

(from pre-page)

**no such cases in which sentence of imprisonment for more than 6 months awarded."** The Secretary(TW) observed vide para 54/n that **"in view of the position mentioned at para 52, the argument of increasing the quantum of punishment is not convincing enough and one year prescribed appears to be reasonable enough."** A letter to this effect was sent to MHA, Government of India suggesting that **"this Administration has decided not to go for the proposed amendment at present."** (66/c).

PUC is a letter from MHA, Govt of India, wherein they have requested **"to confirm whether the decision of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration not to go for the proposed amendment of the A&N Islands(Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 has the approval of the Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands"**.

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The issues involved in this regard are as follows:-

- (i) Whether the existing provisions of Section 8 of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands(PAT) Regulation, 1956 are reasonable and enough and have been able to serve the purpose for which it was promulgated and control the influx of population in the tribal areas.
- (ii) Whether the provisions of Section 8 of the A&N Islands(PAT) Regulation, 1956 should not be amended in view of the fact that no imprisonment has been awarded for the last 10 years from 1991-2001 as observed by Secretary(TW) vide para 54/N ante.
- (iii) Whether the existing provisions of Section 8 of the A&N Islands(PAT), Regulation, 1956 should be amended as suggested by this Administration with the approval of the Lt. Governor way back in 1991 and thereafter cleared by the Expert Group of MHA, Government of India.

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In this connection, it is mentioned that the **A&N Islands(PAT) Regulation was promulgated in 1956 with a view to provide for protection of the interests of the socially and economically backward aboriginal tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.** The issue has been examined in detail by the then Deputy Commissioner(Nicobars) and a copy of the report submitted by him may please be seen at F/X. The

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