

Ref PP 11-12/C

(5) This is about the Hon'ble MP's letter dated 01/07/2014 (PUC) addressed to the Hon'ble LG, A & N Islands raising some issues in connection with grant/renewal of Tribal Pass under the A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation), 1956 and the rules made there under. We have received the report of the DC, South Andaman and DC, Nicobars on those issues in response to this office letter dated 3rd July, 2014. In terms of the report of the respective DC and the provisions made under PAT Regulation and Rules the issues raised by the Hon'ble MP are discussed points-wise as under:-

(a) Non-renewal of tribal passes resulting in harassment.

(6) Only those cases/applications for grant / renewal of passes, which are in violation of the PA Regulation and Rules as per the report of the Police, are held up / delayed. Otherwise, passes to visit the reserve area in Car Nicobar are issued / renewed as early as possible.

(b) and (c) Issuance and renewal of tribal pass for six months instead of one year

(7) As per rule 3 of PAT Rules, 1957 a pass may be granted for a period of one year or a part there-of and be renewed for a further period not ~~exceeding~~^{exceeding} one year. As further provided under rule 5(1) of the said Rules a pass is to be granted for any period expiring on a date within the current financial. As such there is an option for the authorities invested with the power of grant/renewal of pass or passes for visit/stay in the reserve area (tribal area). Therefore to be on safe side there is nothing wrong or irregular in granting /renewal of passes for 6 months. As for renewal, a pass is to be renewed only for a further period not ~~exceeding~~^{exceeding} one year (A xerox Copy of the relevant portion of Chapter II of PAT Rules relating to passes is placed at P.13/C for reference).

(d) Character Certificate for issuance of Tribal Pass.

(8) As provided under rule 5(1) of PAT Rules on an application filed under rule 4 it is statutorily mandatory for the Competent Authority to make such enquiry as he may deem fit before grant of a pass to the applicant. However, the existing practice of insisting on Character Certificate from a Gazetted Officer could be reviewed and done away with as it seems impractical for a pass holder temporarily staying in the reserve area. Any way some other means which may be practicable and acceptable needs to be introduced to check the identity of the applicant so as to abide by the provision of