

3	Middle Andaman	728	685
4	Little Andaman	120	17
5	Mayabunder	780	792.570
6	Diglipur	1078	1115
Total		4030	3547.57

Forest Conservation Act 1980.

14. What has been the impact of Forest Conservation Act 1980 on tribals and tribal economy? Do you think it has benefited the tribal areas by restraining tree felling? Or do you think that it has been an impediment to development works? Do you have any suggestions for its modifications or amendments? Please support your suggestions with relevant arguments.

Forest Conservation Act 1980 has definitely helped the tribals. After the implementation of the act, cases of diversion for forest land for non forestry activities have reduced. The impact of various non forest activities are also being assessed before clearance of the projects.

Indian Forest Act

15. Section 10 of the Indian Forest Act 1927 says that the practice of shifting cultivation shall in all cases be deemed a privilege subject to control restriction and abolition by the State Government. Since shifting cultivation is an age-old practice and is said to be a way of life of tribals, do you agree with retention of this provision in its present form in the Act? If not, please substantiate your reply.

Yes.

16. Section 11 of the Indian Forests Act confers powers on the Forest Settlement Officer to decide claims in or over any land for the purpose of acquisition of land under the Land Acquisition Act 1894. Does the State Govt agree with the retention of this provision and generally to the Land Acquisition Act?

Yes.

17. Are you aware that the Indian Forest Act is proposed to be amended? Has the State Government been consulted in the matter? If so, please mention the views of the State Government.

Views of the forest department – The draft legislation The Conservation of Forests and Natural Ecosystem is quite comprehensive and takes of the care of the weakness existing Indian Forest Act, 1927. Delegations of powers to Forest Officer for evicting the encroachment summarily, treating all offences as cognisable and power to give reward to persons who help in detection, seizure and apprehension of forest offenders, is the need of the hour and provide sufficient teeth to the existing act to protect forests now facing the mounting pressure.

Shifting Cultivation