

operations in the annual coupes such as *thinning, harvesting of timber, plantation* are carried out apart from the collection of NTFP (i.e. *thatching leaves, Bamboo, cane post*) to meet the local demands.

Further the two important ecotourism site – *Lime stone cave and Mud volcano* site, managed under *Eco-tourism over lapping working circle* are now a part of buffer zone. The promotion of eco-tourism in this island was to create awareness among people to achieve the conservation objects as well as to involve the local community and lead to the overall economic development of the area. The ecotourism site – *Lime stone cave and Mud volcano* has attracted large number of tourist as well have improved the economic condition of many inhabitant of Baratang Island. At present about 19 tourist boats are operating in this area and more than 100 persons are directly and indirectly involved in the eco-tourism activity carried out by the department under *Eco-tourism over lapping working circle*.

All the above referred works prescribed in the working plan of this division is carried out under various *plan schemes* funded by state plan for which provisions has been made in the *five year plan*.

The notification of buffer zone and subsequent order of The Hon'ble Supreme Court *needs clarification* whether the forest activities carried out as per the prescription in the working plan and funded by state plan attracts A & N I (PAT) amendment regulation 2012.

5. Problem faced:-

The buffer zone area notified was not yet demarcated in the field.

6. Suggestion

- Redefining the definition "Commercial establishment" under sub section (ba) (ii) of section 2 of the A&NI (PAT) amendment regulation 2012 and to specify the Government establishment as non commercial establishment.