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to allow unauthorised persons to enter into the tribal settlements. Entries of non tribal inside the tribal area is regulated by the permission granted by the Deputy Commissioner, who is competent to grant pass in terms of provisions contained under section 7 of A & N Island Protection of Aboriginal Tribe (Regulation), 1956.

32. That with reference to statements made in para 43, the same are denied. I say that the decrease in the population of Dugong is reported throughout the territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands but the extent of such a decline cannot be ascertained in the absence of proper data. The decline as aforesaid is not solely attributable to the activities of the settlers and fishermen from other islands and siltation of sea grass bed due to logging operations as alleged. The Dugong being rare species are to be protected.

33. That with reference to statements made in para 44, 45, 46 and 47 the same are denied. I say that the island of Little Andaman does not figure in the list of proposed Biosphere Reserves of India. Declaring this island as a biosphere reserve will not have much significance as biosphere reserve is simply a management concept and does not provide any extra legal protection.