

by the Onges themselves. In order to protect the Onges from the clutches of unscrupulous merchants their products are being collected by this Co-operative Society. Thus every effort is being made to restrict the trading in Onge products by the outsiders directly. Onges also use the plantation products like coconuts in their food these days.

38. That with reference to statements made in para 53, 54, 55 and 56 the same are denied. I say that a part of Little Andaman Island was opened up for the settlement of displaced persons. The Administration has been making all out efforts to ensure protection of Onges, which also include extension of medical care. As regards the harvesting of forests, the respondent Corporation has confined its working within the area leased to it by the A&N Administration/Govt. of India and such areas are being regenerated with indigenous tree species. Such forest area leased out to the respondent Corporation falls outside the tribal reserve. As stated in paras ut-supra, Onges have unfettered access within the tribal reserve. No restriction exists on hunting and food gathering by Onges within the leased forest area of the respondent Corporation also.