

permitted vide Circular No. 240 dated 07.01.1996 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. The Zilla Parishad member has also requested for development of the area around a water fall located inside the reserved forest. The tourism department is accordingly envisaging development of the area as a tourist spot in collaboration with the Forest Corporation, subject to necessary clearances from the Ministry of Environment & Forests and ensuring that neither any damage to the local environment is caused nor is the interest of the Onges hampered in any manner.

56. That with reference to statements made in para 75 the same are denied and disputed. While reiterating the facts as mentioned in para 12 ut-supra I say that the development in the past years has no adverse impact on the Onge tribals in any manner. The Onge tribe have been allowed to lead their own way of life unaffected.

57. That with reference to statements made in para 76 the same are denied and disputed. I say that such gifts of tobacco are no longer being given to the Onges.

58. That with reference to statements made in para 77 & 78 the same are denied and disputed. I say that the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and Govt. of India are making sincere efforts for protection of and well-being of the