



R Narayanaswami,

मुख्य सचिव  
Chief Secretary

Sl. No. 611

By Regd. Post.

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D. O. No.

No.1-566/2000-TW/ 588

अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION

पोर्ट ब्लेयर

PORT BLAIR - 744 101

Dated the 16th June, 2000.

Dear

Shri Narul,

Kindly refer to your D.O letter No.16015/3/2000-TDB dated 23rd May, 2000 regarding follow up action taken on the recommendations / observations contained in the 5th report of the Standing committee on labour and welfare concerning Ministry of Tribal Affairs. In view of the situation prevailing the tribal areas of this UT, our comments on the recommendations are given below :-

**2.71 Leasing out of the Forest Divisions / Ranges to Private Parties / Contractors:-**

As per this Administration's notification No.ANPATR/3(1)/1 dated 2nd April, 1957 the Tribal area inhabited by the Tribals in A & N Islands has been declared as reserved area under the A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation Act, 1956. However, subsequently some areas in South and Middle Andaman, Little Andaman, Katchal and Great Nicobar Islands were excluded from the tribal reserved area for settlement of refugees from Bangladesh, Srilankan repatriates etc. The tribal reserved area is mostly covered by the forests, so the tribal reserved area has also been declared as reserved / protected forests by the Forest department. In other words, the tribal reserved area and reserved forests are one and the same wherever the tribal reserved area is covered by the forests. So the forest law is applicable to the forests in the tribal reserved area.

There is no working plan in respect of the forests in the tribal reserved area both in Nicobars Forestry Division and South Andaman Forestry Division. The cane and bamboo are the only significant minor forest produce, which can be commercially exploited, and they are available in the forest falling under the tribal reserved area. The Forest Department has not reportedly leased out any area for extraction of cane and bamboo to any private party / contractor. The tribals do not exploit the above minor forest produces for commercial purpose. If they come forward to do so, they will have to make payment of royalty prescribed for extraction of the MFP under the Forest law. However, there is no restriction on collection of minor forest produce free of royalty by the tribals for their bonafide use.

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