is provided.
- There are various wood based industries in Andamans if timber will be provided properly, unemployed youths of A & N Islands will get employment otherwise. Unemployment will increase and youth will involve themselves in various illegal activities due to lack of employment.
- 3. As you are aware most of the residents use leans bamber and timber for the construction of their house in this territory, presently Forest Department has stopped it. due to which poor villagers and settlers are unable to construct/repair their houses as you know rainy; season is approaching hence their life during rainy seasons will be miserable.
- 4. It is requested that commercial Timber export to Mainland must be stopped and Quota may be fixed for Islands people, and wood based large & small scale industries.
- 5. Forest produce (Wood, logs) may be provided at Forest Dipo's (Range Office) for the use of Villagers/General public for their petty uses.
- 6. Illegal export/Theft must be checked recently. Timber/log worth of Rs. 150000 has been caught hence this type of theft should be checked properly.

We are hopeful that a sympachetic consideration will be given to the points raised in this representation to help the poor villages & settlers of this union territory

Yours faithfully,

Pradhan

Nizmala

Jaket.

②: 25€93 (Res.)

#### ANDAMAN WOOD-LINK PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

Date 18.12.2001.

To

The Commissioner, Enquiry Commission on Forests, Camp-Mayabunder.

Sub:-Ban on utilization of logs : Regd-

Sir,

We are functioning as a registered small scale wood based industry for the last 16 years and would like to draw your kind attention on the following noteworthy facts:-

-That sir, the forest authorities have imposed a complete ban on the running of the unit following order from the Hon!ble Supreme Court not to utilize any natural grown trees.

-While the study is underway through your good office for reports and compilation of facts on the enquired subject, we pray to your good office to help ease the prevailing undesirable condition arising our of restriction not to use even the extracted logs by recommending for the uses of these natural scarce resources (unsold/sold logs by authorities).

-That sir, these already cut logs will loose its commercial value on a time scale and will have no impact on the future reference to any mode of forestry operation. It will be an enormous loss to the industry as well as to the exchequer if these harvested logs are allowed for further deterioration.

-That sir, it is an irony of facts that those quantity of logs shipped to mainland prior to enforcement of order could be lying in the premises of the industrialist for entire use as the ban order is imposed for the islands only. This implies that the logs purched by the local industries around the same period is under restriction(left over logs) but a unit far away at mainland is free to utilize resources extracted

73530/73140 **2203 (Res.)** 

### ANDAMAN WOOD-LINK PRODUCTS INDUSTRY

-2-

9	Date

from these islands(left over logs). Therefore the grievances brought to your kind notice should be addressed immediately.

-We would like to place on record that all these years the local wood based industries were surviving based on annual quota to each unit though on a very discretionary note. Further this quota system is dispensed with from this financial year on the ground that enough raw material is available following closure of 2 major plywood industries. This is a short sighted policy and need to be adressed once again for a better future policy. To avoid confusion and disorder in the supply system it is better to implement old system of quota as otherwise the entire system is vulnerable for exploitation. On a uniform policy each ssi unit should be assured of a economically workable quota of say 1000 cbm/year and the surplus quantity if any should be left for the discretion of the authorities for its mode of disposal. This system if implemented properly should be effective for local industries as well as for the forestry operation.

Weappeal to your good office to kindly examine the representation on its merits.

thanking you,

yours faithfully,

(Kadwa.A.Y.)

proprietor.

## No.28/NGP/NA/FD/2001//30 OFFIGE OF THE

### NABAGRAM GRAM PANCHAYAT

#### DIGLIPUR * North Andaman-744202

Ref. 170....

Date: 19.12.2001.

To

Prof. Shekhar Singh (Commissioner), Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi (Camp at Diglipur).

Hon'ble Sir,

It is draw to your kind attention towards the following points for the benefit of people belonging to this Islands.

- 1. It may be permitted to use the natural growth viz trees for various developmental works.
- 2. This is to request you for rejuvenation of the practice of providing 15 cum. of timber free of royalty to the Settlers.
- 3. A filling pass which was in practice for needs to be revived again.
- 4. Timber may be issued to our Islanders against payment of royalty.

We will be highly obliged and grateful to you for taking in account of the aforesaid points.

Thanking you Sir,

Yours faithfully,

10urs juitinguily,

7424GRAN GRANABagram NABAGRAN GRANABAGRAM

Copy to:-

- 1. The "on'ble BIXRAKIIAMENT Number of Parliament, A & H Islands, Fort Blair for favour of information please.
- 2. The Adhyaksh, Zilla Parishad, A & N Islands, Port Blate for favour of information please.

Nabagram

To.
The Commissioner (Refresentative of Horible Supreme court)
Indian Institute of Public Administration,
New Delhi. (camped at Kalighat on 19-12-2001)

Sub; Horible Supreme Court Issued Ban order, And Ministry of Environment and forests, New Delin, Callect representation from various interested groups, for solve the Big Robbers of the Jander's - relating with Ecology & Forest of Andaman & Nicobore Islands reg;

Honiblastic,

Namaskare, The following few line's will be bring by one, for your kind consideration and necessary early arction at an early date, at your end please. Regarding Ecology & Forests of Andaman & Nicobar-Delands, The Horbble Supreme court circulate the order to the Depth Forests for Ban of every forests elements over the Andaman & Nicobar Islands due to destroyed Ecologycal Balance of Forests and Environment.

9 would like to submit its made facts with

it should like to submit its real feacts, why day i, e :-

1) Exports of timber & canes If exports of timber and cane should be stoped, it should be restricted to in this Island's which will help SSI units of this union Textory in long terror basis.

2) Mother Tree of Forests and F.P.D.C Ltd Departments, Decreasing a lot of There was and is no any-forest Development and Plantation Corporation Ltd Should And Previously to till date the Depth operated forchlogs of under age girth with a huge quantity.

(Not greater them 1:20 girth)

Blackmailling of Padak and Superior Hard wood in Forcests of Andaman & Nicobox Islands. Due to more aviablety of more facility of Forcests - was and is a lazyness in Protection of Forcest in Budden change in Forcest Acts. If the change fine is Rosof only, (I.F.A.1927).

Disper Checking of Island Coast in In the Union Texitory of Andaman and Nicober Islands there was and is will not save by the out fide foachers, who is destroyed our value able timber. And callected our Gold cost timber to other countries.

5) The Deptt. F.P.D.C Ltd now in dead line on If Forcest Plantation Development Corporation Ltd, Should
be closed and regularisation of those Extraction
Should be done through one agency i.e., Forcests
Should be deputed to other depth as Per their skills.

6) Eco-Tourism should be developed in better -

7). Emphasis should be provided in matural Regeneration work, and will be under taken in whole of-

lopment in Islands basis &

8) Increase to Royality of M.F.P, so that the People's can use M.F.P in Proper way and Proper direction.

9) Inher line Perronit Should be imposed illegal immoragrants as done in North East states, fore and ownal people's best.

Encreachment should be regularised in Proper - way so that future Encreachment Should be the Proceedings of the first meeting on 27th Dec. 1986, under the Chairman Ship of shri Rajiv Gandhi, Whister the Chairman Ship of shri Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Homble Minister of Environment & Forests - Mufa Mohammed syed and Homble Low Salsha, Member, Shri M.R. Bhakta, Homble Land Homble Low Salsha, Member, to regularised Per family of Encreachment Penson is same 1 Heaf (une) any.

while environment, ecology and forestry aspects stazulae correbil consideration and supporting measure, some adjustments axising from needs of Problems on the Islands.

Hilly land timer allowted to local settlete-family may be regularised Please, Due to non — avialablelity of this facility in AGN Islands the Settlett was and is hateressing too much. Because the Islander's are no legal way, they not.

below standard level of which 15% Carmes in B.P. I catagory for which Proper facilities—Deptt. for improving their living standard. Not maximum food be rural area of Aln Islands huts with help of forest elements like, Post, Balley, foods with Non commercial timber as fuel.

At last but onot the least, I would like buthority has failed in impelementation of good and Environment Balance of Island Ecology

Hence workle commissioner of Delhi - Environment re-presentative are requested with folded hands to kindly look into the matter and Please Considered the Ban order over-forests Deptt. issued by the Horible Suprieme Court of India for the riwal People's of Andaman And Nicobar Islands at your End Please. heighly solicited Stx,

Thanking you six,

Dated:-19-12-2001. Place:-Kalighat. Namaskar.

youris faithfully,

19/12/200)

SRI SAMAR KU. PAUL. Dist vice President, B.J.P. Andaman Dist. Kalialat. N.N. L. H.

Ø 31004 Fax: 03192 - 33161



### BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

#### ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

SUPPLY LINE - 🐵 PORT BLAIR - 744 101

Ref. No.

Date 19-12-01.

To

Professor Sekhar Singh (Commissioner), Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

(Camp at Diglipur)

Sub :- Submission of Memorandum - r e g a r d i n g.

Sir,

First of all you are heartiest welcome to visit this Islands and also happy for got an opportunity to say or keep the following genuine demands before your for favour of your kind information and immediate solution for the inhabitant of these Islanders.

- That sie, extraction of timber by the Forest Deptt. to be stopped immediately because in near future it will create a great problem for this Islanders and also adversely effect the ecology and environment of this Islands. Also the export of timber to mainladd to be stopped. It will help to general public for their demands of fulfilment of sawn timber for their domestic use like construction of house etc. The general public are not getting for fuel wood for their domestic use. Forest Depts. may be asked to open a fuel wood denot so that public can nurchase the same on payment of usual royalty and also the general public will not be involved for illegal collection of the same. It is also added that huge logs are kept here and there by the Forest Deptt. and the same are completely deteriorated whereas settlers are not getting timber whenever they required. The M.F.P. like raw cane, bamboo, leaves etc. may also be permitted to issue to the general public as well as local cane furniture mart for their livehood and domestic purnose. Forest Dentt. may kindly be issued necessary instruction.
- 2. That sir, Forest Deptt. may be suggested to plant naturally grown trees like Gurjan, Pyinma etc. instmad of Tick plantation as the Tick plantation in A & M Islands is completely failure.
- 3. Thatsir, settlers of these Islands have been allotted Hilly land as well as House site. But still many of them could not cultivate their land due to non clearance of the trees standing in their allotted land.

Contd. ... P/2

Hence, the Forest Deptt. may kindly be asked to take the loss from their allotted hilly land on payment of usual royalty to the settlers so that the inhabitant of this Islands can cultivate their hilly land as well as able to construct the house over the House site.

- 4. That sir, Forest Mentix Plantation and Development Cornoration Ltd. (PPDC) are also under taken the extraction work from Forest Dentt. on lease basis but they are not maintaining certain rules and regulation of Central Govt. under Forest Conservation Act. They are cutting naturally grown trees and also damaging plants etc. Hence, it is suggested that FPDC may be included with Forest Deptt. so that maximum effort can be made to prevent destroy of Forest in these Islands.
- 5. That isr, some private saw mills are functioning in these islands and most of them are idle due to want of timber. Hnece, it is suggested that they may kindly be permitted to operate their mill in continue so that general public as well as settlers of these slands can get more facilities.
- 6. That sir, many people of these islands have encroached forest/revenue lands but not yet their encroached land is regularised and still the eviction is going on though they have encroached the land before 20-30 years back. This issue may also be looked into.

It is therefore requested that necessary action to solve the above issues may kindly be taken at your earliest convenience please.

An early action and solution of the above issues are highly appreciated.

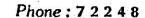
Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

RP Biswas 19/19/20

( REPATI CHANDRA BISWAS) General Secretary, Kissan Morona, ANI

b.J.P.





## SUBASHGRAM"PANCHAYAT

Diglipur, North Andaman Pin: 744202

Ref. No. SGP/SG/29/2001/

Date 19.12.2001.

To

Shri Shekhar Singh,

Professor,

Indian Institue of Public Administration, New Delhi Camp at Diglipur.

Sub:-Request for removal of ban imposed on felling of forest produces-reg

Respected sir,

As you are aware that the forest department has banned felling of forest produces like bamboo, cane, leaves, ballies, and felling and selling of timber recently as per the direction of Hon'ble Suprement court . In this regard I would like to inform your goodself that almost all the persons of these islands directly or indirectly use these xxx forest produces for their daily requirement. Many people have to utilise bemboo, cane , leaves and other produces for construction of residential houses and with the sudden discontinue of these facility, they are experiencing a lot of inconvenience . One of the main problem being faced by remeral. public of ban on cutting and using of fire wood. As you are well aware that fire wood is used by maximum number of papilu for preparation of food. Benides I would like to bring to your kind notice that felicing and welling of timber has also been subject. In order to undertake various construction and development works in these islanus, timber is used as one of the main thing, and with the ban on falling and salling of timber , the general public and Contractors are facing much difficulties. Bue to non-uvallability of timber almost all construction works stopped, as "ithout timber no works can be carried out.

### Memorandum.

Submitted before Pofessor Shekhar Singh Commissioner / representative of Hon'ble Supreme court on his visit at Diglipur on  $19^{th}$  Dec. 2001 .

### Memorandum.

On Behalf of the people of entire North Andaman I got the opportunity to convey our heartiest thanks on your auspicious visit to this isolated corner of this Islands to gather important report on the Ecology and Forest of Andaman & Nicober Islands.

Since there is a proposal to adopt restriction and ban on collection of timber logs and minor forest product from the entire Andaman & Nicobar Islands on the direction of the Hon'ble supreme court.

On behave of the inhabitant of this locality I have the honour to put forth that

- 1) Before imposing complete ban on collection of wood / logs from the Islands the interest of thousands uncounted workers may also be kept in mind and the wood based injustice now in active condition be also offer a opportunity to reduce their production phase wise but not at a sudden. First of all their (Organization ) capacity be assessed in respect of their periodical production and by imposing restriction they may permitted and allowed to extract the matured timber only from the forest / Jungle.
- Restriction upon export of round logs including semi-finished articles /wood product be adopted to restrict the quantity of periodical collection of round logs /timber.
- 3) Complete restriction and strict vigil against the illegal collection of timber be adopted to the foreign poachers and encroacher but such action should not imposed upon the legal consumers particularly original tenant / settlers of this locality.
- 4) The residence those settled under various colonization as well as rehabilitation schemes should be left out off any restriction and land already allotted in their favour should be kept separately bringing prohibited area of any kind of collection in respect of forest product.
- 5) The Land holders having 10 to 5 acres of agricultural land should be apprised for the cultivation of forest products particularly timber, cane, bamboos etc. For the very purpose awareness among the common people be grown up and the Expenditure required be subsidized to built a sound forestry even in the allotted agricultural land too.

- 6) The provision to allow 12.5 Tons of timber to the settler for the building of their house as was under the Agreement while settling the families be reintroduce considering the Andaman & Nicobar Isalnds fallen under within earth quake Zone.
- 7) Ban should not imposed while caring out the public works like providing water reservoir, pipe line, electric line and connecting roads required to link the pocket to pocket residential area.

Finally on behalf of common people of this locality I shall suggest to impose complete ban on illegal collection but in the same 'inc it is most appreciable one to keep aside the settlement area and private land out of any restriction or ban.

(Sushil Mondal)

Pramukh Panchayat Samiti, Diglipur

## ALL INDIA KISAN SAVA



DIGLIPUR ZONAL COMMITTEE
DIGLIPUR, NORTH ANDAMAN PIN 744202

Ref. No.....

Bats .....

To
The Commissioner,
Ecology & Forest
Andamen & Wicober Island.
Camp at Diglipur.

Sir.

On behalf of all India Kishan Sabha, Secretary, Diglipur Zonal Committee I like to placing before you some burning Problems after Bain on Cutting of trees in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, emposed by Superime Court as below.

1. Ban should be exempted these Inslands.

The inhabitants of Andaman are very poor Mainly they depands on forest in various respects, Such as house hold materials. Cane, Bamboos, Leafs Woods are very essential for them. Fire woods which is the next essential for the poor people Before Ban by superime Court, people getting felling pass and royalties from forest department according to their need our request kindly be Considered these matter. And help the poors. 2. Being Stesmic Zone -6.

Indaman and Micoba r Island fall in seismic Zone Construction of RCC structure can not be encoursed. On the other hand only 1% of people of Adamsn & Nicobar Islands can able to construct of RCC and 99% people are totally depend on forest for livelihood. So Islands should be exempted on this count.

3. Setllers Deprived on Pan

The Setllers which were brought to this Island under Colonisati -on scheme they have alotted 5 acres hilly land for Plantation after 45 years they can't deforestation their said land due to 'Ban' and harrasment of forest department though they giving revenue every year. So, Sir our earnest request to permit them to deforestation and Plantation. They also be permitted to use deforestation materials according their wishes including sell and showing.

4. Free of Rayalty

According to govt agriment setllers will be slotted 12.5 tous woods (hard wood) for the construction of their dewling house free of regulty and 4 tons will be re-alotted to repairing purpose. Now a days forest department not alotting a single piece of wood to the poor setllers due to Ban!.



## ALL INDIA KISAN SAVA

# * DIGLIPUR ZONAL COMMITTEE DIGLIPUR, NORTH ANDAMAN PIN 744202

	10	
Ref, No		Date

My earnest-request kindly be solved the burning problems and save the poor people of Andaman & Nicobar Island and with obliged.

Thanking You,

Dated:

Yours faithfully

(Secretary)

All India Kishan Sabha Diglipur Mone. North Andaman. M/s. Radha Krishna Furniture Bhander (Regd. No. 510100666, S.S.I)

Diglipur, North Andaman-744202

Prop: Sree Charan Kumar Biswas

19,Dec.2001

The Supreme Court Commission
Prof. Shekar Singh
Indian Institute of Public Administration
New Delhi.

Sub: Appraise of the impact of the ban on trees felling imposed by the Honourable Supreme Court and the crisis of wood experienced by S.S.I units in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

#### Sir

It is highly appreciated the steps taken by the Honourable Supreme Court in the direction of a total ban on felling any sort of trees in A & N Islands which appeared in 'The Telegraph' dated 11,Oct.2001. Today, it has become a global concern about the deforestation due to the fact that the vegetation on earth was to the verge of complete exploitation in recent times. The flora and fauna of A & N Islands was best known for its natural habitation till eightees. But now, the wild lives of these beautiful Islands have been threatened due to excessive deforestation specially by the concerned departments which we condemn and are perturbed to find the wild lives in sorrowful and grave danger. Besides, there are thousands of logs lying in creeks, jungles and wastelands and which are getting disposed of due to the mis-management and no-uniformities in felling down the trees by the concern departments. Because of the slackness and myopic attitude of the A & N Administration poachers and intruders have been encouraged. It has been observed that a large number of Thais and Myanmares (Burmese) intrude into the remote forests and smuggle Paduck Wood (extremely rare wood) and other marine products like

shells, sea-leeches, corals, crocodiles and so on which cost crores of money and which in turn causes ecological imbalances.

Andaman & Nicobar Islands is known to have the largest number Saw Mills in Asia because of easy availability of wood. Ensured by this, the administration of A & N Islands encouraged and financed (By the Financial Institution through government schemes) the common people to set-up wooden based S.S.I (Small Scale Industries) units about three decades ago. In fact, this decision of administration was in the right direction since it was fruitful in eliminating the un-employment in these marooned Islands to a great extant. Resultingly, it had been a boost to the economy of a large number of common people who directly and indirectly involved in this sector and became selfdependent. But, unfortunately the Saw Mills in these Islands have been getting closed gradually. Besides, the Paduck Wood, which is widely used for making furnitures and household wooden items, is only available at Chattam government Saw Mill, Port Blair. Consequently, the S.S.I units have been facing a number of problems. They have to collect the 'Paduck' exclusively from the government Saw Mill Port Blair which leads to time consuming, costs extra transportation charges and other sorts of problems by the Inter Islands S.S.I units owner. Given the circumstances, these units are at a position to shutdown since they can no longer coup-up with the unprecedented situation arose with the passage of time. The S.S.I units receive another deathblow with the inconsiderate and whimsical decision taken by the Honourable Supreme Court recently though it was appreciative and apt in other contexts. At this juncture the S.S.I units in these Islands are left with no other options than to become bankruptcy.

Hence, I would like to furnish few suggestion which I feel will be well heeded and taken care of.

Every year a large number of trees are cut down and made logs. But what is most important is that the lops and tops, stumps etc. which in fact possess a substantial portion of logs and can be of great use to these S.S.I units are spared. The Paduck trees have a flat type roots at the stumps which are sizeable enough to get them used. These ignored products of the cut trees can serve the interests of both government as well as the S.S.I

units. These rejected products of the trees which may cost huge amounts are lying uncollected can be used if the S.S.I units are allowed to garner these products with paying a minimum and reasonable royalty to the department concerned. I suppose, this decision if taken will certainly prove to be beneficial and deteriorating S.S.I's will find ways to revive which in turn will also demoralize and stop felling any fresh trees thereby supporting and consolidating the decision taken by the Honourable Supreme Court.

A close scrutinize and considerable steps in the context cited above will be highly solicited.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

(PRADIP KUMAR BISWAS) FUTBILLE Prop: CHARAN KUMAR BISWAS

for

M/s. Radha Krishna Furniture Bhander

Diglipur, North Andaman.

#### Copy to:

- 1. The Principle Chief Conservator of Forest, A & N Administration.
- 2. The Director of Industries, Port Blair.
- 3. The Divisional Forest Officer, Diglipur, North Andaman.
- 4. The Industries Promotion Officer, Diglipur, North Andaman.



## Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

STATE COMMITTEE, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS No.4, Shivram Complex, Port Blair - 744 131, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

BEFORE THE PROFESSOR SHEKHAR SINGH COMMISSION, THE PETITIONERS DRAVIDA MUNNETRA KAZHAGAM STATE COMMITTEE ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS, PORT BLAIR SUBMITTHE FOLLOWING:

In the wake of Hon'ble Supreme Court order regarding the ban imposed on felling of naturally grown trees in A & N Islands, the feelings and impact at large have been discussed in our forums and after much deliberation it was decided that the consequences arising out of the ban will be placed before the Commission. Accordingly, we submit that:-

- 1. Immediate ban on the felling of naturally grown trees in the A & N Islands lead to the common people in an embarrassing situation. The main construction work in A & N Islands was earlier considered with only wood and situation later gradually changed somewhat with the introduction of Concrete, Hollow Block and Tempered Clay bricks.
- 2. The main emphasize for using the wooden structure was considered to be the geographical and also the A & N Islands falls in the Seismic zone 6. The construction of RCC Structure was not encouraged leaving wooden houses which exists in large numbers for which the resources were available in plenty in the nearby areas. The A & N Islands through it falls in the Seismic Zone 6, it was frequently facing the earthquake and the barren Island which is still considered as active volcano, threatens the mind of general mass to construct RCC permanent structures as the poor people cannot afford much for constructive RCC houses when anticipating thread to their property in the Seismic zone as well as from the Volcano.



### Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

STATE COMMITTEE, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS No.4, Shivram Complex, Port Blair - 744 101, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- 5. Considering the distance from mainland ports and communication bottleneck for transporting building materials, it considered comparatively more costlier than what is the local timber materials available locally. Therefore, the general public who are not financially sound to afford the cost on construction materials like Cement, Steel etc depends upon the timber based construction to have a shelter to live in with the local available materials like tempered Clay bricks and timber.
  - 4. In A & N Islands the forest cover was considered to be more than 85 % and the employment opportunity and livelihood were mainly based on timber Industries during the pre war and post war period. The Govt. Saw mill at Chatham Island was considered one of the biggest Saw mill in Asia and hundreds of employees were found their livelihood in this factory. Thereafter in the private Sector there was wood based Industries like WIMCO Match Factory, Andaman Timber Industries, Jayshree Timber Products etc etc. thereto mainly the employees were found their livelihood and much Revenue was added to the Govt. in the form of Revenue, royalties etc when the private factories closed down the workers discharged from the factories were roaming for their livelihood but they cannot find alternate employment in the absence of any other Industries in A & N Islands.
  - 5. The economic condition of the Island was based on the employment opportunities available in the wood industries and the township in different localities came —up surrounding to the timber Industries. It was gradually doomed due to closure of these Industries. Now the employees discharged from these Industries and local artisans find their livelihood through the furniture made from timber and cane and it is marketed mainly within these Islands for the day to day use of people living in these Islands. If a complete ban is imposed on felling of trees it



## Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam

STATE COMMITTEE, ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS No.4, Shivram Complex, Port Blair - 744 101, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

will open the market to the plastic furniture, which is considered as main threat to the environment.

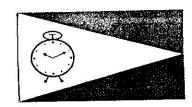
6. Taking into the account of the population in A & N Islands and the traditional system wood was considered as a material / fuel for burning Ghat for crimination of dead bodies if a complete ban on felling of trees is imposed there will not be any alternative material / fuel for crimination of dead bodies. In the cities and towns the electrical crematorium is in practice but it cannot be an alternative for the A & N Islands due to its geographical condition as the inhabited Islands are Scattered.

From the above fact it is evidently clear that the economy of  $A \in \mathcal{N}$  Islands is mainly based on wood and the employment opportunity of the local citizens finds in the wood based industries including furniture marts. The ban orders on felling of tress will not only a drawback to the aspiration of poor masses to have a small shelter of their own but even the furniture for their day to day use will also have a drastic effect. The  $A \in \mathcal{N}$  Islands being a Seismic zone will also have an adverse effect.

Therefore we consider the ban orders imposed in felling of trees should be lifted to the extend possible by allowing the local inhabitants to use the timber for construction of living houses, household furniture, fuel for cooking food, fuel for burning ghat etc etc with specific condition that the Forest Department and Forest Plantation development Corporation should generate Plantation in the areas alternatively from where the felling is allowed / vacant land.

A.R. Maruthavanan, 20/13 State Organiser,

A &N Islands.



# NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY

#### ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

Office: MB-163, Aberdeen Village, Near Netaji Club, Babu Lane, P. S. No.22, Port Blair - 744 101

Ref. No. NCP/ANI/1-D/2001

Date: 20/12/2001

Written Memoranda submitted by A & N Islands NCP to Professor Shri. Shekhar Singh, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Ministry of Environment and Forest Commissioner Govt. of India, with regard to the matter, that cutting of tress in A & N Islands should be continued to be banned by supporting the views of the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The NCP, A & N Islands under its President Smti. R.S.Uma Bharathy hereby submits the views of the party, after extensively studied the matter with regard to the ban on cutting of trees in A & N Islands as follows:-

- 1. That, as regard to the matter stated, by M.P. in his affidavit before the Hon'ble Supreme Court at Delhi for reviewing its order of ban imposed on felling of naturally grown trees in A & N Islands to the effect that these islands fall in Seismic Zone 6 with the attraction of severe earthquake and as such, construction of R.C.C structures cannot be encouraged leaving wooden houses which exists in large numbers which needs repairs, the facts remain unchanged during last 20 years that this administration as well general public who have started their construction of office building, residential building and public buildings by developing construction of R.C.C. Structures without going into the timber buildings are in vast progress. It is a matter of evidence in comparison that 99 % of building which are existing in these islands including the buildings in the tribal area at Car Nicobar and elsewhere, are found RCC structures in spite of the fact of seismic zone no. 6 and no one is interested in constructing the building by using timbers because of the non-withstandability and that of decaying nature.
- 2. That, moreover, the existing structure of timber buildings are now converted into RCC building from that of the timber structure so as to avoid heavy expenditure on purchase of timbers. The RCC building once constructed are not attracted or not required for immediate repairs. So, the timber structural buildings are not at all coming up and as such, uses of timbers are not at all now a days there completely.

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- 3. That it is suggested that the ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court may not be required to be even reviewed so as to lift the ban to the extent as would be. In this connection. It is a matter before us that there are matured trees on its own out living conditions and those trees are naturally fallen down of its own throwing a threat of getting rotten and decayed of its own without being properly managed to collect those trees by the Forest Department. As a result of which, crores of rupees is wasted by the Govt. If those trees are identified before those trees are fallen down of its own and those trees are cut down for the use of the public demands, there won't be any shortage of timber to be met out by the public for the use of petty nature as because such trees abandantly available. In such of situation, there is no need for extraction of trees by felling down the trees in the forest. As such, our party is very much against the idea of lifting the ban and we strongly oppose for such action of lifting the ban.
- 4. That, it is a matter of unchecked affairs that illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who have taken there unlawfull permanent residentship in these islands particularly in North Andaman and also area, with in the South Andaman, have started their business of timber furniture using the precious wood of Padauk, during the last 10 to 15 years in a abnormal way beyond their requirements of timbers. It is reported that the Padauk timber are illegally cut by the illegal immigrants with the knowledge of the Forest Department and the timbers so collected illegally are purchased and consumed by the illegal timber furniture making persons thereby creating great loss to the Govt. exchequer. Unless the unfound illegal way of cutting the trees is checked with iron hands it is unsafe for the forest wealth. Apart from that, the foreign nationals from Myanmar and Thailands are very frequently entering into our interior forest and cutting the trees with modern technology and making their den so as to flee away from the identified place to which Forest Department have no vigil over the poachers, despite deploying forest guards and security by the coast guards.
- 5. It is also a matter of advantage enjoyed by the peoples of A & N Islands on the ban imposed for cutting of trees and obviously noticed that the rainfall during the year end of December 2001 was very much regular without any break, starting from the usual monsoon during May 2001 and there is no scarcity of water for human consumption. It is hoped and trusted that the ecological changes which occured resulting non-stop rainfall till now, goes to show that the changes are due to not cutting the trees and extraction of timbers from the forest in large scale on the total ban of cutting the trees by the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. As such, lifting the ban of cutting the trees from A & N Forest is not is to be reviewed and the ban should continue.

Cont:3:

- 6. That as regard to the order imposing ban on use of bamboo and cane which are basic components for construction of houses for the poor people and they cannot be compelled to construct R.C.C. house in the seismic zone, it is a matter to be verified that as to whether poor people are living in these Island or not. It is reported to have been made known that no one living in these Islands are considered to be below poverty level and as such, the construction of houses are now started by construction of semi pucca R.C.C., avoiding the timber structure houses with the only aim and objects that there will not be further investment in future for atleast 20-30 years when such timber-less construction of houses are made by using pucca R.C.C. houses. As such, cutting of bamboos and canes can be kept under tight ban without reviewing it for the purpose of exporting. But relaxation can be made to the local user of Bamboo and cane, to the extent possible for the domestic use. It is also very clear that, the M.P. who filed an affidavit to consider the lift of ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court goes to show that the lifting of ban will definitely favour the illegal immigrations dealing with the timber furniture's in large instead of helping the poor residence of this place who are not interested in raising their construction of houses by timber. Further more, it can be very well witnessed in the construction of buildings in the area of municipal where 100% building constructions are coming up by making R.C.C. structure even the old structural buildings are converted into R.C.C. In reality, if the ban is lifted on the basis of affidavit filed by the M.P., it will be an unchecked benefits go in favour of not only to the illegal immigrants of Bangladesh doing the timber furniture business but also an avenue will be created and opened to the illegal traders cutting the trees in the forests in an un checked way by felling the trees as done in the past.
- 7. It is a matter of danger ahead that the national wealth of forest particularly in A&N Islands will face the great setback and get doomed if the imposed ban on cutting of trees in A&N Islands by the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court is removed or even, if the relaxation is considered.
- 8. That, it is the submission of NCP of A&N Islands that this written memorandum may please be taken on record and as if the NCP A&N Islands has filed counter affidavit to that of what has been filed by the M.P.

Cont:4:

9. That, in view of the fact, NCP A&N Islands could not favour and recommend that the ban on cutting of trees once imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court can be reviewed on the affidavit filed by the M.P. In fact, the M.P. who has filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court goes to show that the M.P. has filed an affidavit with the vested interest that those illegal immigrants from Bangladesh doing the business of timber furniture would be only benefitted by relaxation or reviewing of the ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

In view of the matter, it is submitted in the interest of the forest wealth of A&N Islands and that of the Nation as a whole that the ban imposed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court should be continued and there is no justification lies with administration or with the general public that the ban can be lifted or relaxed.

With regards

Yours faithfully,

SMT.R. S. UMA BHARATHY.
President

NATIONALIST CONGRESS PARTY

A & N ISLANDS

NO: 15, SHIVRAM COMPLEX 1 O!!ANPURA, P/BLAIR - 744 101

> For kind information and necessary action to kindly take up the matter at the level of executive meeting of Central Minister, please.

Copy to:

Shri. Sharad Pawar
 Hon'ble Member of Parliament,
 National President NCP
 New Delhi.

Shri T.R.BALU
 Hon'ble Minister For
 Ministery of Environment
 and forests New Delhi.

- 3. Editor India Today.
- 4. Editor Kalapu Manam Chennai.

With the request to publish the matter in your esteemed News Magazine / Media, please.

# COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA,



Andaman & Nicobar State Council

OFFICE: Phonix Bay, Near Power House Port Blair, Andaman • 744101

State Secretary: T. Vasanda B.A. L.L.B 📏

Rof : CPI/ 4-5/2001

Dais 20/12/2001.

- Shekar Singh,

ુંત Commissioner,

Port Blair, Camp.

I am to inform you that I am the State Secretary of C.P.I. and I am the legal adviser of "Kitply Non Political Union". At present this company is closed due to the order passed by the Hon'ble Supereme court. In the kitply company total 240 persons were working and now these 1000 of family are facing straving problems, because the management they have now paid Bonus whenever retried from this company. Still there all due age pending with management. And the management all in suddenth they have stop payment. The management did not paid any compensation amount also.

It is, therefore, I request you to kindly pass necessary report to this effect to the authority concern in the interest of justice and equity.

Yours faithfully,

State Seceretary,

C . P . I. A & N Islands.

Copy to:

Port Blair.

- 1) The Editor, All Redic India Radio, (AIR), Port Blair.
- 2) To All Logal News Papers for informattion.