

37. The National Forestry Policy 1988 states that since the life of tribals and other poor people living within and near forests evolves around forests, the rights and concessions enjoyed by them should be fully protected. Please indicate what action has been taken in this respect. Specially.

- (a) Whether the rights and concessions in forest of scheduled tribe people have been recorded and disseminated in tribal dialects among them?

The rights of tribals have been fully recognized. No restriction of any type is imposed on the tribals. Therefore, no necessity was felt for disseminating this information.

- (b) If not, whether the tribals are allowed to exercise their traditional rights in forests? What are the traditional rights?

The tribals of Andaman are hunting food gathering tribes. The Nicobarese lead a settled life.

- (c) Are the recorded rights traditions? Please spell them out in detail for the benefit of the Commission.

They have absolute rights over forest produce of the tribal areas..

- (d) If the rights and concessions have not been recorded and even traditional rights are not officially recognized widely how are they regulated ? For instance how is the requirement of the tribal family in respect of fuel, small timber and fodder met?

No restriction is imposed on tribals for collection of forest produce.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP).

38. It may be noted that the Forest Policy lays down that the tribal domestic requirement of fuel wood and fodder, minor forest produce (MFP) and construction timber should be the first charge and these materials should be made available by the concerned authorities. What has been the practice in the State?

In A & N Islands the tribes collect MFP without any restriction.

39. What various items of "MFP" are collected in the different regions of the state? What are their respective annual quantities?

The MFP collected in the state during 2000-01 are as follows. (This exclude the MFP collected by tribals on which no account is being maintained).

Total	Bamboo (Nos.)	Cane (rmt)	Thatching leaves (Nos.)	Post (Nos.)	Ballies (Nos.)	Pahari es (Nos)	Fuel wood (cbm)
	1645080	631514	5944541	18840	243629	35707	30308