

linking Port Blair with Baratang and the islands beyond to the North.

16. The Petitioner further submits that the Andaman & Nicobar Administration had sent a proposal for amendment to the PAT Regulations 1956 to the Union Home Ministry, in July 2010. Under the proposed amendment, the term "buffer zone" is sought to be specifically defined as being an area adjacent to the reserve area as notified under Section 3(1) of the Regulations. The proposed amendment also seeks to clarify the meaning of "commercial activities" by clearly specifying that this term refers to resorts, hotels, restaurants, bars and paying guest accommodations (except Government run guest houses). In light of the comments and suggestions received from Government of India, the Andaman & Nicobar Administration revised the said Amendment Regulation, and again forwarded it to Government of India (Ministry of Home Affairs) on 19.11.10, where it is currently under consideration. The Draft Amendment Regulation is annexed hereto as **Annexure - 5**. The Petitioner submits that, even at present, the notification dated 30.10.2007 notifying the buffer zone is being implemented in a manner that is consistent with the clarifications contained in the proposed Amendment, i.e. "commercial" establishments are those which are either hotels, resorts, restaurants, bars, and PG accommodation. The Petitioner submits that this Hon'ble Court may be pleased to accept the interpretation preferred by the Petitioner, as any interpretation to the contrary (where