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Brief note on additional land for the allotment to the Nicobarese tribals of Harminder Bay, Little Andaman Island. -----

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration had formulated a scheme to settle 300 Nicobari families from the Car Nicobar Island to reduce the population pressure on this small Island. These 300 families were to be settled in Little Andaman Island in the Andaman District. Each family under the scheme was to get 10 acres of land for the horticultural activities i.e; raising Coconut etc.

Accordingly, a proposal was sent to the Govt. of India for the dereservation of 3000 acres of forest land in the Little Andaman Island in 1973. The Govt. of India agreed for the release of 500 acres of forest land in Little Andaman Island. And as such during the 4th Five Year Plan 50 Nicobari families were brought and settled in a village now known as Harminder Bay in Little Andaman Island.

By the end of 1973 another batch of 50 Nicobari families were to be brought to Little Andaman Island for the settlement. So a proposal was sent for the release of yet another 500 acres of forest land. However, the Govt. of India did not agree for the dereservation of forest land any further.

In the meantime 115 Nicobari families migrated from Car Nicobar to Little Andaman Island voluntarily and started living along with the officially settled 50 families who are living at Harminder Bay.

In the wake of denial of dereservation of the forest land, an exercise was made to reduce the total requirement of the land. It was decided that 400 acres of forest land could be obtained for the benefit of 165 Nicobari families in the following manner:-

- (1) 5 acres per family ($165 \times 5 = 825$ acres)
- (ii) 75 acres of land for the community purpose.

To get the 400 acres of forest land dereserved equal area of revenue land is required to be surrendered for afforestation. But as noted by the Deputy Commissioner Andamans there is no revenue land available for this purpose.