

creeks etc. are retained and no fellings are done in these areas to ensure protection of erosion prone areas and catchments of streams, nullahs etc.

36. That with reference to statements made in para 50 and 51, the same are denied. I say that the welfare measures were introduced with the objective of providing the basic facilities to the Onges for their hygienic living and protection against elements of nature. Although it is true that Little Andaman was one of the islands which were opened for settlement of displaced persons, but it is not true that movement or zone activities of the Onges were restricted to the two Onge settlements only.

They have unfettered access to the extensive forest area of around 500 Sq.km(50,000 hecst) of tribal reserve where they continue their traditional hunting, food gathering and exercise other customary rights and privileges, besides limitless access to sea for turtle hunting etc.

37. That with reference to the statements made in para 52 the same are denied except the statement to the effect that under welfare schemes for Onges the dairy and pig farming did not yield any results. I say that the Onges still go for hunting of wild pigs which is evident from