

Corporation. Thus two of the seniormost forest department officials responsible for conserving the Andaman forest, the Chief Conservator of Forest and the Special Chief Conservator of Forest, both colluded to permit large scale deforestation without any legal authorisation. Annexed hereto and marked Annexure-D is a copy of the said lease.

8. The Corporation claims to be cut trees on the basis of a project report submitted to the department in 1976. The Project report envisages an area of annual cutting in the Little Andamans at 800 ha on the assumption that the total forest area capable of being cut was 60000 ha. This was an elementary but serious mistake and one deliberately made. The actual area leased to the forest corporation was only 19600 ha. The rest being tribal reserve could not be touched. Making deductions for the red oil palm plantation (1960 ha), mangroves (1500 ha), CRZ area (2500 ha), the maximum possible available area for forestry operations was only 13,640 ha.

9. The corporation has presumed a 75 year cycle. The area capable of being harvested is divided into 75 plots and one plot is harvested every year. This is done on the presumption that at the end of 75 years one comes back to the first plot cut, which, in the intervening 75 years has been regenerated.

10. Assuming therefore this 75 year cycle, the maximum permissible cut was 180 ha and not 800 ha.

11. This calculation however proceeds on the footing that cutting could be done at all, which is not the case as the Chief Conservator of Forest had no right to enter upon a lease and in any case no working plan was prepared as required under Section 2 of the Forest Conservation Act 1980. The Project report states that the Special Chief Conservator of Forest, Andaman and Nicobar Islands would be the Managing Director of the Corporation.

12. The Project report admits