

I say that the Department of Environment & Forests, A&N Administration has already prepared the Working Plan for the Forests under the lease of the Respondent Forest Corporation in the Little Andamans Islands and forwarded the same to the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. Of India on 17.8. 1999 for approval. The entire exercise of survey and enumeration has been got done through the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Working Plan Division of the A&N Administration. At present the Working Plan is pending with the Office of CCF(Central), Regional Office, Bhuvaneswar. The contention of the writ petitioners that it is only now the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Working Plan of A&N Forest Deptt has taken initial survey work for preparation of Working Plan and that it will take couple of years to complete the same is without any basis.

- Annexure R - II Copies of Working Plan letter No.CF/HQ/3/(T)/10/174 dated 18.8.99 and letter No.CF/HQ/(T)/10/252 dated 8.10.99 are annexed and marked R.II, III and IV respectively.
- Annexure R - III
- Annexure R - IV

I say that the level of timber harvesting should be done on year to year basis fixed by the A&N Administration within the overall ceiling fixed by the Central Govt. Target of timber harvesting has been fixed based upon data obtained from detailed field surveys, enumeration of crop and vigorous technical examinations.