

strictly followed and enforced. Thus it is evident from the facts as stated above that the contention of the Writ Petitioners with regard to the management of the Reserve Forests as contained in the Writ Petition is also misconceived and hence untenable.

I say that as regards, Little Andaman, the entire Island was declared as a reserved forest way back in 1963 with a view to providing adequate legal protection to the forest of the island. The population of Onges being rather small for the large extent of forests of the island, a part of the Reserved Forest (19,600 ha out of the total area of 73,200 ha. of the island) was leased out to the Forest Corporation which was established in pursuance of the recommendations of the National Commission on Agriculture in the year 1977 as a Govt. of India undertaking to scientifically manage and develop the forest resources in the island adopting time tested silvicultural and management practices which provided for conservative harvesting and regeneration of forests as per project report approved by the Govt. of India. That various aspects of the matter relating to conservation and management of forest are already under consideration of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of W.P (Civil) No.202/95 of 1995 in which an affidavit has been filed on 3.5.97 by the A&N Administration. This factual position as aforesaid has also been submitted in the Court before their Lordship Mrs. Justice RUMA PAUL and Hon'ble Mr. Justice PINAKI CHANDRA GHOSE during the hearing of the matter in respect of the prayer for interim order on 31.1.97. After hearing both the parties THEIR LORDSHIPS were pleased to pass orders as under: