

carrying out the planting work. In this way the tribals are not only getting direct employment, but their resources are also augmented by planting useful species of trees.

- a. Have you experience any constraint/difficulty in implementing the National Forest Policy, 1988? What are those measures suggested in this direction.

Ans. The National Forest Policy, 1988 is being implemented successfully in this UT.

- b. How for SCs/STs are entitled to collect forest produce for their domestic consumption and sale? Has this entitlement reviewed in recent past and its impact.

Ans. As per Protected Forest Rules 1986, the Tribals of these Islands are entitled to collect forest produces free of cost for their domestic consumption. The local tribals have not shown any interest in commercial exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

Marketing

- 15 (a.) Please state what institutional arrangements have been made to regulate the marketing of produce collected by SCs/STs from reserved forest or forest under occupation of SCs/STs, agricultural produce and its marketing?

Ans: There are no forest produce worthwhile in the Nicobars District which can be collected by the tribals for the purpose of trade. As far as the marketing of agricultural produces is concerned, the Nicobarese do it through their own marketing societies at village level which is affiliated to Central Co-operative Societies, i.e., EHL and MML. There are 30 primary marketing societies 15 each at Car-Nicobar and Nancowry group of islands. All the head of families of Nicobarese tribes are members of respective village level societies. They sell their agricultural produces like Coconut and Bettlenut to EHL & MML through their respective primary Co-operative societies.