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**Reply to the letter No. F.10 (G-I)/70/549 dated 04/10/2006 from
the Chief Conservator of Forests (Planning & Development)
addressed to the Director (TW)**

- (i) The varieties of non-wood and animal products traditionally used by tribes and handicrafts.

The Primitive Tribal Group (PTG) of A&N Islands have the handicrafts like bows and arrows, wooden buckets and small implements to collect roots etc. from the forest. The PTG includes tribes like Andamanese, Onges, Jarawa, Sentinelese and Shompen. The PTGs other than Jarawa make canoes. The Nicobarese being the advanced tribe of these islands make variety of handicrafts, which include mat, canoes etc. The tribes of the islands make use of the plants available in the forest.

The details of the variety of the plants may be available with the Directorate of Industries, A & N Administration.

- (ii) Tribal knowledge about forests regarding identification of plant species particularly medicinal, availability and quality of non-wood products etc.

With regard to the tribal knowledge about the forests relating to identification of the plant species particularly medicinal ones, it is mentioned that the tribes do have traditional wisdom. This indigenous knowledge needs to be studied and documented by the research organizations.

The Anthropological Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India located in Port Blair may have carried out researches into related fields. As such the required information could be obtained from these research organizations.

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para (i) of Annexure - III-A - livelihood before and after tsunami relating to Tribal communities.

There are two categories among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) of A & N Islands viz. the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) and a advanced tribe. The Nicobarese belonging to the second category while the remaining five STs viz. Andamanese, Onges, Jarawa, Sentinelese and Shompens belong to the first category. Among the PTGs, Andamanese and Onges have been settled in the Strait Island and Dugong Creek in Little Andaman respectively.

The tsunami destroyed the houses of Onges and Andamanese while the coconut plantation raised for the above said tribes was not damaged to any considerable extent. These two tribes were being provided with free ration, cloths etc. apart from other