

39. That with reference to statements made in para 57, the same are denied except the statement to the effect that the Onges are now settled at two places viz. Dugong Creek and South Bay. I say that the Onge huts are constructed according to the need and requirement of the Onges and these huts are being maintained at regular interval. Presently there are 26 huts at Dugong Creek and 8 huts at South Bay constructed by the APWD authority. Out of the above 15 huts at Dugong Creek have been renovated. The Onge tribes today is in comparison with certain other indigenous tribe, a settled tribe. Of late Onges have even expressed their willingness to have pucca residential type houses and such requests are received from the Onges.

40. That with reference to statements made in para 58 the same are denied and disputed. I reiterate that the forestry works involving harvesting and regeneration is in accordance with the Project report approved by the Govt. of India and the level of timber harvesting is within the ceilings prescribed in the Project report and those subsequently fixed by the Govt. of India and the A&N Administration from time to time. Such activities are confined to the leased area only. I further say that the forestry operations are restricted to the area outside the tribal reserve. There is also no justification in stopping the forestry