

MONEY-LENDING AND DEBT REDEMPTION LAWS

<p>1. The Fifth Schedule empowers the Governor of a State to regulate the carrying on of the business of money-lending by persons who lend money to members of scheduled tribes in Scheduled Areas. It has been recognized that the subsistence economy of tribals in general does not enable them to create savings, while in the lean months, generally they have to borrow even for consumption purposes. In the absence of savings, repayment is difficult, even impossible. The tribal is ultimately forced to part with his land to liquidate the debt. Further borrowing has often resulted in debt bondage. The problem of indebtedness has psychological, domestic, social and economic dimensions. The different State Governments in India have enacted laws to regulate money-lending.</p>	<p>A regulation viz. Andaman Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) (PAT) Regulation 1956 is in force to protect the interest of the socially and economically backward Aboriginal Tribes in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. No non tribal can carry on any trade or business in the tribal area without a license granted by the Administrator. The Money Lending Regulation is not applicable to the tribal area, as the provisions of this PAT Regulation and the rules made thereunder have overriding effect on any other law provided Under Section 11 of the above Regulation.</p>
<p>2. Please furnish five copies of the money-lending Act or Regulation in your state.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Not applicable</p>
<p>3. Please state the salient features of the law as enacted in your state, highlighting the lacunae and deficiencies in it.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-do-</p>
<p>4. Have surveyor surveys been conducted in your state to ascertain the magnitude of per tribal family monthly or annual indebtedness? If so, please give an account, indicating the extent of indebtedness.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-do-</p>
<p>5. Longitudinally i.e. over a period of time, say during the last 30 or 40 or 50 years, what trends do you decipher in the conclusions of the surveys? Has the magnitude of indebtedness increased or decreased?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-do-</p>
<p>6. Has any analysis been made as to the causes of indebtedness? If not, please make analyses and furnish to the Commission the results.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-do-</p>
<p>7. Please state whether and how and to what extent cooperatives of different types and at different levels have extended production and</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">-do-</p>