Dear Anindo,

As you are aware, beekeeping activities are being carried out by the farmers/beekeepers in rural areas as an activity in Integrated Farming System (IFS). You would also be aware that honeybees are crucial foragers/pollinators, towards increasing the income of the farmers by increasing the yield of various agricultural and horticultural crops through pollination support. Further, it provides honey and other beehive products, viz. royal jelly, bee pollen, propolis, bee wax, bee venom etc., which generates income & employment for beekeepers/ rural people and serves as a source of their livelihoods.

2. Keeping in view the importance of beekeeping, a component “Pollination Support through Beekeeping” has been incorporated in the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) of this Deptt. for development of Scientific Beekeeping in the country. Further, National Bee Board (NBB), re-constituted by this Department, has been recognized as a nodal agency for overall development/ promotion of Scientific Beekeeping. On its part, the National Bee Board (NBB) has issued identify cards to its member beekeepers/firms/societies, etc., and initiated Nation-wide registration of beekeepers & issuing Registration Certificates. Further, Beekeeping has been recognized as one of the important activities which can contribute in doubling farmers income.

3. Due to varied climatic conditions and cropping patterns in the country, it becomes necessary to transport/ migrate bee colonies from one place/State to other place/State. Often complaints are received from the beekeepers/farmers that they are facing lot of problems relating theft of bee colonies, hardships at check-posts by the officials & police & harassment by the DFOs of Forest Department during the transportation of bee colonies & honey/ beehive products as well as placing of Apiary in the fields/crops. This has become a cause of concern to the farmers/beekeepers. The State Governments have been, from time to time, requested to issue directions to all the concerned authorities in the States to address these problems to allow transport/ migration of bee colonies & beehive products without any hindrance and to facilitate/protect them for doing this valuable activity easily in the States.

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4. You are requested to issue suitable instructions to the Departments of Horticulture/Agriculture, Police, Forest, Revenue and other/line Departments, involved in beekeeping, so that the transportation/migration of bee colonies & beehive products is allowed without any hindrance at check posts by the officials of Forest, Police, etc. and also protection from theft, etc., to promote beekeeping in a big way in the State. Action taken in the matter may be communicated to this Department.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely

(Jalaj Shrivastava)

Shri A. Majumdar
Chief Secretary
UT of Andaman & Nicobar Islands,
Port Blair.