

forests in Little Andaman including raising of Red Oil Palm Plantation over 1650 ha and establishment of a Red Oil Palm Processing factory. The Corporation also works in North Andaman forests. The Corporation employs directly about 2000 people and the proposed recommendation to close down ANIFPDC will result in loss of livelihood to about 2000 families and will cause immense distress to affected families. Moreover, the suggested closure of the ANIFPDC, together with concomitant closure of the Red Oil Palm cultivation will impinge very adversely upon the entire economy of Little Andaman. It is also likely to result in loss of employment opportunities to others settled in Little Andaman. The Corporation has the experience, expertise and the necessary skill to work in forest harvesting, regeneration and eco-tourism for which, they are eminently suitable and can complement the efforts of the A & N Islands Forest Department establishing appropriate synergy between the two. Hence closure of ANIFPDC will not only result in loss of jobs to a large number of people leading to socio-economic problems but will also lead to loss of expertise in scientific forestry working and management,

16. That the recommendation (9), to make efforts to reduce the demand for timber and firewood and to convert to wood and bamboo based 'Assam Type' constructions which are less timber intensive and safer in earthquakes will receive serious consideration of the Administration. With the reduction in the extraction of sand, in compliance with the direction of the Hon'ble Court, the RCC constructions will automatically get reduced in number, in future. With the setting up of LPG Bottling Plant in the islands, which is in