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पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS पर्यावरण भवन, सी. जी. ओ. कॉम्पलेक्स

PARYAVARAN BHAWAN, C.G.O. COMPLEX लोदी रोड, नई दिल्ली-110003

LODHI ROAD, NEW DELHI-110003

October 5, 2001

Sub: 44th Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes - Forest Policy in relation to command over and access of tribal people to forest resources (para 3.22) -Preference to tribals in forestry services.

Dear Shri Balbir Singh,

I am writing to you in reference to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 28.9.95 (copy enclosed) vide which you were requested to give preference to local tribals in recruitment at the level of forest guards to benefit from their unquestionable knowledge about forests as also their familiarity and understanding of the local forest eco-systems. This issue was again discussed in the Meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee held recently. It was even suggested that if need be, even their educational qualifications and physical standards could be lowered to give them advantage over other candidates.

Action taken in the matter may please be informed to this Ministry.

Yours sincerely,

-De (S.K. Pande)

Shri Balbir Singh Chief Secretary Andaman & Nicobar Islands Admn. P.O. Chatham PORT BLAIR 744 101