

iii) Selection felling with natural regeneration and subsequently Clearfelling with artificial regeneration were tried in the past without much success. Thereafter, Mr. B.S. Chengappa, evolved and perfected the Andaman Canopy Lifting System for better natural regeneration, which has been in vogue since then and found to be most successful for the tropical forests of these islands. However, since the fellings which were initially exploitation oriented have now become conservation oriented with the change in forest policy, the system has been slightly modified in that the girdling/ thinning operations which were to be carried out in NRA in the 4th, 5th and 6th year are now not being carried out, unless silviculturally necessary. It is also observed that this modification in the system does not have any significant negative effect on the regeneration of the area.

iv) Sample enumerations for assessing the regeneration status in old NRAs and adjoining unworked forest areas of Little Andaman have been carried out and the results are given in Table 2.2.5. The table shows the total growing stock including recruits in the worked over forests and seedlings/ saplings up to 10 cm dia. in unworked forests (P.B.-1). However, as desired, the table is being revised. So far the regeneration in the worked over forests is encouraging. The failure areas shall be identified, mapped and restocked as per the prescriptions given under para 247.

v) The overmature trees most of which are light demanders are removed during main fellings except those which are retained as mother trees in areas deficient in advance growth. Only the trees of miscellaneous species in the second storey, retained to provide shade to the young regeneration and help in their establishment (para 230), are eliminated from the 2nd year onwards through the process of girdling. Eventhough, the marking rules do not prescribe time schedule for removal of the trees such a schedule has been prescribed under regeneration techniques in para 241. Since the draft Working plan prescribes harvesting of other miscellaneous species, marking rules applicable to commercial species will apply in the case of such species also.

vi) The forests of Little Andaman are in the process of conversion and regeneration under the Andaman Canopy Lifting System from 1977 onwards and 10655 ha has already been converted. The balance area of 6000 ha which is available for conversion shall be converted during the current Working Plan period. Therefore, the conversion period for Little Andaman forests covered under the Conversion Working Circle may be taken as 32 years (1977-2009). This may be reviewed in the next Working Plan depending on the progress of conversion during the current Working Plan period. Necessary corrections shall be made in the Summary of prescriptions.

2. MISC ISSUES

i) There shall be periodical supervision as provided under Part-IV, para. 3 of the lease agreement between the Forest department and the ANIFPDC (Annexure-XIII of the Working Plan).

ii) No encroachment in the lease area of Little Andaman under the purview of this working plan has been reported. Hence, the guidelines issued by the Govt. of India in this respect are not applicable, at present.