

to supplement their normal diet based on the traditional food habits as hunters and gatherers with no interference from the Administration whatsoever. There is virtually limitless forest for them to forage in apart from immediate access to the sea to cater to their natural talent for turtle hunting etc.

A comprehensive legislation to conserve the biological resources and to regulate their extraction, use and export as also to safeguard the interests and intellectual property rights of tribal and other local communities is already under consideration of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Govt. of India.

The natural habitats of all the tribal groups including Jarawas, Sentinelese, Shompens and Onges have already been declared as tribal reserves and brought under the provisions of the A & N Islands (protection of aboriginal tribes) Regulation, 1956, to ensure their conservation.

50. That with reference to statements made in para 68 the same does not require any reply as such. I however, reserve my right to make proper submissions at the time of hearing, if considered necessary.