

I further say that the contention of the Writ petitioners that large tracts of the forests have been opened for logging in Little Andaman is not correct. Only clearance of the areas earmarked for rehabilitation of refugees as per policy decision of the Government of India had been done. After formation of the Andaman and Nicobar Isles Forest and Plantation Development Corporation Ltd., in 1977 the harvesting of timber and regeneration works were taken up as per the project report approved by the Government of India for Little Andaman Project of the Corporation.

14. With reference to statements made in para 12 the same being matter of record and matter of law, no reply as such is required. I however, reserve my right to make proper submissions with regard thereto at the appropriate stage of hearing. I may also add that passes to visit the tribal reserve are being issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Andaman District strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands [Protection of Aboriginal Tribes] Regulations, 1956. A great degree of restraint is exercised in issuing the entry passes as is evident from the following statistics covering a five year period: