

I. AMENDMENT OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS(PROTECTION OF ABORIGINAL TRIBES) REGULATION, 1956(PAT REGULATION, 1956)

The proposal to amend Section 8 of the PAT Regulation, 1956 was first taken up with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in 1991. It was examined by Expert Group of MHA which suggested certain modifications in the amendment proposed by this Administration.

The final proposal in this regard has been sent to MHA vide letter No.1-467/2001-TW/754 dated 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2002. The amendment is proposed in view of the fact that lack of effective punishment in the PAT Regulation has resulted in unhindered growth of population of non-tribals in Nicobar District from 589 in 1961 to 14,355 in 1991(2337%), while the tribal population has increased from 13974 in 1961 to 24853 in 1991(77%). In its present form, Section 8 of the PAT Regulation envisages punishment with imprisonment, which may extend to one year or fine which may extend to Rs.1000/- or both. The punishment under the said Regulation was made way back in 1956 and the deterrent effect of fine has been reduced over the last four decades. It has, therefore, been proposed to amend section 8 of the PAT Regulation, 1956 which envisages "imprisonment which may extend to one year and fine which may extend to Rs.10,000/-.

Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister may be requested to expedite the amendment of the PAT Regulation, 1956.