

(19) 9 (169)

of trees shall be commenced only after obtaining the approval of the Working Plans by the Hon'ble Court, as directed by the Court vide its order dated 7th May, 2002,

14. That with regard to recommendation (7) to meet the local needs of timber by harvesting the monoculture plantations of teak, gurjan and padauk, it is submitted by the Administration that firstly, most of the plantations are of younger age group, and have not completed the rotation required for harvest, which is 100 years for padauk and ranging between 60 to 80 years for teak. Secondly, most of the plantations are of ornamental timber like teak and padauk, which cannot meet the requirement of structural timber, due to prohibitive costs. Thirdly, the growth of teak in Andamans is poor and the yield will be very low compared to plantations of same age in other parts of the country. Moreover, there are no plantations of gurjan, in the Andaman and Nicobar islands, as stated in the report,

15. That with regard to recommendation (8), the Administration submits that no new monoculture activities of any species is being carried out now. This is applicable to cultivation of teak since 1983, of Red Oil Palm since 1985 and of Rubber since 1978. The Shekhar Singh Commission has recommended closure of the A & N Islands Forest & Plantation Development Corporation Ltd. (ANIFPDC). In this connection, it is submitted that the ANIFPDC was established in the year 1977 to work the forest area in Little Andaman including harvesting and regenerating the forests in this remote island. It also implemented the Red Oil Palm Plantation Project approved by the Govt. of India. The Corporation has successfully harvested and regenerated the