

and this fact has been stated as such in the affidavit filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the case of T. Godavaraman versus Union of India and others (WP Civil No. 202/95). The rights of the tribal people are fully protected in Little Andaman as about 68% of the geographical area of Little Andaman is kept aside as tribal reserve. Neither clear felling is being resorted to nor any exotic species is being introduced in this area.

53. That with reference statements made in para 71 and 72 the same are denied. I say that there is no diversion of forest area for non-forestry purpose except where some marginal areas have been diverted for minor irrigation project with due approval of the Central Govt. The activities of the respondent Corporation is no way a non-forestry activity. The project for red oil plant plantation was sanctioned prior to the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and hence any activities approved by the Central Govt. prior to such enactment does not amount violation of the same. All cases involving diversion of forests land for non-forestry purpose are being sent to Government of India for clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 as per provision of the said Act and such diversion is proposed only after proper cost-benefit analysis from the point of view of social environmental