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No.F.20(G-I)/1-Vol.XV/ 480
**OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
VAN SADAN, HADDO**

23rd
Port Blair, dated the 22nd Sept., 2005

To
The Director (Tribal Welfare),
Andaman & Nicobar Administration,
Port Blair.

Sub:- Comments on the letter from Shri Samir Acharya and others regarding violation of Supreme Court's orders and marginalisation of the Jarawas addressed to Chairperson, NAC – regarding.

Ref:- Your letter No. 1-752/2002-TW/1484 dated 20.9.2005.

Sir,

With reference to your letter cited above, I am directed to furnish herewith the comments of the Department of Environment & Forests on the matters pertaining to the department mentioned in the letter dated 28.7.2005 from Shri Samir Acharya and others addressed to the Chairperson, National Advisory Council:

1. **Non-closure of Andaman Trunk Road:** The matter of keeping the Andaman Trunk Road in operation has also been taken up with the Hon'ble Supreme Court through I.A.918 of 2003. The matter is still pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.
2. **Appropriate construction technology for Andaman & Nicobar Islands and reduction in mining of sand:** The construction agencies have been directed to change their designs to make use of alternative building materials. For the purpose of construction of timber and bamboo based 'Assam Type' constructions recommended by Shekhar Singh Commission, solid/ thick-walled bamboos are required, which are not available in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. However, the Department has initiated action for raising solid/thick-walled bamboos such as *Bambusa bambos* and *Dendrocalamus strictus* in its Annual Plan Programmes. The Department of Environment & Forests has already changed its designs of residential quarters based on timber and is implementing the recommendations of Shekhar Singh Commission.

Regarding mining of sand, the Supreme Court vide its order dated 7.5.2002 has ordered for reduction of quantum of extraction to 1/3rd of the level of extraction in 2001-2002 over a period of 5 years, and this is being implemented. The Sand Allotment Committee headed by the Chief Secretary makes allotment taking the direction of the Supreme Court into consideration.