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problem of influx of non-tribals in the tribal reserve areas and the consequent difficulties due to non-implementation of the provisions of the Regulation are brought to the notice of this administration and visiting dignitaries including Union Ministers to Tribal areas. The report of the DC(N) clearly states that the existing provisions of the PAT Regulation have not been enough to protect the interests of the tribals due to various reasons including the legal problems enumerated below :

LEGAL PROBLEMS

- (i) **Bailable offence:** Violation of provisions of PAT, 1956 is bailable offence with bail being given at Police station itself and the offender gets a licence to stay in the area till the continuation of trial which takes three – six months.
- (ii) **Lack of exemplary punishment:** The maximum punishment awarded for the offence is a fine of Rs.1000/- or imprisonment of three months or both. As per information made available to undersigned, till date no accused has been awarded imprisonment for this offence and the accused is set free by imposing a fine of maximum Rs.1000/-.
- (iii) Police has expressed its inability to repatriate the illegal entrants due to limited resources and legal provisions for the effecting it which defeat the very purpose of the Act.

In nutshell, anyone can enter the tribal reserve area without valid permit and engage in trade and business. If caught he can get bail, given conviction after three to six months and fined maximum of Rs.1000/- and is again at large making mockery of the provisions PAT 1956 and the spirit behind the Act to protect the interests of socially and economically backward aboriginal tribes from exploitation by non-tribals due to inability of Police to repatriate him.

These islands are ecologically sensitive and cannot take burden of unlimited population and tribals have to survive with available natural resources. There has been a move to issue Identity Cards to the peoples staying in Andaman & Nicobar Islands in order to control the unhindered growth of population in these islands. In view of this, it would be appropriate that the PAT Regulation is amended as suggested for the following reasons:-