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अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION,  
रचिवालय/SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

Andaman and Nicobar Islands is the abode of 5 primitive tribes namely Sentinellise, Shompen, Jarawas, Onges and Great Andamanese besides Nicobari Tribes. For the Protection of the Tribes and the area where these tribal are living have been notified as protected areas under A & N (PAT) Regulation 1956. Further as per sec 7 and of this regulation and notifications issued under this section any one who enters the protected area without any valid pass issued by the Deputy Commissioner is punishable under Sec 8 ibid. However the penalty under this section was imprisonment upto one year or fine upto Rs 1000 and more often than not the court used to let the offenders by imposing only fine. Imprisonment of such violators who entered those areas was very rare. Keeping various points in view regarding welfare of these tribal groups and the area they are living, the said Section 8 was amended on the advice of various expert bodies and other concerned persons who were involved in the welfare of these tribes. Now as per the amended Sec.8 notified on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2005 which reads as under there is no escape for the offender of imprisonment as well as fine:

“ 8 (1) whoever, in contravention of the provisions of section 6, acquires any interest in, or in any product of or crop raised on any land, or carries on any trade or business, in a reserved area, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees and the interest so acquired shall be disposed of in such manner as the Administrator may, after taking into consideration the circumstances of the case, direct.

(2) Whoever, in contravention of a notification issued under section 7, enters a reserved area shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.

(3) Whoever does anything in contravention of any of the conditions or restrictions, subject to which a pass has been granted to him under section 7, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years and with fine which may extend to ten thousand rupees.”

In other words now whoever violates provision of Section 6 and 7 by entering these tribals areas for poaching or otherwise on being convicted by Court shall have to go both imprisonment which may run upto 2 years as well as fine which may be upto Rs.10,000/-. In view of this amended provision all the public and visitors to these islands are advised to refrain from entering the tribal areas unless and until they obtain a valid pass from the Deputy Commissioner. Offender shall be booked by the Police Officer above the rank of Constable or by Forest Officer not below the rank of a Ranger, as the case may be.



(G.C. Joshi)  
Secretary (FW)  
2/11/2006