

" No forest should be permitted to be removed without the Government having approved the Management Plan which should be in the prescribed format and in keeping with the National Forest Policy".

34. Clause 4.4.1 states that forest land should not be treated merely as a resource readily available to be utilised but as a national asset which requires to be properly safeguarded. Clause 4.6 deals with tribal people and forest and states that forestry programmes should be able to attain the fact that

a) one of the major causes of degradation of forest is the illegal cuttingby contractors
.....contractors should be replaced by institutions

35. On 6.11.1989 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister of India decided

" There should be no more conversion of forest area for wood based industries " and that " wood extractions to feed such industries should be reduced to lead to a stopping in the next few years.....".

36

At the meeting held on 25.11.1998 of the District Planning Committee of the Islands, Shri Tambola, an Onge leader, stated.

" The public (settlers) of the nearby areas were troubling the Ongewild pigs were rarely being found in the forest areas of Dugong creek. extraction of timber should be stopped"

37. Forest Conservation Act 1980

Section 2 and 3 of the Forest Conservation Act reads as under

" 2. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force in a State, No State Government or other authority shall make, except with the prior approval of the Central Government, any order directing-
that any reserved forest (within the meaning of the expression "reserved forest" in any law for the time being in force in that State) or any portion thereof, shall cease to be reserved,