

rights of Scheduled Tribes with regard to the Forest Produce is reproduced below:-

"The Schedule Tribes of A&N Islands shall collect their actual requirement of forest produce from the forest for their bonafide domestic use without any restriction."

Thus the rights of the Scheduled Tribes of A & N Islands are adequately safeguarded under the existing Forest Rules also.

With reference to the Wild Life (Protection) Act. 1972 under Section 65, nothing in this Act shall affect the hunting rights conferred on the Scheduled Tribes of the A & N Islands in the UT of A & N Islands.

It is also relevant to mention here that the Scheduled Tribes of this UT do not practice individual ownership of land, but hold it jointly in entirety. So it is not proposed to issue any title deeds to individual claimants.

In view of the above provisions 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.

Yours faithfully,



Assistant Commissioner (TW)
(CF:T2 Letter 2008)