

The tribes in A&N Islands do not practice Shifting cultivation.

26. If the State Government does not consider shifting cultivation harmful, have they given consideration to the question of modifying it for higher production, better ecological orientation and more in consonance with the improved modes of cultivation? Please spell out the thinking of the State Government.

In view of the answer at (26) question does not arise.

Addendum to Page 22 (Para 14A) as mentioned in questionnaire.

14. Section 26(I) (g) In Chapter II on Reserved Forest of the Indian Forest Act 1927 indicates the punishment for a person who removes any forest produce from the reserved forest at imprisonment which may extend to 6 months or with fine which may extend to Rs.500/- or both. Similarly, section 30 prohibits removal of any forest produce from a protected forest. These provisions need to be juxtaposed with the provisions of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas), Act, 1996(PESA ACT), Further Section 5 of the PES A Act would need to be highlighted as per which any provision of any law relating to Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas, immediately before the date on which PESA Act received the assent of the President, which is inconsistent with the provisions of Part IX, shall continue to be in force until amended or repealed by a competent legislation or other competent authority or until the expiration of one year from the date on which the Act received the assent of the President.

How do you reconcile the inconsistencies in the provisions of the two laws? In what way does the State Forest Department view the position?

Action on the issue not initiated as the tribal areas are yet to be brought under PESA ACT.

27. In some areas, the tribal people themselves have adopted terrace cultivation as an ecological measure. Does it obtain in your state also? Or is there any other method which has been adopted? Please explain.

In these Islands tribes are in primitive stages. Nicobari who have joined the main stream do not practice terrace cultivation.

28. The Commission has learnt that the funds are made available by the Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation as well as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for schemes pertaining to shifting cultivation. Can you please mention in a statement relating to the last two Plan Periods (a) the quantum of scheme-wise funds received (b) the number of families benefited ITDP – Wise (c) the nature of benefits and (d) evaluation of schemes and their findings and (e) the number of families still to be covered.

Not applicable.