

of the IDA 19 blocks adjoining the Revenue area were identified for shifting the encroachments from deep inside the forests.

The proposal for dereservation of 1367ha of forest land for regularization of the encroachment as per the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1927 was approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forests vide their letter No.8-274/87-FC dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 1988.

1367 ha. of forest area was denotified vide A&N Administration's Notifications No. Sectt/12/9/37-88/H&R dated 23.6.89, 27.6.89 and 29.6.89 (5 Notifications) and physical possession of the land along with the list of the eligible encroachers was handed over to the Deputy Commissioner (Andamans) for formal allotment.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its order dated 7.5.2002 in I.A. 502 of 1999 in WP 202 of 1995 gave directions for expeditious vacation of the post- 1978 encroachments and shifting of the pre-1978 encroachers to the allotted land. Accordingly action is being taken by the Administration .

Views on regularization of encroachment – "All encroachments in forest areas upto 31.12.1978 would be regularized upto one hectare per family, and ensuring that these encroachments are not in the middle of the forest areas. No encroachment should be allowed to be regularized that would result in honey combing of the forests; in such cases the party concerned should be shifted to the peripheries to avoid honey combing of the forests. Diversion of forest land will be permitted only on the basis that equal area of revenue land will be allocated for forests."

13. How many encroachments and of what area are still pending? Please state pre-1980 and post 1980. What action does the State Govt propose to take in such cases?

Pre-1978 ENCROACHMENTS (As on 7/5/2002)

Forest Division	No. of families	Forest Area under encroachment by them (Ha.)
South Andaman	129	211.74
Baratang	11	27.50
Middle Andaman	17	22.50
North Andaman	1210	2078.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1367</b>	<b>2339.74</b>

POST -78 ENCROACHMENT (As on 29/1/03)

S.no	Division	No. of cases	Area under encroachment
1	South Andaman	867	727
2	Baratang	457	211