Under the said Regulation, this Administration notified reserved areas, 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. As provided under section 11, the provisions of the said Regulations and any rule made there under shall have overriding effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any such law.

The Scheduled Tribes of this UT do not practice individual ownership of land, but hold it jointly in entirety. So there is no issue of title deeds to individual claimants. The Scheduled Tribes of A & N Islands have unhindered/absolute right over the land and the produce of such land in the Tribal reserve and Forest reserve so notified.

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