

34. That with reference to statements made in para 48, the same are denied and disputed. I say that the scheme of logging and regeneration of forests through the agency of respondent corporation was the result of National Commission on Agriculture's recommendation in the year 1976 which were duly accepted by the Govt. of India. The estimates and statistics quoted in the project report was prepared based on the field studies/enumeration carried out by the Working Plan Division of the Forest Department as well as the Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources, a premier Govt. of India Organisation whose mandate is to make assessment of forest resources in the country. The said project report was approved by the Govt. of India and the level of timber harvesting has been restricted within the ceiling fixed by the Govt. of India/A&N Administration from time to time. That the respondent Corporation is working in Little Andaman based on the project report has also been informed to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India through an affidavit filed on 3.5.1997. I reiterate that no clearance of forest areas has been undertaken by the respondent Corporation except for raising red oil palm plantation, construction of offices, staff residential quarters and road infrastructure. Therefore, the allegation of the writ petitioners to the effect that the project report has been prepared in a casual fashion with the object to merely