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that its policy of gradual integration is the correct one. That these two writ petitions represent swings of the pendulum to two extremes, in dealing with the extremely sensitive question of two indigenous tribes at different stages of development and advancement, and are characterised by a completely incorrect understanding of both tribes. Comparatively the Onges are at a higher level of development now and it would be against the grain of any reasonable thought process to retract the steps taken by the Administration for their advancement and push them back in to the Jungle.

(C) That the Govt. Of India as well as the A&N Administration have exhibited utmost concern for conservation of the forests in these islands. Forestry Administration was introduced over 115 years ago in these islands and has been successful in maintaining as much as 87% of geographical area under forests. As part of the management strategy, the Administration has declared as much as 292876 ha (35.50%) under reserved forests and 424193 ha (51.43%) of the total area under protected forests including 95 sanctuaries, 9 National parks and 1 Biosphere Reserve and Tribal Reserve. The policy of forestry management lays special emphasis on preservation of bio-diversity including marine diversity of these islands and has totally proscribed clear felling (deforestation) and introduction of exotic species throughout the territory. Besides provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the provisions of Wildlife (P) Act 1972, the Forest Conservation Act 1980, Environment Protection Act 1986, New Forest policy, 1988 and Coastal Regulation Zone Notification 1991 have been