

62. PUC is a letter dated 11.7.2016 received from the Under Secretary to Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, FRA Division, New Delhi along with a copy of issue raised - "Need to implement the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in letter and spirit" in Lok Sabha on 22.12.2015 by Shri Faggan Singh, Kulestey, MP addressed to the Secretary (TW), A & N Administration. We are requested to furnish a report in the matter to the Ministry immediately.

63. In this context, it is submitted that the Govt. of India has notified six tribes the Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Shompens, Sentinelese and Nicobarese as Scheduled Tribes in relation to this UT. The Nicobarese are progressive tribes while others are Particularly Vulnerable Tribes (PTGs). The Area inhabited by Scheduled Tribes has been declared as reserved area under the A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956, thereby prohibiting the entry as well as acquisition of any interest in land 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.

64. The welfare and development of the Nicobarese are undertaken by various Departments of Administration under Tribal Sub-Plan. The participation of the Nicobarese tribals in their development programmes is being ensured through the seven traditional Tribal Councils of the Nicobarese one each at Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teresa, Nancowry, Katchal, Kamorta and Tribal Council for Great & Little Nicobar. These Tribal Councils are autonomous in their own way. The Tribal Council functionaries viz, Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Deputy Vice Chairperson and Village Captain are invariably involved in formulation of the development programmes for the Nicobarese through the District Planning Committee of Nicobars District being its members and they are paid remuneration at the same rate as the functionaries of the PRIs. The fund of the developmental activities is being released to the Tribal Councils in the shape of grant-in-aid through Chairman ITDP, Car Nicobar.

65. With regard to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) the welfare and protection of PTGs is looked after by an autonomous body known as Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS), which is headed by the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands.

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

67. If approved, we may the reply to the Under Secretary, GOI, MoTA on the above lines. Subject to approval a draft letter is submitted for approval please.

6/20/15
JRO

RO
20/7/14

758/DTW
21/7/16

Director (TW)
Secretary (TW)
21/7/16

21/7/16
Director (TW)
26/7/16