

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1971-72)**

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

EIGHTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**Action taken by Government on the recommendations
contained in the Hundred and Twenty-Eighth
Report of the Estimates Committee on the
Ministry of Home Affairs—Union Territory
of Andaman and Nicobar Islands**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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CORRIGENDA

To

8th Report of Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs - Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 128th Report of the Committee on the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Page (iv), S.No. 29, for 'Shri Nanjibhai Ravjibhai Bekaria' read 'Shri Nanjibhai Ravjibhai Vekaria'.

Page 4, line 6, for 'Netaji' Bubhas Chandra Bose' read 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose'.

Page 4, line 4 from bottom, for 'Secrearies' read 'Secretaries'.

Page 6, line 14, for 'the' read 'thé'.

Page 8, line 17, for 'Forestray' read 'Forestry'.

Page 8 line 6, from bottom, for 'en' read 'on'.

Page 9, line 12, for 'not' read 'note'.

Page 9, line 9 from bottom, for 'State' read 'state'.

Page 10, line 7 from bottom, for 'comprehentive' read 'comprehensive'.

Page 12, line 14 from bottom, for 'equipments' .. read 'equipments'.

Page 13, line 14, for 'prerennial' read 'perennial'.

Page 13, line 5 from bottom, for 'menace' read 'menace'.

Page 16, line 10, for 'There' read 'The'.

Page 19, line 15 from bottom, delete the words 'from the' appearing after the words 'should be brought out'.

P.T.O.

Page 19, line 11 from bottom, for 'Gellulow' read 'Cellular'.

Page 23, line 22, add '(before the words 'both passenger and Cargo)'.
Page 24, line 18, for 'beign' read 'being'.

Page 24, line 2 from bottom, for 'tehse' read 'these'.

Page 26, line 6 from bottom, for '. The' read ', the'.

Page 32, line 11 from bottom, add 'no' before the word 'notice'.

Page 36, line 15, for 'panāsh' read 'potāsh'.

Page 36, line 16, for 'alkaling' read 'alkaline'.

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(1971-72)

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(iv)

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STUDY GROUP 'E'
(ESTIMATES COMMITTEE)
(1971-72)

CONVENER

Shri A. K. M. Ishaque

MEMBERS

2. Shri Krishna Chandra Halder
3. Shri Asghar Husain
4. Shri Hemendra Singh Banera
5. Shri Narendra Singh Bisht
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11. Shri Shibban Lal Saksena
12. Shri R. R. Sharma
13. Shri Shiv Kumar Shastri
14. Shri C. M. Stephen
15. Shri Nanjibhai Ravjibhai Vekaria

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee, present this Report of the Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

2. The Hundred and Twenty-eighth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on the 20th May, 1970. Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on the 30th December, 1970 and 17th February, 1971, respectively. The replies were examined by Study Group 'E' of the Estimates Committee (1971-72) at their sitting held on the 22nd July, 1971.

3. The draft Report was adopted by the Estimates Committee (1971-72) on the 28th July, 1971.

4. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters:—

I. Report.

II. Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government.

III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.

5. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Hundred and Twenty-eighth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha) is given in the Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of the 77 recommendations made in the Report, 67 recommendations, i.e. 87 per cent. have been accepted by the Government; the Committee do not desire to pursue 10 recommendations, i.e. 13 per cent. in view of Government's replies.

NEW DELHI—I;

July 29, 1971

Sravana 7, 1893 (Saka)

KAMAL NATH TEWARI
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

The Estimates Committee are glad to observe that the recommendations contained in their Hundred and Twenty-eighth Report (Fourth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, have been generally accepted by the Government.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sr. No. 1, Para No. 1.23)

The Committee appreciate the difficult task in handing the hostile tribes in order to improve their lot. They trust that sustained efforts would be made by Government to preserve and develop the unique tribes of these Islands keeping in view the individual requirements of each tribe and as the exigencies of the situation may demand. They would like to suggest that the cooperation of societies established for the welfare of tribal people such as the Bhartiya Adim Jati Seva Sangh may be sought by requesting them to send experienced social workers to work among these tribes for establishing closer contacts with them. Government may also examine the feasibility of deputing social anthropologists, well acquainted with the past history and cultural background of these tribes to study their conditions and to suggest suitable remedies for effecting improvement in their living conditions.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been accepted by Government.

2. In fact two representatives of the Bhartiya Adim-Jati Sevak Sangh are already working in Little Andaman and Strait Island with the Onges and the Andamanese respectively. The Andaman & Nicobar Administration are also trying to obtain the services of other social workers willing to work in the tribal areas.

3. A sub-station of anthropological Survey of India exists at Port Blair. This office is co-operating actively with the Andaman & Nicobar Administration in the matter of extending peaceful contacts

with 'hostile' and 'partially hostile' tribes in the Islands. An officer of the Deptt. of Anthropology has also gone to the Islands to undertake studies regarding Shompens.

4. Government have framed guidelines to establish contacts with the Jarawas, to study their language and to befriend them. Some response has already been noticed. A Social Anthropologist will also be deputed to the Islands as soon as the Administration get hold of some Jarawas.

[MHA. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 2, Para No. 1.26)

The Committee note that Government are aware of the strategic importance of the islands. They would, however, like to point out that these islands sprawling over the Bay of Bengal and the Indian ocean have acquired further strategic importance after the withdrawal of British Naval forces from the Indian ocean. The Committee feel that establishment of a naval unit and posting of a naval officer will hardly meet the needs of the situation. As Nancowri has all the facilities and potential for development as a very good harbour, the Committee recommend the Government to examine the feasibility of opening a naval base at Nancowri.

Reply of Government

Government are fully aware of the strategic importance of these islands and accept the principle underlying the recommendation made by the Committee.

[MHA. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 3, Para No. 1.31)

The Committee are glad to note that the Government are taking action to improve the dilapidated condition of the Cellular Jail in the Andaman Island. They also hope that early decision will be taken by the Government in regard to its maintenance as a National monument to commemorate the sufferings undertaken and sacrifices made by hundreds of the freedom-fighters of India in the Jail.

Reply of Government

It has been decided to preserve the Central Tower and the existing three wings of the Cellular Jail as a national monument.

[MHA. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 4, Para No. 1.33)

The Committee hope that Government would raise a suitable monument at Port Blair to commemorate the visit of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose to these Islands, as early as possible.

Reply of Government

It has been decided to erect a statue of Netaji Bubhas Chandra Bose at Port Blair. The details are being worked out in consultation with Lalit Kala Akademi.

[MHA. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 5, Para No. 2.6)

During their tour to these islands, the Committee visited a number of islands both in the Andaman and Nicobars and it was observed that (i) all the islands are scattered over a large area with Long stretches of high seas in between, (ii) the population is also rapidly increasing with the execution of developmental schemes in these islands for the resettlement of refugees from East Pakistan, etc. and (iii) means of communication being scarce in these islands as compared to the mainland. Keeping in view these factors, the Committee would like Government to consider delegating more powers to the Additional Deputy Commissioner at Car Nicobar and the Assistant Commissioner at Nancowri, without affecting the existing set up, to enable them to take independent and quick decisions in the interest of smooth administration of these islands. —

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been accepted and action is being taken accordingly.

[MHA. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 6, Para No. 2.8)

The Development Commissioner-cum-Development Secretary is designated as Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, similarly other Secretaries have been designated as Secretaries to the Chief Commissioner. The Committee feel that this is an anomalous position and all the Secretaries should be redesignated as Secretaries to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been accepted and the needful has been done.

[MHA. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 7, Para No. 2.17)

The Committee note that the Chief Commissioner exercises all the necessary financial and administrative powers which have been delegated to him by the Central Government from time to time regarding incurring of expenditure, appropriation and re-appropriation of funds, public works, purchase of stores, conditions of service of employees etc. etc. in respect of departments and offices in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Matters which are not covered by the delegated powers have to be referred to the Central Government for approval and orders. The Committee would like Government to review periodically the position with a view to see that the powers delegated to the Chief Commissioner are adequate to meet the day-to-day requirements of the Administration to maintain the tempo of developmental activities and their speedy execution and that they cater to the needs of the people.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted for taking appropriate action.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL. dated 30th Dec., 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 9, Para No. 2.32)

The Committee agrees with the finding of the Administrative Reforms Commission Study Team that there is a considerable over-staffing in the Chief Commissioner's Secretariat and the District Administration. The Committee feel that the work study done in the main office of the Chief Commissioner as early as in 1964 has become out of date. They need hardly stress the utility and necessity of the work study afresh to lay down norms and quantum of output of work expected of every person to enable the Administration to fix staff strength commensurate with the volume of work and population. They would, therefore, urge upon the Government to undertake the work study at the various levels at an early date.

Reply of Government

A Team of officers from the Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance is proposed to be deputed to undertake the work study of the Chief Commissioner's Secretariat and basic data are being collected.

2. The work relating to assessment of work-load and requirement of staff in the various offices under the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has been taken up by the Study Cell of the Chief Commissioner's Secretariat which started functioning w.e.f. 16-4-1970.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL dated 30th Dec., 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 10, Para No. 2.36)

The Committee note that there is a wide gap between the revenue and expenditure. They trust that the affairs of the Municipal Board will be managed efficiently and economically so far as the budget gap is concerned. The Committee are of the opinion that with more and more developmental activities in these islands, the economic position is bound to improve and enable the Municipal Board to raise their resources.

Reply of Government

This has been noted. The Municipal Board has been asked to improve its resources and their efforts will be watched.

[MHA O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 11, Para No. 2.49)

The Committee note that both the Advisory Committee are functioning well and that it has been decided that one of the meetings of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee will be held in the Island from time to time.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated 30th Dec., 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 12, Para No. 2.50)

The Committee recommend that the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee should be made broad-based by giving adequate representations to various interests in the islands so that it would be able to reflect the hopes and feelings of the people more effectively. It is therefore, necessary that the constitution of the Advisory Committee be changed so as to increase its membership and give it more powers to make its deliberations more fruitful.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee regarding enlargement of the composition of the Advisory Committee is acceptable to Government and will be implemented when the Advisory Committee for 1971-72 is constituted.

2. As regards giving more powers to the Advisory Committee, instructions will be issued to the Administration to ensure that all important matters are adequately examined in the Committee and that Committee's recommendations are given full weight.

[MHA O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 13, Para No. 2.52)

The Committee recommend that the Annual General Administration Report of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be more exhaustive and give upto date information of the various activities of the Administration. The Report should be printed and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha before the Demand for Grants of Home Ministry come up for discussion in the House.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance and Andamans Administration has been instructed to take appropriate action in time.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated 30th December 1970]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 14, Para No. 3.9)

The Committee regret to note that the percentage of variations both between the original and revised estimates and the revised estimates and actual expenditure incurred under most of the

sub-heads of revenue and capital grants is quite high. It is surprising that these variations have been showing an upward trend during the last three years. This underlines the need for preparing the Budget with care and on realistic basis.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated 30th Dec., 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 16, Para No. 4.15)

The Committee suggest that the Central Forestry Wing should chalk-out an integrated plan for the systematic development of forests in these Islands by promoting infra-structure i.e. improved communications, modern logging equipments and other techniques in forest operations etc. on the one hand and by introducing plantations of suitable economic and industrial species and bringing the forest area under scientific management after proper survey demarcation and enumeration of forests on the other. The Committee trust that for a long-term venture like Forestray, Government would ensure suitable ways and means to be adopted to make valuable adequate funds perenially which in turn would ensure sustained development of forests in these Islands. The timber extraction should also be organised in a business like manner so as to avoid waste and ensure economy, efficiency and fair return.

Reply of Government

This has been accepted.

Incidentally it may be pointed out that, as indicated in reply to Sl. No. 15, para 4:14, the Government have decided to send a "Study Team of Experts" to examine and suggest rational methods for determination of royalty on the departmental extraction of timber, to consider the question of price-fixation, etc. Besides, another Team of officers is also proposed to be deputed to Andamans simultaneously to study silviculture, logging and utilisation to prepare an integrated plan for working the forests of these Islands an modern lines by promotion of infra-structure like improved communication, use of modern logging techniques, etc. The survey and demarcation of the forest areas in the Andaman Islands has also been undertaken as a separate Scheme under the Fourth Five Year Plan.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 19, Para No. 4.29)

The Committee hope that in view of the heavy rains in these Islands and the soil being susceptible to erosion, the Administration will take suitable precautionary measures to avoid soil erosion in the process of execution of the new schemes for reclamation and rehabilitation of forest areas which are at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

[MHA O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 20, Para No. 4.33)

The Committee note that the ornamental timber constitutes only 5 per cent of the forest and hence exploitation of only this timber is limited but in view of the fact that it sells at a profit, as admitted by the Inspector General of Forests, every effort should be made to extract as much ornamental timber as possible to encourage development of good handicrafts in the interest of economic development of those islands.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

[MHA O. M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 21, Para No. 5.18)

The Committee need hardly emphasise that the economic growth and prosperity of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to a large extent depends mainly on its ability to increase the agricultural production. Considering the vast potential of the islands, the present State of development in the field of agriculture can hardly be regarded as adequate. The Committee feel that prospects for agricultural development in these Islands are very bright both in the nature of intensive exploitation of the existing lands by organising appropriate inputs as well as bringing fresh areas under cultivation by the clearance of forests.

Reply of Government

Noted. A Central Team of Agricultural Experts on Development of Agriculture in Andaman and Nicobar Islands visited the Islands

and has submitted their Report which will be kept in view in drawing up agricultural development plans.

[MHA O. M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 22, Para No. 5.19)

The Committee are, however, glad to note that the Administration has put 'Self-sufficiency in rice, pulses, vegetables etc.' as their target. They hope that concerted efforts will be made towards achieving the same.

Reply of Government

Has been noted for compliance.

[MHA O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 23, Para No. 5.34)

The Committee are of the view that if any clearance of forests on a wide scale is done, it would lead to erosion. These areas are susceptible to erosion and soil-washing takes place quickly and hence clearance of forests, for any purpose, has to be done very cautiously.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 24, Para No. 5.35)

The Committee are, at the same time, unhappy to note that the small-scale demonstration work in soil conservation has yet to be followed up by organised soil conservation programme on full-scale. The Committee are of the opinion that the provision of loan for implementing soil conservation programme on an individual basis in each cultivator's small holding will not serve the purpose in view. This will require technical assistance, side by side, to help the cultivator to understand the technique behind it. A comprehensive programme of soil conservation is urgently called for.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

The Central Team of Agricultural Experts which visited these Islands considered this aspect and their report is being examined.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 25, Para No. 5.53)

The Committee are unhappy to note that Government have undertaken a development programme for fisheries without undertaking any survey so far to assess the potentiality of fisheries in the seas around these Islands. They need hardly stress that a survey is an essential pre-requisite of any development programme that may be envisaged in this regard particularly with a view to see its economic and commercial viability. The Committee would therefore urge that survey to assess the potentiality of development of fisheries around the Islands may be undertaken as expeditiously as possible.

Reply of Government

A scheme for development of Deep Sea Survey Unit at Port Blair has been included in the 4th Plan. The Unit is expected to be set up during the current year.

[MHA O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 26, Para No. 5.54)

The Committee regret to note that the Fishermen Cooperatives are suffering largely due to lack of leadership amongst the members who are unaware of the cooperative principles on which the movement is to be led to progress. The statement of the Administration that they have no adequate know-how for this work either, is rather surprising. The Committee feel that guidance could have been sought by the Administration in this respect from the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Cooperation and Community Development so that the Fishermen Cooperatives could have made some progress in achieving the aims for which they were established. The Committee hope that necessary steps will now be taken in this regard to boost up the cooperative movement in these Islands.

Reply of Government

The recommendation that steps should be taken to stimulate and organize the cooperative movement in the field of fisheries in the Islands is accepted. A review of the position will be made by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation in consultation with Andaman Administration and suitable programme framed.

[MHA O. M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 27, Para No. 5.55)

The Committee are glad to learn that Government have started a training scheme to train the local fishermen in modern methods of fishing. They, however, recommend that a regular training centre may be opened and an in-training syllabus may be drawn up for this purpose. Apart from sending people for training in the Central Institute of Fisheries at Ernakulam, they would suggest that the services of trained teachers from that Institute may be requisitioned to train the people in the proposed training centre.

Reply of Government

A scheme for opening a training Centre in the fisheries sector has been included in the 4th Plan. It is proposed to send a departmental employee for next course of Teachers' training in fisheries at Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives, Ernakulam.

[MHA O. M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 28, Para No. 5.56)

The Committee also recommend that immediate effective steps should be taken to induct mechanised fishing boats with modern fishing gear and the existing vacuum in the technical know-how should be removed as early as possible so that the landings of fish in these islands might increase considerably. Efforts should also be made to develop deep sea fishing. They would also suggest that arrangements may also be made for giving publicity in improved practices, fishing gear and equipments etc. by holding fairs and exhibitions from time to time.

Reply of Government

1. Twenty mechanised fishing boats (30' and 36') are expected to be received by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration by the end of 1971.

2. For deep sea fishing, an exploratory survey unit is proposed to be established in the immediate future.

3. Suggestion of the committee regarding publicity have been noted and will be implemented.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 29, Para No. 5.57)

They would also suggest that a repair workshop may be opened in a suitable central place in the Islands to undertake minor repairs

of mechanised boats etc. to save time and money in sending them to workshops in the mainland.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted and is being examined. Provision has been made under the Accelerated Development Programme for three workshop at various centres. Detailed plans for th workshops have been furnished to the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 30, Para No. 5.62)

The Committee are of the opinion that coffee cultivation may be encouraged on a small scale for local consumption, while schemes may be formulated for boosting the plantation of fruits which are of prerenial nature, on improved technique introduction in their management, to obtain better and quick increases in yields.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 31, Para No. 5.63)

The Committee feel that great effort is needed to make these Islands self-sufficient in vegetables. The cultivators have to be encouraged, given technical assistance, monetary help, supply of good quality high yielding varieties of seeds and sufficient quality of fertilisers together with requisite quantity of insecticides and pesticides to control the diseases.

Reply of Government

this has been noted.

2. It has been decided to extend the area of cultivation by another 200 hectares during the 4th Plan period.

3. The main problem being faced is the manace of the Giant African Snail during the rainy season.

4. Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control, Bangalore Centre has been requested to depute its Entomologist in-charge to visit the Islands and advise the Andaman and Nicobar Administra-

tion on the biological measures to be taken to combat the snail menace.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 32, Para No. 5.79)

The Committee regret to note that these Islands are facing acute scarcity of milk for a long time and nothing could be done for want of cattle carrier. In view of the fact that milk is a "must" for a balanced diet, the Committee strongly feel that there is need for a crash programme for cattle and dairy development which will have a substantial impact on milk production so that the minimum requirement of milk per capita may be achieved as early as possible. The Committee consider that the grading up of cow and thereby raising the milk yield is a necessity and, therefore, they hope that the programme for starting a composite farm will be undertaken by Government at an early date.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted. The problem of cattle carrier has been solved for the time being by installing cattle-pens in M.V. 'Nicobar'. 137 milch animals have already been brought to the islands and about 321 more are proposed to be brought during the current year. In addition, eighty milch animals under the Normal Area Development programme will also be brought for supply to the needy and deserving persons.

2. It is proposed to set up a Composite Livestock Farm under the Accelerated Development Programme at Little Andaman. Preliminary work in connection with the establishment of the farm is expected to be started next year.

3. It is proposed to intensify cattle development activities during the Fourth Plan period by establishing four more Key Village Units in South Andaman and five such units in North and Middle Andaman.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 33, Para No. 5.85)

The Committee note that the requirement of plough cattle of all the settlers from 1949 to 1961 were fully met but after 1960 there has been a paucity of plough animals in these islands and it has not

been possible to import these work animals from the mainland. The Committee need hardly stress the indispensability of these work animals in agriculture, without which it will be impossible to make any progress in this field. They, therefore, recommend that every effort should be made by the Administration to provide at least a pair of plough animals to each family as early as possible.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted. Out of 555 families being resettled under the Special Areas Development Programme, 480 families have already been able to purchase plough animals out of the loan assistance given to them and the remaining 75 families will purchase the same in due course. Subsidy is granted on the total cost of plough cattle incurred by the settlers including the cost on transportation and other incidental charges from mainland port to the port of unloading. Free deck/bunk passage is also allowed from mainland port to Port Blair at the rate of one passage for escorting five dry animals.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 34, Para No. 5.88)

The Committee are unhappy to note that instead of taking steps to avoid recurring losses in running a poultry farm, it was closed down. As the poultry provides a source of rich protein for improving the levels of nutrition and is also helpful in giving gainful employment to people both in rural and urban areas, the Committee would urge that the preliminary report of the Poultry Development Officer should be examined early and a proper programme drawn up so that people of these Islands could take up poultry farming as a subsidiary occupation.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted. It is proposed to set up a poultry farm under the Accelerated Development Programme. A scheme for development of poultry farming has also been included in the Fourth Plan. During the current year the scheme envisages distribution of 100 exotic male birds and two thousand hatching eggs at subsidised rates. It is also proposed to supply 30 units of 10 hens and 2 cocks each at subsidised rates and 12 units of 4 ducks and one drake at subsidised rates.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 35, Para No. 5.92)

The Committee realise the difficulty of the agriculturists in regard to damage being done by the wild animals. They feel that to meet this menace, there should be cooperative endeavour by the cultivators and Government. They would, however, like Government to draw up a scheme to meet this menace in conjunction with the cultivators and extend all possible assistance to the cultivators in this regard.

Reply of Government

There recommendation has been noted and the Administration will do everything possible to meet this menace in consultation with people concerned.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 36, Para No. 6.18)

The Committee are distressed to find that the Andaman and Nicobar Administration has been involved in a series of litigation with Akoojee Jadwat & Company on account of which Government cannot proceed with their plans to improve the lot of the Nicobarese and save them from economic exploitation.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

(MHA. O. M. No. 21|61|70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970)

Recommendation (Sr. No. 37, Para No. 6.32)

The Committee note that the existing wood based industries have come up with reference to the availability of timber on sustained basis. The Andaman forests are rich in plywood and matchwood species but so far only three plywood factories, all in the private sector, have been established at Bambooflat near Port Blair (South Andaman), Long Island (Middle Andaman), and Bakultale (Middle Andaman). The only other wood based industry, at present, is the match-splint factory at Port Blair. There are some small saw mills in addition to the Chatham Saw Mill. There is a vast scope for setting up of several wood based industries in the Little Andamans and Great Nicobar. The forests in Little Andaman are extremely rich in different species of commercial timber and can easily support a complex of wood based industries on a sustained basis.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee is noted. Necessary action is in progress to examine the feasibility of setting up wood-based industries in the Islands.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 38, Para No. 6.33)

The Committee are unhappy to note that in spite of all abundant natural resources no serious thinking has so far been done to develop the forest based as also cottage industries in these Islands. The Committee consider that forest-based industries can be effectively developed to provide employment to the people in the rural areas which are located close to the forests. They recommend that a phased programme should be drawn up to develop the forest based industries as also cottage industries keeping in view the recommendations made by the Inter-Department Team on Accelerated Development programme for Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the programme may be implemented as per Schedule drawn up for that purpose.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 39, Para No. 6.34)

The Committee are not happy about the performance of Saw Mills, particularly the Saw Mill at Chatham. They would like to endorse the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee contained in their Seventy-fourth and Ninety-sixth Reports (Fourth Lok Sabha) about the working of these Saw Mills and expect Government to take concerted remedial measures to tone up their working.

Reply of Government

Noted. The recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee as contained in their 74th and 96th Reports (Fourth Lok Sabha) about the working of the Saw Mills, and adoption of concerted remedial measures to tone up their working are under consideration of Government.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 40, Para No. 6.37)

The Committee hope that every effort will be made to achieve the targets fixed for the full operational period of 14 years to bring 6000 acres under the Rubber Plantation so that the Project may yield the desired return and at the same time provide employment to the proposed 100 or more repatriate families from Ceylon

Reply of Government

The working plan for the Katchal Project and the areas to be brought under rubber every year are being finalised and every effort will be made to achieve the targets fixed. The 6000 acres of rubber in Katchal are expected to offer regular employment to about 2,000 persons and it is proposed to settle about 1,000 families of Ceylon repatriates under the said Project.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 41, Para No. 6.40)

The Committee note with concern that although Coconut and Arecanut are the mainstay of the economy of these Islands, yet there is no open market for these commodities. The representatives of the tribal people should be encouraged to visit the mainland to find a better market and thereby procure better price for their goods. The Committee would like Government to draw up a phased programme to achieve the desired goal, at an early date as it affects the economic growth of the tribals.

Reply of Government

Agricultural Marketing Adviser has been asked to visit the Islands and look into the question. He proposes to make the visit in January, 1971.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 42, Para No. 6.51)

The Committee hope that Government will take all possible steps to encourage the settle cultivators to clear the hilly areas allotted to them for arecanut plantation so that the Arecanut Development Scheme may get momentum.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

2. A scheme to grant financial assistance to settler-cultivators for raising arecanut plantation on scientific lines is proposed to be taken up during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 43, Para No. 6.52)

The Committee note that a pilot scheme has also been drawn up for implementation during 1970-71 which envisages developing horticultural and plantation crops (including arecanut) in cultivators holdings in compact units of five acres each. The committee, however, feel that the success of such schemes depends much on the interest taken by the officers who implement them.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 44, Para No. 6.55)

The Committee would recommend that the Indian Tourist Developing Corporation should be asked to develop facilities for the Indian Tourists. The Department of Tourism should also take active interest in development of tourism in these islands. The work may be coordinated by a 'Tourist Cell' in the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. They also feel that in order to attract tourists at least from the mainland, tourist literature should be brought out from time to time and given due publicity in the mainland through Department of Tourism. A short documentary film showing the various tourist spots, historical monuments and memorials such as Gellulow Jail, life of the tribals, etc. may be produced and shown in big cities of the country with a view to attract tourists to these Islands.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted in principle by the Government.

Steps will be taken to develop tourism in the Islands for Indian tourists.

(MHA. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 45, Para No. 6.56)

The Committee also suggest that Government may consider the feasibility of throwing open to foreign tourists certain parts of An-

daman and Nicobar Islands where a security reasons so permit.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is noted and is being examined.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL dated 30th Dec., 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 46, Para No. 6.59)

The Committee hope that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Geological Survey of India will continue their investigations more vigorously so that oil and natural gas and other valuable minerals could be located to the economic advantage of the country.

Reply of Government

This has been noted, and action is already being taken.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 47, Para No. 6.67)

The Committee need hardly stress the importance of expediting construction of additional tankage for P.O.L. Depot at Port Blair for civil use because it would be mainly the developmental work which would suffer if adequate arrangements do not exist for the supply of petrol and oil as these play a vital role in the economic development of the region as also they are used by heavy vehicles for transport of the products etc. The Committee hope that every effort will be made to complete this project within the target period of two years.

Reply of Government

This has been noted and action is accordingly being taken.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 48, Para No. 6.72)

The Committee hope that a fresh survey of the location and growth of the industrial units will be undertaken at an appropriate time to see whether the Employees State Insurance Scheme can be economically introduced in these Islands.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted and steps are being initiated by Employees' State Insurance Corporation for fresh survey.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 49, Para No. 6.74)

The Committee hope that prompt action will be taken by Government to see that all the eligible establishments are covered by the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, as early as possible.

Reply of Government

In the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, 23 establishments with about 3,000 subscribers are already covered under the Employees' Provident Fund Act, 1952. Instruction have been issued by Central Provident Fund Comissioner for taking prompt action to cover the remaining eligible establishments, if any, under the Act and the Scheme framed thereunder.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 50, Para No. 7.3)

The Committee feel that this is not such a difficult problem which cannot be solved to avoid unnecessary inconvenience to the passengers going by air from one part of the country to another without going through a cumbersome procedure of obtaining Pass Ports. They suggested that some serious re-thinking is necessary in this connection to remove the genuine difficulty of the air passengers.

Reply of Government

It has been decided that short-term passports under section 7 of the Passport Act on the basis of sworn affidavits from the applicants should be issued immediately and the police verification carried out thereafter. For the second time if the police verification has already been finished and there is nothing adverse against the applicants, passports are to be extended for normal period. The question of issued of a special passport to facilitate travel between the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the mainland on reduced fee is being examined.

Efforts will also be made to operate a direct flight to Port Blair as early as possible.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 51, Para No. 7.6)

Keeping in view the necessity of rapid economic development of these islands as also their strategic importance, the Committee recommend that a phased programme for the development of the air

services between the mainland and these islands and inter-island should be chalked out *inter alia* the development of the present runway of the Port Blair Airport, which is not in good condition at present and is unsuitable to receive bigger planes, should be undertaken, as early as possible.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been accepted by Government. Action is being taken to construct airstrips at two more places for administrative needs.

The Port Blair airfield is capable of taking VISCOUNTS which are at present being used by the Indian Airlines on this route. Further strengthening of this airfield will be examined in due course when Indian Airlines decide to use bigger aircraft on this route.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 52, Para No. 7.11)

The Committee feel that Visakhapatnam port is a point which is likely to cater to the large number of passengers and goods. They would therefore like the Government to consider the feasibility of Andaman Passenger Ships touching Visakhapatnam to cater to the needs of those persons who live 200—300 miles away from Madras and have to travel either to Madras or Calcutta to catch the ships for going to Port Blair and *vice-versa*.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been examined in consultation with the Shipping Corporation of India. As substantial portion of earnings from the existing passenger ships constitute freight earned on cargoes from and to Calcutta and Madras, a detailed survey of the expected movement of both passengers and cargo to and from Vishakhapatnam would have to be carried out before a final decision could be taken in the matter. This survey is being undertaken.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 53, Para No. 7.13)

The Committee do not appreciate the point raised by the Shipping Corporation of India for reimbursement of the losses suffered by them in running the Passenger Shipping service from the mainland to these islands and *vice-versa*. Keeping in view the vital

need of expeditious economic development of these islands in the context of overall national development, the Committee feel that the Shipping Corporation, which is making profits on other routes, should not grudge adjusting losses on this side. The Committee feel that in view of the fact that the Ministry of Home Affairs is in overall charge of the Administration of these islands, Government may consider bearing certain portion of the losses involved by way of subsidy. The Committee also suggest that every endeavour should be made to reduce these losses by operating the shipping services more economically and efficiently.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

The whole question of economic running of the shipping services for Andaman & Nicobar Islands is being examined in detail by a Study Group consisting of representatives of various Ministries and Departments concerned.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 54, Para No. 7.18)

The Committee are of the opinion that lack of proper inter-island communication facilities is the biggest handicap in the way of development. This can be removed if more jetties and harbours are constructed and more ships both passenger and cargo) are pressed into service as quickly as possible.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

A special organisation 'Andaman Harbour Works' has been set up for speedy execution of jetties and other harbour facilities in all important islands. A Study Group has been set up to review and assess the requirements of traffic in the Islands.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 55, Para No. 7.19)

The Committee hope that Government would be able to adhere to the target date of March, 1974 for completing all the works which have been sanctioned in the Fourth Plan in regard to the construction of harbours and jetties so that the economic development of these islands gets momentum and alround progress is made rapidly.

Reply of Government

All possible efforts are being made to adhere to the target date.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 56, Para No. 7.25)

The Committee hope that with the increase in the number of Divisions from 2 to 8 in 1969, acquiring 58 lakhs worth of road building equipment and accelerated priority since 1968-69, the Administration will be able to achieve the target and complete construction of 287 Kilometers of roads which are supposed to be very vital in the economic development of these Islands.

Reply of Government

This has been noted and all efforts are being made to achieve the target of 239 Kms. in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 57, Para No. 8.7)

The Committee note that the various schemes for the re-settlement of uprooted migrant families from East Pakistan in the various Islands of Andaman and Nicobar groups of Islands are being implemented but the problem is huge and complicated which requires constant watch to maintain a steady progress. Although various schemes are progressing simultaneously yet much has to be done. They, however, feel that the various rehabilitation schemes could have made more rapid progress had there been closer coordination to implement the accelerated development programmes in these Islands.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 60, Para No. 8.16)

The Committee are happy to note that in selecting ex-servicemen for resettlement in these Islands, territorial considerations are not taken into account. They, however, note that it is a pilot scheme and Government are trying to make it a success. The committee expect Government to give due consideration, for resettlement in these Islands, to the requests from ex-servicemen from all parts of the country.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 63, Para No. 9.16)

The Committee are glad to learn that Science classes will be started in early 1971. They hope that Government would be able to adhere to the time schedule by taking all preliminary steps required to open the Science classes.

Reply of Government

This has been noted. Necessary steps are being taken.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 65, Para No. 9.21)

The Committee are not happy to note that in one of the schools teaching was conducted in Hindi in Roman Script. They would like Government to adopt a uniform policy in regard to the media of instructions in all the schools.

Reply of Government

In all schools under the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, Hindi is taught in Devnagri script. Even in the Nicobar Group of Islands, where perhaps the instance of some tribal teachers using Roman script might have been observed, the instructions are to use Devnagri script for teaching Hindi. It will be ensured that these instructions are carefully observed by all the teachers.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 66, Para No. 9.33)

The Committee appreciate the difficulties of Government in attracting qualified teachers to join the Educational Institutions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They, however, note with satisfaction that necessary steps have already been taken by Government and the present dearth of teachers will be overcome in due course of time.

Reply of Government

No comments.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 67, Para No. 10.31)

The Committee, after visiting some of the places in the Andaman and Nicobar Groups of Islands, are inclined to agree with the observations of the Inter-Departmental Team that in view of great distances of these Islands from the mainland as also inter-island, the provision of adequate health measures assumes great importance. They have noted from the information furnished to them that effective efforts are being made to improve upon the existing Medical facilities and they hope that effective steps would be taken to implement the various schemes already envisaged to augment health services as expeditiously as possible. They would, however, like special attention to be paid to the provision of medical facilities in the remote Islands where it does not exist at present. An endeavour should also be made to post mid-wives and dais in every village as far as possible. They would also recommend that at least one Ambulance should be provided in each Hospital to attend to emergency cases.

Reply of Government

This has been noted and efforts are being made to implement the recommendations as early as possible.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 68, Para No. 10.32)

The Committee note that a dispensary is generally manned by a compounder and a ward attendant and mid-wives and Dais are posted to outlying stations. In order to meet the growing needs of such medical personnel both in hospitals and dispensaries and outlying stations, and to augment their availability. The Committee suggest that training facilities may be provided in Port Blair.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is noted. Training facilities are available in the G. B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair for following courses:—

- (i) Auxiliary Nurse Midwives' Course;

(ii) Compounders' Course; and

(iii) Dais' Course.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 69, Para No. 10.34)

The Committee hope that all possible steps will continue to be taken to keep the dreaded diseases like T.B., Cholera, Small-pox, Malaria etc. under control.

Reply of Government

This has been noted with a view to implementation.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 71, Para No. 10.44)

During their tour to these Islands, representations were made to the Committee to the effect that 'Kaccha' wells should be made 'pucca' and wherever wells were not existing, these may be dug and bunds may be constructed, wherever, possible, to augment the drinking water supply. The Committee are happy to note that steps have been taken by Government to augment the drinking water supply at Port Blair by the construction of Dhanikhari Water Project by 1972. A regards other places also, the Administration have taken steps to improve the drinking water supply.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 72,, Para. No. 10.45)

The Committee note with satisfaction that a provision has been made in the Budget estimates for 1970-71 for construction of wells and that it is proposed to take 117 more wells in different villages during the coming few years. Apart from this piped water supply has been provided to a number of villages in South Andaman. But, from the point of view of Public Health this problem is very important and the Committee hope that efforts will continue to be made to meet the grwing demand for the supply of Drinking Water from the various Islands with the growth of local population as also re-settlement of East Pakistan refugees, Repatriates from Ceylon and Ex-servicemen, in due course of time.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 73, Para No. 11.7)

The Committee are unhappy to note that there has been heavy shortfalls consistently during all the three Plan periods. As against total approved outlay of Rs. 558.050 lakhs, Rs. 603.135 lakhs and Rs. 979.320 lakhs for the First, Second and Third Five Year Plans, the Budget grants were Rs. 120.450 lakhs, Rs. 765.774 lakhs and Rs. 843.925 lakhs and the amount of actual expenditure incurred was only Rs. 85.472 lakhs, Rs. 364.867 lakhs and Rs. 636.202 lakhs respectively. The Committee are not at all convinced with the reasons given for these shortfalls such as lack of experience, delay in sanctions which at best are administrative and could have been overcome with a little more prudence, zeal and imaginative planning on the part of those charged with the responsibility of executing the schemes. They hope that such shortfalls would be avoided in future.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/1/71-ANL, dated February 17, 1971].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 74, Para No. 11.8)

The Committee are all the more unhappy to find that there was no integrated plan for this Union Territory in the First Five Year Plan and that merely two isolated schemes, namely, Road Schemes and Colonisation Scheme, were taken up during that period. It was only from the Second Five Year Plan onwards that planned development in these Islands was undertaken. The Committee would like to stress the importance of having an integrated plan comprising schemes for all round development of this Region with its own peculiar problems because of physical, economic and strategic characteristics. While endorsing the view of the Inter-Departmental Team on Accelerated Development Programme for these Islands that the Area Development Plan in respect of this Territory should necessarily be different from that adopted in national plans, the Committee suggest that in regard to execution of development schemes special attention should be paid to secure the maximum support and cooperation of the people living there so as to inculcate in them a sense of involvement and participation.

Reply of Government

This has been noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 75, Para No. 11.11)

It is needless to over-emphasize the importance attached to the Five Year Plans in boosting the economic development of the country but it all depends upon the successful implementation of the various schemes and achieving the targets laid down. The Committee are not happy over the performance of the first three plans and as such they would like the Government to learn a lesson from their past experience in the execution of the earlier Plans and to proceed with great care, proper planning and top speed to achieve the targets laid down in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 76, Para No. 11.23)

The Committee feel that a lot of work is required to be done to awaken the rural population of these islands and to infuse in them the idea of Panchayat system and the benefits accruing as a result thereof to the whole village community. They hope that effective steps will be taken by Government to make the Panchayat system popular in the villages.

Reply of Government

This has been noted and efforts in that direction are being made.

(M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, Dated 30th December, 1970).

Recommendation (Sr. No. 77, Para No. 11.28)

The Committee hope that with a view to obtain their advice and to ascertain their needs and to give the local inhabitants a feeling of involvement, as far as possible, the State Planning Committee should meet at least twice a year regularly in future.

Reply of Government

This has been noted for compliance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation (Sr. No. 8. Para No. 2.31)

The Committee note with concern that it takes an unduly long time to fill up the vacant technical posts in the Administration due to un-willingness of selected persons to join their duties in these Islands. They would suggest that Government may examine the feasibility of providing more incentives to talented persons with a view to attract suitable personnel from the mainland.

Reply of Government

The matter is being brought to the notice of the Third Pay Commission.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 15, Para No. 4.14)

The Committee note that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are one of those few regions in the country where the percentage of forest area is much higher than the national average. They need hardly stress that these forest possessing valuable timber of commercial importance are vital not merely for the economic development of these Islands but constitute a national asset in view of the present as well as likely future gap between the demand and supply position of the timber for various industrial and other uses in the country. The Committee consider that the efforts put in and the results achieved so far in the direction of forest extraction and development are meagre as compared to the vast forest resources available in these Islands. In this connection they are constrained to observe that while every State Forest Department renders a surplus revenue, the Forest Department in these Islands is incurring loss which has to be made good by the Administration. Even the Saw-Mill at Chatham run by the Forest Department has been showing loss. The Committee feel that this state of affairs is largely due to bad management and lack of initiative. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that Government should institute a thorough probe into the cause of recurring loss and mis-management in the

Forest Department and fix up responsibility for these state of affairs.

Reply of Government

While it is true that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are one of the few regions in the country where the percentage of forest area is very much higher than the national average, but at the same time the forests of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are scattered over more than three hundred islands unlike the mainland State Forests which occur in more or less contiguous and compact areas of fairly easy accessibility. As a result, considerable development of infra-structure in these islands is necessary and steps are being taken to develop these

After meeting the local demand for timber in the Islands, certain quantities are exported to the mainland markets. With the increase in the shipping freight rate for timber from time to time, the last one of 20 per cent being effective from 1st April, 1970, it has not been possible to market this timber at profit. As there are a few local labourers available in Andamans, most of the labourers for various forestry operations have to be inducted from the mainland and they are engaged on a permanent basis on high wages. All the stores for various works are also to be brought from the mainland at heavy freight rates, etc.

The Government Saw Mill at Chatham is working mainly as a scavenging unit to use such logs as are not easily saleable in the log form due to various defects to meet the local requirements of sawn timber. Due to poor grade of timber fed into the saw mill and production of thin sections required for local house construction the wastage percentage is comparatively high. Besides, this Mill mainly produces sawn timber for sale to the local people and for supply to the local Government Departments and the sale prices are fixed on the lower side on account of the comparative backwardness of the territory and absence of local building materials, etc. In view of this, the Government Saw Mill is showing some losses.

Apart from the above, unlike the Forest Departments on the mainland, the Andaman Forest Department has been declared a "Commercial Department". While working out profits and loss accounts of the Department, it takes into account the depreciation on capital assets, royalty on departmental extraction of timber and a number of other sundry items, one of these being the interest

on the Capital-at-Charge formed by the dues realisable from M/s. P. C. Ray and Company, the North Andaman Licensee. All these factors have contributed towards uneconomic working of the Department. The Government had appointed a Cost Accounts Officer during 1968 to go into the accounting procedure of the Department and suggest measures for improving the same. His report has been received and certain aspects of the matter have been taken up with Accountant General (Central), Calcutta, under whose jurisdiction the Andaman Forest Department Works, for rationalisation of the accounts.

Scientific management of these forests is based on working plans and schemes drawn up from time to time. To improve the stock of timber in the forests, about 22,000 hectares of forest area have been successfully naturally regenerated to produce better stocking of more valuable timber species than those in the existing natural forests. In addition, about 7,000 hectares have been planted with valuable species such as Teak and Padauk. There is also a programme to raise about 500 hectares of teak and padauk plantations annually during the remaining years of the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

The Government have also proposed to send a Study Team to advise the Andaman Administration on the pricing structure for the Andaman timbers, better utilisation of timber and improving logging practices.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 17, Para No. 4.24)

The Committee are unhappy over the whole affair of P. C. Ray & Co. Calcutta. They are surprised that although from the very start i.e., right from 1951-52, the performance of the contractor was far from satisfactory and they were guilty of serious breach of contract, notice of their acts of commission and omission was taken till December 1968. Consequently, the Administration has landed itself in legal difficulties. Lack of proper vigilance and utter indifference to the whole matter by the authorities concerned has put the forest department into a huge loss. The Committee, therefore, recommended that an inquiry may be instituted into this affair with a view to fix responsibility for the lapse.

Reply of Government

The Union of India have been taking timely action for the various lapses on the part of Messrs. P. C. Ray & Co., from time to time. As matters did not improve and while the Government was contem-

plating to consider the question of taking severe action against the Company in 1960, the Company invoked the Arbitration Clause of the Agreement. As a result, several Arbitration and High Court cases have come about and these cases are still pending before the Arbitrator and various Courts. In view of the legal complications involved, the Government considered all aspects of this question and also the action to be taken against the Company, in consultation with the Ministry of Law from time to time and at every stage.

Incidentally, it may be stated that in para 2.22 of their Fifty-fourth Report for the year 1965-66, the Public Accounts Committee had made, *inter alia*, the following observation:—

“This indicates that there is something radically wrong about the Agreement and its working the needs investigation by an independent agency as to how the agreement has been entered into with this particular company, what are the lacuna in the Agreement, whether it would not desirable to cancel the agreement rather than spending public funds on litigation and Arbitration year after year, and other such allied matters. The Committee desire this investigation to be set afoot at an early date”.

In pursuance of the above recommendation of the PAC, this Department constituted, in August 1967, a High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri N. N. Wanchoo, then Secretary, Department of Industrial Development, Shri T. P. Singh, then Secretary (Finance) and Shri R. S. Gae, Secretary of Department of Legislative Affairs as its Members. This High Powered Committee made certain observations and it was ultimately decided in consultation with the Attorney-General of India, the Ministry of Law and as a result of this Committee's recommendation to revoke the Licence in December, 1968. A notice for revocation of the Agreement was accordingly issued in December, 1968 and steps were taken by the Andaman Forests Department to start working in the areas covered by North Andaman Agreement of Licence.

The Company, however, filed in the Calcutta High Court a Writ Petition against revocation of Licence and the High Court passed Orders on 17th July, 1970 to the effect that the Government's action in taking over possession of the areas covered by this Licence was quashed and further directed that the Union of India should restore to the Company the possession of such areas. The Court further directed that there would be stay of operations of this Order for three months from 17-7-1970. The Government took necessary suitable steps in consultation with the Ministry of Law to file in time

the Appeal Petition before the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court for vacating the Orders of the Single Bench in the matter and also for getting the operation of the Orders stayed till the disposal of the Appeal Petition in this case. The Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court, before whom the Appeal Petition had been filed, passed judgment on 2nd December, 1970, directing that the operation of the Orders of 17th July, 1970 of the Single Bench may be stayed till the disposal of the Appeal. The High Court has further directed that the Union of India should keep a separate account of the timber extracted from North Andaman areas.

The above details would indicate the difficulties involved in taking action against the Company. It will also be observed that the matter has been *sub-judice* and a High Powered Committee had been appointed as a consequence of recommendation made in para 2.22 of the PAC's 54th Report (Third Lok Sabha). Attention is also further invited to Chapter III of the 96th Report of the Public Accounts Committee (fourth Lok Sabha) from which it will be noticed that the Public Accounts Committee have expressed that in view of the action taken and replies given by Government, they do not desire to pursue the matter.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 18, Para No. 4.25)

The Committee feel that there is no bar now to go ahead with the programme of extraction of timber departmentally or otherwise since the interim injunction prayed for has not been granted. In view of this, the Government should go ahead with a firm programme of exploitation of timber in the North Andamans.

Reply of Government

As indicated in reply to Serial No. 17, para 4.24, the Andaman Forests Department started timber extraction operations in the North Andaman Forests shortly after the revocation of the North Andaman Agreement of Licence in December, 1968. Negotiations were also conducted by the Forests Department with the local co-operative societies for extraction of timber from these forest areas. Plans were drawn up for purchase of heavy machinery, elephants, etc., to help facilitate large scale timber extraction work. Action was also initiated for preparation of a Working Plan for the North Andaman Forests.

However, as mentioned in Serial No. 17, para 4.24, the Single Bench of the Calcutta High Court in their judgment dated 17th July, 1970 quashed the Orders of revocation of the North Andaman Agreement of Licence and directed the Union of India to restore to the Company the possession of such areas. The Government, however, took necessary suitable steps in consultation with the Ministry of Law to file in time the Appeal Petition before the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court for vacating the Orders of the Single Bench in the matter and also for getting the operation of the Orders stayed till the disposal of the Appeal Petition in this case. The Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court have passed judgment on 2nd December, 1970 directing that the operation of the Orders of 17th July 1970 of the Single Bench may be stayed till the disposal of the Appeal Petition. The High Court has further directed that the Union of India should keep a separate account of the timber extracted from North Andaman areas.

The Andaman Forest Department would thus go ahead with the timber extraction programme but as directed by the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court, a separate account of such timber extracted would have to be maintained till the main Appeal Petition has been heard and judgment passed thereon.

[M.H.A. G.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Serial No. 58, Para No. 8.8)

During their tour, the Committee visited various Islands and held informal discussions with the settlers. The points made by the settlers have been dealt with in detail in this charter. The Committee expect Government to examine each of these suggestions particularly the demand for the formation of a Territorial Council and take concrete action to help the uprooted and displaced persons to fully rehabilitate themselves and lead a contented happy life. The Committee are anxious that commitments made by Government so far to the settlers in regard to their rehabilitation may be implemented with speed and efficiency and with greater coordination among the various concerned Departments.

Reply of Government

There is a Municipal Board for the urban area of Port Blair and Gram Panchayats are functioning in the rural areas in the Andaman Group of Islands. Government are conscious of the need for broadening the democratic base in the Islands. This territory is still in

the process of development and suitable action will be taken at the appropriate time.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 59, Para No. 8.9)

The Committee were acquainted the grievances of the Neil Island, who had complained that due to bad soil conditions there is no likelihood of growing crop there. The chemical report of the soil points out that the land is sandy and contains stone. In view of this the Committee recommends that a fresh probe be undertaken to find out whether the food crops will grow in the island under normal condition and if not, steps should be taken to rehabilitate the settlers in other islands.

Reply of Government

1. The soil of Neil Island, as revealed in Soil analysis is rich in Nitrogen and available pauash and slightly low in Phosphoric acid with neutral to slightly alkaling reaction.

2. However, a team of experts has visited Neil Island for studying the Soil afresh. Further action will be taken on the basis of the report of the team of experts.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 61, Para No. 9.6)

The Committee would like Government to consider the feasibility of constructing a girls' hostel at Diglipur or elsewhere, if the demand for such a hostel is justified so that girls coming from distant places may have the facility to stay in the hostels.

Reply of Government

Only about six girls coming from some distance to Diglipur would be in need of hostel facilities. In order to meet this need, spare vacancies in the hostel attached to the Girls' Higher Secondary School in Port Blair are available and for this purpose stipends at the rate of Rs. 30/- p.m. along with free travel concessions to and from home twice in a year are also given. The question of a separate girls' hostel in Diglipur would be kept under constant review.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21|61|70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970]

Recommendation (Sr. No. 62, Para No. 9.15)

The Committee feel that in the field of education much has yet to be done to cope with growing needs of increasing population. They recommend that Government may reconsider their decision to close the evening classes which are at present being run for the benefit of the working classes as it will help them to raise their future prospects.

Reply of Government

The Punjab University granted affiliation to the Degree College at Port Blair as a day institution and not as an evening institution. Since the College was started in the month of October, which was middle of the session and sufficient number of day scholars were not available, evening classes were run as a very temporary measure. Now that sufficient number of day scholars have been forthcoming since last year, the College is being run mainly as a day institution. Such of the students who had joined the evening classes are being allowed to complete their course. Facilities for correspondence course have also now become available for inservice candidates. The available resources are too meagre to run both day and evening classes. The evening classes had also come in the way of arranging extra curricular activities after college hours. Keeping in view all these factors, the Administration finds it difficult to run evening classes at the Government College, Port Blair. The inservice candidates can instead take correspondence course to better their prospects.

For opening an evening College for the inservice candidates the additional expenditure involved will be about Rs. 60,000|-.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 64, Para No. 9.17)

The Committee note with concern that students have not shown much interest in taking advantage of the technical education by availing of the facilities of stipend and reservation of seats for technical education in the mainland. They recommend that some effective steps would be taken by Government to attract more students to take to the technical education. The Government may also consider the feasibility of establishing an Industrial Training Institute or a Polytechnic Institution and opening of classes in Technology as early as possible keeping in view the overall requirement of Islands.

Reply of Government

The Government of India have already taken steps to reserve adequate number of seats for admission of students from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics on the mainland. However, sufficient number of eligible students from the Islands were not available in the past for all the reserved seats. Efforts are being made to ensure that sufficient number of students take up science courses at the higher secondary stage every year so that the seats reserved for the Islanders could be made use of.

2. The question of establishing a Polytechnic in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be considered after a proper survey of employment opportunities in the Islands has been conducted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

Recommendation (Sr. No. 70, Para No. 10.40)

The Committee note with concern that a large number of posts of Medical Officers are lying vacant in spite of the efforts made by the Administration to fill them expeditiously to the detriment of effective rendering of medical services to the public. They would recommend that the position may be reviewed at a high level and the reasons for the Doctors not agreeing to go to these Islands found out and appropriate remedial measures taken to remedy the situation.

Reply of Government

Efforts have been made from time to time to fill the vacancies under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands expeditiously. Generally, doctors are unwilling to go to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as this is cut off from the mainland and the modern facilities are not available there.

2. Action taken from time to time to fill the vacancies under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration is as under:—

POST

Medical Specialist
(Specialists' Grade)

1. *Surgical Specialist*

POSITION

Dr. M. P. Srivastava was appointed against this post on *ad-hoc* basis in September, 1969 but he did not join duty. The offer has since been cancelled. A requisition for this post has been sent to the UPSC and their recommendations are awaited.

The post was offered to Dr. S. P. Das, a UPSC nominee. Since Dr. Das has not communicated his acceptance of the post, the offer of appointment was cancelled, and the UPSC have been approached to recommend another candidate from their waiting list or to readvertise the post (29-8-70)

In the meantime, efforts are being made to fill the above posts on ad-hoc basis by CSIR Pool Officers.

GENERAL DUTY OFFICER GRADE I POST

1. *Assistant Director of Medical Services* The post fell vacant on 18th October, 1969 on transfer of Dr. B. P. Panigrahi. The recommendation of the D.P.C. promoting GDO Grade II to GDO I is awaited.
2. *Anaesthetist* Dr. R. N. Lal, who was offered the post on the recommendation of the UPSC on the 10th April, 1969, has declined the offer and the offer of appointment has since been cancelled. A fresh requisition was sent to the UPSC. The UPSC has recommended Dr. R. N. Lal again, to whom the offer of appointment is being made.
3. *Medical Officer (Nutrition)* The post fell vacant on transfer of Dr. Ajit Hølder, on 1-5-1970. The recommendation of the DPC promoting GDO Grade II officer to GDO Grade I is awaited.
4. *Junior Pathologist* The post was offered to Dr. N. C. Kumar, a UPSC nominee on the 7-7-70. He has been found medically fit and the A.&N. Islands Administration have been requested to allow him to join the post under them.
5. *Lady Medical Officer (Two)* Offers of appointment were made on *ad-hoc* basis to Dr. (Mrs.) Sushila Sood and Dr. (Mrs.) Ramesh Tewari on 4th August, 1969 but they did not join. Orders have been issued for the appointment on *ad-hoc* basis of Dr. (Smt.) Radha Rani Roy, a GDO Grade II officer. For the other post of Lady Medical Officer (BVD) a requisition was sent to the UPSC. The UPSC have now informed that no suitable candidate could be found and advised this Ministry to make local arrangements for a period of one year. The Ministry of Defence who have also been consulted have regretted their inability to provide any lady Medical Officer, V.D.
6. *Malaria-cum-Filaria Officer* The post fell vacant on retirement of Dr. B. Ghosh from 1-3-1970. The recommendations of the UPSC promoting GDO Grade II officer to GDO Grade I are awaited.
7. *General Duty Officer Grade II* So far as the posts in the General Duty Officer, Grade II of the Central Health Service is concerned, the position is that 15 posts of Junior Medical Officer under the Andaman and Nicobar Administration have been included in that Grade under the C.H.S. Rules. Against them, 16 officers are working there, the extra officer having been adjusted against a higher grade. As such, the incumbency position in the General Duty Officer, Grade II there is now more than full. In fact, the Andaman and Nicobar Admn. themselves had desired, sometime past, that no more Junior Medical Officers should be posted under them for the time being. More doctors will, however, be posted in those Islands on receipt of the recommendations of the UPSC against this Ministry requisition for bulk recruitment to the General Duty Officer Grade II of the Central Health Service, if the Admn. of the Islands ask for their services.

3. As will be observed from the above note, there is now no vacancy in GDO Grade II posts in A. & H. Islands. Efforts are continuing to be made to fill up the posts in GDO Gr. I and Specialists' Grade which are still remaining vacant in the Islands. It has been observed that doctors are unwilling to go to difficult and outlying areas like A. & N. Islands, Manipur, Tripura etc. due to difficulties of communication and adequate modern facilities not being available at these places. The possibility of filling up vacant posts in difficult and outlying areas like A. & N. Islands Manipur, Tripura etc. by A.M.C. Officers on deputation basis is being examined in consultation with the Ministry of Defence.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 21/61/70-ANL, dated the 30th December, 1970].

NEW DELHI;
July 29th, 1971.

Sravana 7th, 1893 (Saka).

KAMAL NATH TEWARI,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(Vide Introduction)

Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 128th Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourth Lok Sabha).

I. Total Number of recommendations	
II. Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (<i>vide</i> recommendations at S. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 60, 63, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77.	
Number	67
Percentage to total	87
III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (<i>vide</i> recommendations at Sl Nos. 8, 15, 17, 18, 58, 59, 61, 62, 64, 70).	
Number	10
Percentage of total	13