

51. That with reference to statements made in para 69, the same requires no reply as such. However, I reiterate that patent rights and discovery of the plants for treatment of Malaria and Gastro-intestinal disorders, systematic studies by specialised institutions are required. The indigenous knowledge of the Onges will be taken into consideration in the matter of conferring patent rights.

52. That with reference to statements made in para 70, the same are denied except the statement to the effect that the National Forest Policy adopted by the Govt. of India in 1988 lays down the principles governing the management of the natural forests in the country whereunder the extraction of timber from the forests is to be done on sustainable basis as per an approved management plan. I state that the working of the forests in the Little Andaman Island being done by the Forest Corporation in their project area is governed by a project report prepared on the basis of inventory conducted by Pre-investment Survey of Forest Resources, now known as Forest Survey of India. This is a scientific document for management of forests which covers aspects like regeneration and plantation of harvested areas besides logging. This document is a management plan for working of the Reserved forests of Little Andaman, under the lease of the Forest Corporation (ANIFPDC).