In this context it is submitted that the areas inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes have been declared as reserved area under the A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956, wherein the entry as well as acquisition of any interest in land etc. by any person other than the members of the aboriginal tribes is strictly prohibited. The interest of the Scheduled Tribes in A&N Islands therefore, have been fully protected under the Regulation, 1956 by exclusively reserving the area for them in which they have full rights to use the forest products for their bonafide use and sustenance.

As regards, other Traditional Forest Dwellers, nobody qualifies for being the traditional forest dwellers having resided on the forest land/ tribal reserve for the bonafide livelihood needs for three generations (75 years) prior to 13.12.2005 for the purpose of recognition of forest right under the above said Act.

Therefore, the furnishing of Monthly and 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. DFA – III & IV.

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