

India and others pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in which, we have committed that the interest and ownership rights of the Scheduled Tribes in Andaman and Nicobar islands are fully protected under A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulations, 1956 and in absence of other traditional forest dwellers further vesting of any forest rights under FRA, 2006 does not arise in A&N Islands.

Further, the above stand has been taken up by the A&N Administration has also been uploaded in the Pragati against the issue of FRA.

In view of the above, it is to be noted that the tribes and tribal situation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands cannot be compared with the tribes of other part of India because the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956, promulgated by the President of India provides for protection of the interests of aboriginal tribes and declaration of the geographical area as reserved areas for the exclusive community ownership of the tribes. This Regulation has overriding effect over other laws under Section 11 of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956.

Yours faithfully

  
(Arun Kumar Jha)

Assistant Commissioner (TW)

**Copy to: -**

- 1) The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Port Blair for favour of his information
- 2) Shri SA Awaradi, Director (ANTRS), Port Blair for information and necessary action

  
Assistant Commissioner (TW)

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