(97)

a single individual upon which the petitioner has relied to pass the judgement or to draw conclusions about the destiny of the Onges.

62. That with reference to statements made in para 82 under the heading 'grounds' (i) to (xxxix) , the same are denied and disputed being incorrect and untenable. I say that there has not been any timber harvesting in the tribal reserve in Little Andaman Island much less indiscriminately and illegally as alleged by the writ petitioners. On the contrary the timber harvesting has been carried out within the leased area of the respondent Corporation under the scientifically based system. There is no question of extinction or extermination of the Onge tribe as alleged, on the contrary medical care, food etc. are provided to them by the govt. for their survival. Their way of living has not been affected by any developmental work. Apart from this under the various legislations, the land and land resources of the tribal reserve are being protected by enforcement of the provisions of the law strictly by the concerned authority. Therefore, the allegation that deforestation has adversely affected the tribal way of life is not correct.