

population has increased from 13974 in 1961 to 24853 in 1991 (77%). The non-tribal population has already exceeded the tribal population in the Islands of Katchal and Kamorta. These statistics make it clear that steps need to be taken in order to control the influx in future which can be best achieved by the proposed amendment of Section 8 of PAT Regulation duly approved by Expert Group of MHA .

The Regulation provided for penalties for the contravention of the provisions of Section 6 and 7 of the said Regulation. The penalties as provided in Section 8 are the punishment with imprisonment, which may extend to one year or fine which may extend to Rs.1000/- or both. The penalty provided in the said Regulation appears to be too mild to have any deterrent effect on the non-tribal intruders. The fine of Rs.1000/-, which might have been a big amount in 1956 has since become a paltry sum. Therefore, there is more than sufficient justification to increase the fine amount sufficiently to have a deterrent effect on the non-tribal intruders.

Accordingly, a revised draft amendment Notification incorporating the above amendment under Section 8(1), (2) & (3) of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 is enclosed.

It is, therefore, requested that the proposed amendment of the Regulation may kindly be approved and communicated to this Administration at the earliest.

Yours faithfully,

Encl: As above.

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Research Officer(TW)