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Puc is a letter No. 23011/10/2012-FRA dated 12.11.2014 received from the Under Secretary to GOI, MoTA regarding Review of Quarterly progress report on Forest Rights Rules (Jan to March 2014).

In this context, it is stated that as far as A & N Islands is the Central Govt. issued the Constitution (Andaman & concerned, Nicobar Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1959 under Article 342 of the Constitution, notifying (Six) Aboriginal Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as Scheduled Tribes. Subsequently, in exercise of the powers conferred under Clause (2) of Article 243 of the Constitution, the President promulgated the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956, for the protection of the interest of socially and economically backward aboriginal tribes in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Under the said Regulation, this Administration notified reserved areas, thereby prohibiting the entry as well as acquisition of any interest in and etc. of any person other than the members of the aboriginal tribes in the reserved area. Thus the interest of the scheduled tribes in A&N Islands have been fully protected by the Regulation, 1956 by exclusively preserving the area for them in which they have full rights to use their forest products for their bonafide use.

As far as, traditional forest dwellers are concerned, there are no forest encroachers who qualify for the purpose of the scheduled tribes 41. and other traditional forest dwellers.

Therefore, the furnishing of Quarterly progress report on implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 does not arise. If approved, may furnish a reply on the above lines to the Under Secretary to GOI, MoTA. Accordingly, a draft letter is submitted for approval please.

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AC (TW)/Director (TW)

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