

Little Andaman is 73,200 ha out of which 50,000 ha have been declared as tribal reserve under the provisions of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1957. The Lt. Governor has been invested with the powers to make amendment of the boundary of tribal reserve depending on the developmental needs of the settlement of Onge population while at the same time safeguarding the interest and welfare of the Onge tribe. The respondent Corporation has been granted lease in respect of 19,600 ha of land and the balance area is under settlement. While admitting that there should not be tree felling inside the Onge reserve excepting the area which is required for their housing need, harvesting of trees in the reserved Forests under the lease of the Forest Corporation outside the tribal reserve in Little Andaman is carried out in accordance with the Govt. of India approved Project Report and as per silvicultural requirements and therefore should not be prohibited.

19. That with reference to statements made in para 17 and 18 the same are denied save and except that are the matters of record.
20. That with reference to statements made in para 19 and 20 I say that the respondent Corporation prepared a Project Report in the