

55. Enhancement of Power to Hon'ble Lt. Governor for forest clearance from 1 hect to 10. Hect – Forest department now required to take up the issue with the Ministry.

The Committee was apprised that MoEF&CC is of the view that the general prior approval for diversion of forest land up to 1 hectare has been granted as per the guidelines F. No. 11-9/98-FC dated 13.2.2014 which is valid up to 31.12.2018. Further exemption cannot be granted because it will be against the spirit of Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980. The Committee noted.

56. In order to check illegal poaching of deers available in Andaman Forest, relaxation may be allowed to domesticate deer with the intention to increase its population.

The Committee was apprised that as per Section 40 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, no person can keep in his control, custody or possession of any captive animal specified in Schedule.

57. Issue of Nativity and domicile certificate – to people and their descendents who are living in these islands since prior to Indian Independence.

The Committee was apprised that criteria for issuance of local certificate is as approved by Government of India Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee noted.

Other Issue:

To demarcate area in the sea based on availability of molluscian resources like Sea cucumber, Sea shell (Trocus) & Swiftlet nest which is listed in schedule-I. Based on the survey and demand of such product in the international market, relaxation may be given to the local traders to trade in such species.

The basic argument made by the representative of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration was that since the illegal trade is in any way flourishing, we may legalize it. The representative of MoEF&CC apprised the Committee that the said species are threatened and, therefore, there is no need to allow trading of these species. The need for alternative livelihoods would be adequately taken care of once ICRZ is finalized. The Committee noted.

The meeting ended with thanks to the chair.