

**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1977-78)**

(SIXTH LOK SABHA)

THIRD REPORT

**MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS—UNION TERRITORY
OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS**

[Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations
contained in the Eighty-seventh Report of the Estimates
Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry
of Home Affairs—Union Territory of
Andaman and Nicobar Islands.]



Presented in Lok Sabha on **23 DEC 1977**

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

December, 1977/Agrahayana, 1899 (Saka)

Price : Rs. 5.80p

**LIST OF AUTHORISED AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF LOK SABHA
SECRETARIAT PUBLICATIONS**

Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Sl. No.	Name of Agent
ANDHRA PRADESH		MAHARASHTRA	
1.	Andhra University General Cooperative Stores Ltd., Waltair (Visakhapatnam).	10.	M/s. Sunderdas Gianchand, 601, Girgaum Road, New Princess Street, Bombay-2.
2.	G.R. Lakshmiapaty Chetty and Sons, General Merchants and News Agents, Newpet, Chandragiri, Chittoor District.	11.	The International Book House (Private) Limited, 6, Ash Lane, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay-1.
ASSAM		12.	The International Book Service, Deccan Gymkhana, Poona-4.
3.	Western Book Depot, Pan Bazar, Gauhati.	13.	Charles Lambert & Company, 10, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Opposite Clock Tower, Fort, Bombay.
BIHAR		14.	The Current Book House, Maruti Lane, Raghunath Dadaji Street, Bombay-1.
4.	Amar Kitab Ghar, Post Box 78, Diagonal Road, Jamshedpur.	15.	Deccan Book Stall, Fergusson College Road, Poona-4.
5.	M/s. Crown Book Depot, Upper Bazar, Ranchi.	16.	M & J Services, Publishers Representatives, Accounts & Law Book Sellers, Bahri Road, Bombay-15.
GUJARAT		MYSORE	
6.	Vijay Stores, Station Road, Anand.	17.	People Book House, Opp. Jaganmohan Palace, Mysore.
7.	The New Order Book Company, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-6.	RAJASTHAN	
HARYANA		18.	Information Centre, Government of Rajasthan, Tripolia, Jaipur City.
8.	M/s. Prabhu Book Service, Nai Subzi Mandi, Gurgaon.	19.	M/s. Usha Book Depot, 585/A, Chitra Bazar, Tripolia, Jaipur.
MADHYA PRADESH		UTTAR PRADESH	
9.	Modern Book House, Shiv Vilas Palace, Indore City.	20.	Law Book Company, Sardar Patel Marg, Allahabad-1.

CORRIGENDA

TO

Third Report of the Estimates Committee (1977-78)
on Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

Page	Para	Line	For	Read
8	28	5	Station	Stations
9	33	3	Station	Stations
11	41	12	<u>Insert</u> 'Islands, Government should reorient their' after 'These'	
16	59	8	Surprised	Surprise
18	68	10	This	this
19	68	10	should	would
111		Last line	December, 1977	December 12, 1977
			and Agrahayana, 1899	Agrahayana 21, 1899

CONTENTS

	PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE	(iii)
COMPOSITION OF STUDY GROUP 'G' OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (1977-78)	(v)
INTRODUCTION	(vii)
CHAPTER I Report	1
CHAPTER II Recommendations that have been accepted by Government	22
CHAPTER III Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies	86
CHAPTER IV Recommendations in respect of which replies have not been accepted by the Committee	92
CHAPTER V Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited	111

APPENDICES

I. Statement showing conclusions/recommendations of Deshmukh Committee Report and Action Taken/position thereon	112
II. Statements indicating the main recommendations made in the First and Second meetings of the Review Committee and Action taken thereon	115
III. Report on the Traffic Potential and Tonnage Assessment for the Mainland/Andaman Service	118
IV. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Primitive Tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands	127
V. Action taken on the Recommendations (Action points) of the Advisory Committee on primitive Tribes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands	130
VI. Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighty seventh Report of the Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha)	135

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1977-78)

CHAIRMAN

Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha

MEMBERS

2. Shri V. Arunachalam
3. Shri Yashwant Borole
- *4. Shri Dilip Chakravarty
- *5. Shri K. S. Chavda
6. Shri K. Gopal
7. Smt. Mrinal Gore
8. Smt. V. Jeyalakshmi
- *9. Shri Sarat Kar
10. Shri Basant Singh Khalsa
11. Shri Krishan Kant
12. Shri Nihar Laskar
13. Shri Mahi Lal
14. Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik
15. Shri Mritunjay Prasad
16. Shri Amrit Nahata
17. Shri M. N. Govindan Nair
18. Shri S. B. Patil
19. Shri U. S. Patil
20. Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi
21. Shri K. Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy
22. Dr. Saradish Roy

*Elected w.e.f. 30-11-1977 *vice* Shri Samar Guha resigned and Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataki, Sarvashri S. Kundu, Janeswar Mishra, Fazlur Rehman and Sher Singh ceased to be members on their appointment as Ministers of State.

23. Shri N. K. Shejwalkar
24. Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde
25. Shri Ganga Bhakt Singh
- *26. Shri Ugrasen
27. Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan
28. Shri Shankersinhji Vaghela
- *29. Shri Vinayak Prasad Yadav
- *30. Shri Roop Nath Singh Yadav

SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Joint Secretary.*

Shri K. S. Bhalla—*Chief Financial Committee Officer.*

Shri A. N. Bhatla—*Senior Financial Committee Officer.*

*Elected w.e.f. 30-11-77 vice Shri Samar Guha resigned and Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataki, Sarvashri S. Kundu, Janeswar Mishra, Fazlur Rehman and Sher Singh ceased to be members on their appointment as Ministers of State.

STUDY GROUP 'G'

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

(1977-78)

1. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha—*Chairman*
2. Shri Mukhtiar Singh Malik—*Convener*
3. Smt. Mrinal Gore
4. Shri Krishan Kant
5. Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi
6. Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde
7. Shri K. P. Unnikrishnan.

INTRODUCTION

1, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Third Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighty-seventh Report of the Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

2. The Eighty-seventh Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 28th January, 1976. Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on recommendations contained in that Report by 9 September, 1976. Further information called for by the Committee was furnished by Government on 10 May, 1977 and 14 June, 1977. The replies were examined by Study Group 'G' of Estimates Committee (1977-78) at their sitting held on 24 November, 1977. The draft report was adopted by the Estimates Committee (1977-78) on 5 December, 1977.

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

I—Report

II—Recommendations which have been accepted by Government.

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

IV—Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.

V—Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 87th Report of the Estimates Committee (Fifth Lok Sabha) is given in Appendix VI. It would be observed therefrom that out of 86 recommendations made in the Report, 67 recommendations *i.e.* about 78 per cent have been accepted by Government and the Committee do not desire to pursue 7 recommendations *i.e.* about 8 per cent in view of Government's replies. Replies of Government have not been accepted by the

Committee in respect of 11 recommendations *i.e.* about 13 per cent. Final reply of Government in respect of one recommendation *i.e.* about 1 per cent is still awaited.

5. The Committee place on record their appreciation of the commendable work done by the Action Taken Study Group of Estimates Committee (1976-77) in obtaining additional information on the points arising from the Government's replies.

NEW DELHI ;

SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA,

December 12, 1977.

Chairman,

Agrahayana 21, 1899 (Saka).

Estimates Committee.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1. This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 87th Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands—which was presented to Lok Sabha on the 28th January, 1976.

2. Action taken replies have been received from Government in respect of all the 86 recommendations contained in the Report.

3. The Action taken notes on the recommendations of the Committee have been categorised as follows :—

- (i) Recommendations/observations that have been accepted by Government—Sl. Nos. 4, 6, 7, 9 to 13, 17, 19 to 24, 27, 28, 30 to 36, 38 to 60, 62 to 64, 66, 68, 69, 72 to 78 and 80 to 86. (Chapter II).
- (ii) Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies : Sl. Nos. 5, 15, 18, 26, 70, 71 and 79. (Chapter III).
- (iii) Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee : Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, 14, 16, 25, 37, 61, 65 and 67. (Chapter IV).
- (iv) Recommendation in respect of which final replies are still awaited : Sl. No. 29. (Chapter V).

4. The Committee will now deal with the action taken by Government on some of their recommendations/observations.

Vacancies of Doctors on Islands

Recommendation (S. Nos. 1, 2 & 3)

5. In paragraph 2.22 of their 87th Report the Estimates Committee had expressed concern that although the matter regarding the filling up of vacancies of doctors in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was being pursued by them since May, 1970, the position in this regard was far from satisfactory even after five years of presentation of that Report. The Committee had observed, that inspite of the Committee's specific recommendations made in their 43rd Report (1972-73) urging government to take effective measures to fill up the posts of medical officers

in these Islands, there had been no worth-while improvement in the position. Posts of doctors still remained unfilled for long periods which included posts of Surgical Specialist, Medical Specialist, Asstt. Surgeon Grade I, Junior Ophthalmic Surgeon and Junior Radiologist. The committee had pointed out that posts of Medical Specialist, Junior Radiologist and Junior Ophthalmic Surgeon had not been filled since May, 1970. March, 1971 and October, 1972 respectively. The Committee had thereupon drawn the conclusion that the action taken to fill up these posts had not proved effective which indicated the casual manner in which this matter had been dealt with by concerned Administrative Ministry.

6. The Committee had stated that they attached great importance to the provision of proper medical facilities to the inhabitants of these far flung Islands which were cut off from the Mainland. The Committee had desired that government should investigate the circumstances in which the posts of medical officers in the Islands had remained vacant for long periods and should fix responsibility therefor. The Committee had also urged that immediate effective action should be taken to fill up all the posts of medical officers in the Islands without delay.

7. Government stated in their action taken reply furnished to the Committee on the 30th April, 1976 that the posts of Medical Specialist and Junior Ophthalmologist had been filled with effect from 15-12-1975 and 12-4-1976 respectively while the incumbent of the post of Junior Radiologist was expected to join by middle of May, 1976, seven vacancies of Junior Anaesthetist, five Junior Medical Officers and an Assistant Surgeon Grade I still remained unfilled.

8. The position regarding filling up of posts of medical officers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as reported in May, 1977 is given in the following paragraphs.

Surgical Specialist

9. There are two posts of Surgical Specialists in the Specialists Grade of the C.H.S. required to be filled on regular basis under the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. Both these posts were held on *ad hoc* basis, one by Dr. B. G. Matapurkar and other by Dr. B. H. Pandeya. However, one of these posts is vacant since 29th October, 1976 due to termination of the services of Dr. B. H. Pandeya.

10. Efforts to fill up this post by transfer of a doctor from Delhi Administration are stated to have failed. The question of filling up the post on *ad hoc* basis by advertising it locally did not arise as there are no private practitioners in the Islands. Major Hazarika a Surgeon from the

Army Medical Corps was, however, considered for appointment on deputation basis. The matter was stated to have been taken up with the Ministry of Defence as well as the Border Roads Development Board under whose charge Major Hazarika is working at present. They have informed that Major Hazarika who has completed his tenure of 2 years is being posted out on compassionate grounds. A proposal regarding appointment of Dr. B. N. Gogi, an *ad hoc* Surgeon of C.H.S. working in Coal Mines Welfare Organisation, Dhanbad is under consideration.

Junior Anaesthetist

11. Dr. Surya Narayana Murthy was selected for appointment as Junior Anaesthetist on *ad hoc* basis and the offer was sent to him on 27th September, 1976. Dr. Murthy has, however, not conveyed his acceptance so far. In the meantime a fresh requisition was also sent to U.P.S.C. by the Ministry of Health on 3-12-1976 for recruitment of a candidate for this post on regular basis. The U.P.S.C. advertised this post on 15-1-1977 under their Advertisement No. 3 and selection of a candidate is likely to be made by the Commission shortly.

Junior Pathologist

12. Dr. Suchitra Chattopadhyay was offered appointment for the post of Junior Pathologist under the A&N Administration on *ad-hoc* basis for a period of one year from the date of her joining the post or till the post was filled on a regular basis. As no acceptance from her was received; the Ministry of Health reminded her to join the post immediately failing which action would be taken against her since she was bonded candidate. Efforts are also being made to obtain the services of Dr. Bharti Govindram Nagrani, M.D. (Pathology), another bonded candidate from Chandigarh. Simultaneously steps have also been taken to fill up this post on regular basis through the U.P.S.C.

Junior Paediatrician

13. The post of Medical officer in G. B. Pant Hospital, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, held by Dr. B. Shanmugam, has been redesignated as Junior Paediatrician since 17-11-1976. Ministry of Health have issued orders on 4-4-1977 appointing Dr. Shanmugam as Junior Paediatrician.

Junior Radiologist : 1 Post

Junior Ophthalmologist : 1 Post

14. Lt. Col. S. K. Chakravorty was posted as Junior Radiologist and Major S. C. Khetrpal as Junior Ophthalmologist. They are both on deputation from the Army. Their deputation has been extended for another year. Orders were issued on 4-4-1977.

Medical Officer

15. Dr. Hirendra Chandra Kar, who had earlier opted for C.H.S. was posted to the Islands in June, 1976. He did not join duty. On the other hand Government of Tripura have recently informed the Ministry of Health that Dr. Kar has now opted for Tripura Health Service and has since been absorbed by that Government. Consequently action is being taken by the Ministry of Health to post another C.H.S. Doctor in place of Dr. Kar.

Junior Medical Officers

16. The position with regard to the filling up the posts of G.D.O. Grade II/Junior Medical Officers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is as under :—

1975—Offers of appointment were issued to five regular nominees of the U.P.S.C. for Andaman and Nicobar Islands *vide* statement 'A' (page 97). Out of five, three Doctors were not interested to go to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Hence, their offers were cancelled. Remaining 2 doctors viz. Dr. D. K. Banerjee and Dr. J. R. Das requested for change of allocation to the Ministry of Labour and Municipal Corporation of Delhi respectively. Their allocation was changed.

1976—Offers of appointment to 8 candidates for appointment as J.M.Os on an *ad hoc* basis for Andaman and Nicobar Islands were issued *vide* statement at 'B' (page 97). Out of 8, only 2 doctors namely Dr. V. M. Aggarwal and Dr. A. K. Nigam have joined there. Four offers have been cancelled and the information from 2 doctors is still awaited.

17. The A&N Administration intimated to Department of Health in September, 1976, that there were 9 posts of J.M.Os vacant as on 16-8-1976, i.e. two posts in C.H.S. and 7 posts non-C.H.S. posts. The two C.H.S. posts have since been filled in. As regards filling up of 7 non-C.H.S. posts, action has already been taken by the A&N Administration for filling up of these posts on *ad hoc* basis. Offers to 7 Doctors have been issued by A&N Administration.*

*Indicating the latest position in this regard it has been stated by the Ministry of Home Affairs at the time of factual verification of the report *vide* their O. M. No. U-16016/3/(S-61)/77-ANL dated 6 December, 1977 that :

“Following posts of medical officers (CHS Posts) are vacant at present in the Islands :

1. One post of surgeon (Specialist Grade II) is lying vacant since November, 1976.
2. Two posts of junior anaesthetists (GDO Grade I) ; one post is lying vacant since June, 1975 and the other since April, 1977.
3. One post of Junior Pathologist (GDO Grade I) is lying vacant since February, 1976.
4. One post of medical officer (GDO Grade I) is lying vacant since March, 1976.
5. Two posts of Junior Medical Officers (Junior Class I) are lying vacant since April, 1977.

18. It has been stated by Ministry of Health on the basis of the facts mentioned above that there has been no undue delay on the part of the Ministry in filling up vacant posts in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore the question of fixing of responsibility for the posts remaining vacant did not arise.

19. The Committee are disappointed to note that in spite of the fact that the matter of filling up of posts of doctors in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is being pursued by the Committee ever since they took up the subject for examination in 1969-70, the position in this regard continues to be unsatisfactory. Vacancies in almost all categories of posts keep occurring and remain unfilled for long periods. A number of posts like those of surgical Specialist, Junior Anaesthetist, Junior Pathologist, Junior Ophthalmologist, Medical Officers and Junior Medical Officers have remained vacant at one time or the other. Even at present (as in May, 1977) a number of posts viz Surgical Specialist, Junior Anaesthetist, Junior Pathologist, Medical Officer and as many as seven out of nine posts of Junior Medical Officers are lying vacant.

It is thus evident that the incentives available to the doctors for service in the Islands are not such as could attract the doctors for service in these Islands. The Committee reiterate that they attach a great importance to the provision of proper medical facilities to the inhabitants of these farflung Islands which are cut off from the Mainland. The Committee are surprised that in spite of the recommendations made by them in their 87th Report urging Government to investigate the circumstances in which the posts of Medical Officers in the Islands have remained vacant for long periods, necessary investigation does not appear to have been undertaken. Had this been done the reasons for the doctors not coming forward to join service in the Islands would have been available to Government and remedial measures could have been taken. The Committee would like Government to immediately identify the reasons for reluctance on the part of the doctors to go to the Islands and take effective remedial measures including liberalisation of incentives so as to ensure that posts of doctors in all categories are filled without further delay. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken in this matter within six months.

20. In paragraph 2.37 of their 43rd Report (1972-73) the Estimates Committee had recommended the following measures with a view to attract the doctors in the Islands :—

- (i) Recalling of officers to the mainland positively after the completion of their fixed tenure in the Islands ;

- (ii) Giving preference for sending on advanced training course/Post-Graduate training/Fellowship to the doctors on return from Andamans; and
- (iii) Posting to a station of choice on return from Andamans.

21. Commenting on this in paragraph 2.23 of 87th Report (1975-76), the Estimates Committee had expressed surprise over the fact that these measures which did not entail any additional financial burden and were only administrative in nature were still under consideration. The Committee had therefore desired that Government should take expeditious decision on these measures and implement them immediately after publicising them suitably. These measures, the Committee had hoped, would help in filling up the posts of doctors in the Islands.

22. It was stated by government in their reply furnished in September, 1976 that the above recommendation of the Committee had already been accepted by government and orders were issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning on 16-3-1974 that C.H.S. Officers on completion of 3/2 years in category 'C'/'D' stations would be given preference in the selection for—

- (i) Post-Graduate Education
- (ii) Fellowship for study abroad; and
- (iii) Posting to urban areas.

23. It has been stated by government that the orders were being implemented as far as possible. Citing examples, it has been stated in the reply of Government furnished in September, 1976 that Dr. Gurucharan Singh who was earlier working as Junior ENT Surgeon was allowed to avail of Colombo Plan Fellowship in U.K. On return from fellowship, he has been given posting in the CGHS, Delhi. Dr. Shanmugam, a GDO Gr. II officer working in the Islands has been given facilities on two occasions for doing post-graduation in Paediatrics. Dr. (Smt.) Doty Jacob who was earlier working as J.M.O. in the Islands on completion of her term was given posting under the Delhi Administration. Similarly, Dr. (Smt.) Usha Paul, another J.M.O. who was earlier working in the Islands on completion of her term was given posting in the CGHS, Allahabad, and later on in the CGHS, Calcutta. Dr. A.K. Banerjee who was earlier working as Surgeon in the Port Blair served in the Islands for about four years whereafter he was given posting as Surgeon in the Irwin Hospital, Delhi.

24. It has further been laid down that no CHS Officer would be required to serve in outlying/difficult stations beyond the prescribed tenure unless they are themselves willing to stay on. Some of the Medical Officers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have completed or are on the point of completing their tenure in the Islands. Steps were being taken for their withdrawal from the A & N Islands and posting in the urban areas. Steps are also being taken simultaneously to post fresh batch of doctors to the A & N Islands.

25. The Committee have been informed in May, 1977 that (as on 10-5-1977) 14 CHS doctors were serving in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands beyond their prescribed tenure of three years. Out of these, 12 were stated to have volunteered so far to serve in Islands and the remaining two were unwilling to stay beyond normal tenure.

26. The Committee are glad to note that government have in implementation of the recommendation of the Committee, issued orders providing for giving preference to CHS doctors who have served 3/2 years in category C/D stations, in the selection for post graduate education, fellowship for study abroad and posting to urban areas. A number of doctors are stated to have already benefited from these provisions. It has also been provided that no CHS doctors would be required to serve beyond the prescribed tenure unless they are themselves willing to stay on. The Committee note that at present 14 CHS doctors are serving in the Islands beyond their tenure out of which 12 doctors have volunteered to continue to serve in the Islands while others are unwilling to stay beyond the normal tenure. The Committee would like to re-emphasise that unless the incumbents of these posts are willing to stay beyond their tenure and give such an undertaking in writing they should be posted to the mainland positively on the expiry of their tenure in accordance with the understanding given in this regard. In the opinion of the Committee strict adherence to the orders in this regard, would go a long way in attracting doctors for service in the Islands.

27. In paragraph 2.24 the Committee had noted that a special medical allowance of Rs. 100/- to Rs. 150/- per month which was allowed to the doctors in the Islands, had been withdrawn and that orders had been issued to effect recoveries of the payments already made. The hardship which would be caused to the doctors by their recovery of the allowance which was paid to them in good faith had been represented to the Committee during their tour to the Islands in January, 1975 more than once. The Committee had urged Government to consider this matter sympathetically in view of the special conditions prevailing in the Islands and the difficulty being faced by the Administration in attracting the services of the doctors there.

28. Government stated in their reply furnished to the Committee in September, 1976 that it was decided *vide* Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health) letter No. A27020/3/71-CHS II (Pt) dated 13-3-1974 that special medical allowance of Rs. 100—150 per month will not be admissible to CHS officers posted in category 'C' & 'D' station in A & N Islands in addition to the Andaman special allowance. It was further stated that the question of restoration of the special medical allowance to CHS doctors working in the A & N Islands had been thereafter taken up but it had not been found possible to restore the allowance. While conveying this to Administration in December, 1975, it was clarified that the special medical allowance already paid to CHS officers for the period prior to the issue of the orders on 13-3-1974 need not be refunded.

29. The Committee were further informed that by way of providing special incentive to doctors posted in A & N Islands, it had been decided that a special pay of Rs. 250/- would be attached to the following specialist posts :—

Physician	1
Surgeon	2
Gynaecologist	1

30. Subsequently, the Committee have been informed in May, 1977 that Government orders for the attachment of special pay of Rs. 250/- p.m. to each of the following seven General Duty Officer Grade I posts of the Central Health Services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, when held by officers holding the requisite specialist's qualifications were issued on 10-2-1976.

Posts	No. of Posts
Junior Ophthalmologist	One
Junior Paediatrician	One
Junior Pathologist	One
Junior Radiologist	One
Junior Anaesthetist	Two
Junior E.N.T. Surgeon	One

31. Government orders for the attachment of Special Pay of Rs. 250/- p.m. to the following categories of posts in the A & N Islands, which were in General Duty Officer Grade I of the Central Health Service requiring Specialist's qualifications had also been issued on 15-1-1977.

Posts	No. of Posts
T.B. Officer	One
Lady Medical Officer (V.D)	One

32. It has however, been stated that the above special pay is *inter alia* subject to the condition that the incumbents of the above mentioned posts possess either a post-graduate Diploma or a post-graduate Degree related to the nature of duties attached to the respective posts. If officers with general qualifications like MBBS were appointed against these posts, the Special Pay would not be admissible to those officers.

33. The Committee note that the question of restoration of the special medical allowance of Rs. 100—150 per month earlier admissible to CHS doctors posted in C & D station in A & N Islands in addition to the Andaman special allowance was taken up again but it was not found possible to restore the allowance although no refund would be necessary for the period prior to the issue of orders on 13-3-1974.

As already emphasised by the Committee no worthwhile improvement has been brought about in the position regarding availability of doctors. One of the main factors responsible for this is the absence of positive incentives for attracting doctors to serve in the Islands. The Committee would therefore like to reiterate that Government may in the interest of providing the inhabitants of these far flung islands with adequate medical facilities, reconsider the question of restoring the special medical allowance of Rs. 100—150/- p.m. permissible to CHS doctors working in the Islands.

National V.D. Control Programme

Recommendation (No. 8)

34. In paragraph 2.54 of their 87th Report the Estimates Committee had noted that venereal diseases were prevalent on the Islands. They had further noted that V.D. drugs worth Rs. 4000 only had been supplied to the Islands in 1974-75 and V.D. drugs worth Rs. 6000 were proposed to be supplied during 1975-76. The Committee considered this amount to be too meagre to meet the requirements of the Islands. They had emphasised that these Islands were a virgin area and therefore there was an urgent need to take comprehensive measures to eradicate venereal diseases from the Islands. The Committee had recommended that a time-bound programme for V.D. survey on the Islands should be undertaken urgently and comprehensive measures including the supply of V.D. drugs in sufficient quantities, should be initiated to provide adequate medical care to the afflicted persons as also to prevent the spread of these diseases in the Islands.

35. It was stated by government in reply furnished to the Committee in September, 1976 that :

“V.D. is more common in the local population of Southern Group of Islands and one V.D. Clinic has been established at Car Nicobar for survey and treatment of V.D. cases. One Senior Male Nurse trained in V.D. is posted there. Two more staff from the existing strength are being deputed for V.D. Training.”

36. The Committee wanted to know whether a time-bound programme for V.D. Survey had been initiated; whether measures had been taken to supply drugs in adequate quantities; and whether adequate allocations had been made for the purpose.

37. It has been stated by the Department of Health in a note furnished in May, 1977 that it is proposed that a S.T.D. Clinic with Laboratory facility may be established at Port Blair and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration be requested to provide the necessary funds in the State Health Plan.

38. It has been stated further that the Medical Officer incharge of the clinic would do the case-tracing survey and treatment and that it was not possible to lay down any time limit for this as detection depended on patients seeking treatment at the clinic.

39. As regards the availability of drugs, it has been stated that adequate quantities of drugs are available and are supplied to the administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the basis of requirement. Adequate allocations are stated to have been made in the Central Plan budget.

40. The Committee note that it is proposed to establish an STD Clinic with Laboratory facility at Port Blair. A medical officer in charge of the clinic would do the case-tracing survey and treatment of venereal disease cases. The Committee have been assured that adequate quantities of drugs would be supplied to the administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and that adequate allocation had been made in the Central Plan Budget for the purpose.

The Committee are, however, unhappy to note that Government do not propose to undertake the V.D. survey within a time-limit as recommended by the Committee, as in Government's view, detection would depend on the patients seeking treatment at the clinic. The Committee feel that the challenge of preventing the spread and eventual eradication of the venereal diseases from the Islands may not be met by simply opening a clinic and expecting the patients to come for check up and treatment. They consider that with the limited population and area of the Islands it may not be too difficult for the administration to undertake a comprehensive V.D. Survey. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge Government to take active measures for completion of the V.D. survey in accordance with a time bound programme with a view, ultimately to eradicate the venereal diseases from the Islands.

*Personnel Policies and Procedures***Recommendation (Nos. 14 and 16)**

41. In paragraph 2.72 of the 87th Report, the Estimates Committee observed that posts of doctors had remained vacant for long periods due to the reluctance on the part of the doctors to go to the Islands. During the visit to the Islands, they had gathered the impression that other officers also had a feeling of frustration on being posted to the Islands and that generally such postings were considered as a penal measure. An impression prevailed that officers used every trick at their command to avoid postings to these Islands. The Committee observed that apparently the policies and procedures followed in regard to the posting of officers and doctors from the mainland and the incentives available to them, had not been adequate to attract doctors and other officers to the Islands. The Committee recommended that in the interest of speedy development of these personnel policies and procedures in such a way as to attract the best and most efficient officers to these areas. Persons who evinced real interest in the development of these Islands and were prepared to work there and show results, should be allowed special incentive such as higher pay and allowances, weightage of service in the Islands for promotion, nomination for training courses, better housing and more liberal leave rules etc. Work in these Islands should be given special recognition and should be considered as a badge of merit and not as a penal posting. The officers selected should normally belong to younger age groups and should be posted for a reasonably long period and on specific assignments so that they can show results by way of achievement during their tenure. The Committee urged that action to reorient the personnel policies as suggested above, should be taken by Government expeditiously and implemented in the field.

42. Government have stated in reply that the recommendations have been considered. The Pay Commission while considering the structure of pay and allowances for the employees of the Islands did take into account the factors mentioned in the recommendation. In the light of their recommendations the mainland recruits/deputationists/cadre officers of Dani Services and All India Services have been provided special allowance ranging between 20 per cent (subject to a maximum of Rs. 300/-) to 30 per cent (subject to a maximum of Rs. 400/-) of their basic pay depending on the area of their posting in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Further they are entitled to compensatory allowance which is admissible to all employees of the Administration, at the rate of 12-1/2 per cent of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/- per month. In the circumstances it had not been possible to recommend further increase in remuneration as the level of pay and allowance had been settled in the light of the Pay Commission's report.

43. It has been stated by government that weightage for service in the Islands for promotion is difficult to provide as this is likely to trigger similar demands from other territories and may in the process conflict with the interests of other Government servants. Mainland recruits working in the territory are already enjoying certain extra facilities in the matter of sea passages and leave inasmuch as a Government servant and his family are entitled to a free sea passage once a year and to extra leave to the extent of the time he spends on journey to and fro, including enforced halts and waiting if any. Steps are being taken to provide suitable accommodation to all categories of Government employees in the Islands and to ensure this construction programmes are stated to be in hand.

44. It has been stated by Government further that though it is not possible to prefer, as a rule, officers who have served in the territories in the matter of training abroad, in a way they tend to gain by such experience in the Islands because in many of the courses sponsoring Universities like to have those officers who have worked in backward and tribal areas. Care is also taken to select persons with proper aptitudes and interests at the time of their posting in the Islands.

45. The Committee consider that the policies and procedures followed in regard to the postings of officers and doctors from the mainland to the Islands and incentives available to them have not been adequate to attract the doctors and other officers to the Islands. This is evident from the vacancies of doctors lying unfilled.

The Committee have a feeling that the conditions prevailing in these Islands are rather unique and different from other territories and appear to merit special consideration. They would like Government to re-orient their policies and incentives in such a way as to attract competent personnel to serve in the Islands in the interest of economic development of the Islands and welfare of the Islanders.

46. In paragraph 2.74 of their 87th Report the Committee noted that the officers travelling between the mainland and the Islands had sometimes to wait for long periods at Calcutta to get the shipping service and have to incur heavy expenditure on their board and lodging during the enforced halts. There were two guest houses at Calcutta—One at Auckland and another at Bandel Road but the accommodation provided there did not meet fully the requirements. Moreover, there were no facilities for board and lodging at Madras. The Committee recommended that the position might be examined urgently and adequate arrangements for board and lodging for the officials and staff in transit to and from the Islands made at Calcutta and Madras at reasonable rates, keeping in view the daily allowance that they were entitled to.

47. Government have stated in reply that out of two guest houses at Calcutta, Auckland Place guest house is having one double bedded room and Bandel Road guest house is having 3 double bedded rooms.

48. The Committee have been informed that a plot of land has been purchased at Ekbalpore Road at Calcutta for the construction of a 4-storeyed building to augment the existing facilities. In this building there will be no guest house accommodation. However, provision for a sarai for accommodating 100 deck/bunk passengers will be provided.

49. It has been stated that it had not been possible to find a vacant site near the harbour area at Madras where a guest house could be constructed for the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. However, the Mercantile Marine Department at Madras had a proposal to construct a rest house in George Town at Madras which would also accommodate deck passengers going to or coming from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

50. The Committee note that a total of 4 double bed rooms have been provided in the guest houses at Calcutta for accommodating the officers travelling between the Mainland and the Islands. The Committee consider this accommodation to be inadequate for the purpose. The accommodation proposed to be provided at Ekbalpore Road, Calcutta for the 100 deck/bunk passengers may also not be suitable for the officers and staff travelling between the Mainland and Islands. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge Government to make adequate arrangements for board and lodging at Calcutta for the officials and the staff in transit to and from the Islands at reasonable rates so that the personnel in transit are saved of the hardships caused during the forced halts at Calcutta.

51. The Committee would also like Government to provide suitable accommodation at Madras for transit passengers to and from the Islands, at the earliest.

Master Plan for fuller Exploitation of Forest Wealth
Recommendation (No. 25)

52. In paragraph 4.30 of their 87th Report the Committee noted with regret that although Government had originally accepted the recommendation made by the Committee in their 43rd Report (1972-73) that Government should prepare and implement a long-term Master Plan for the development of forests in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and had stated that steps would be initiated to prepare a long-term plan for development of forests of these Islands, the representative of the Ministry had stated during evidence before the Committee in March, 1975 that no separate Master Plan was necessary as there were working plans for forest areas under the management of the

Forest Department which were revised from time to time. The Committee drew attention to the recommendation made in the Techno-Economic Survey of Andaman & Nicobar Islands by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (1972) wherein it had *inter alia* been urged that the prevailing favourable climate of planned industrial expansion in the country should be taken advantage of and transport and other bottlenecks should be overcome and the forests should be exploited and developed according to a Master Plan. While recognising the necessity for working plans, the Committee had emphasised the need for a long-term Master Plan which should spell out the strategy for an overall and long-term development and exploitation of the forest resources of the Islands economically, efficiently and in the best interest of the Islands and the country.

53. Government have in their reply reiterated that for areas in South and Middle Andamans where forestry management has already been extended, there are scientific working plans which are revised at an interval of 10 to 15 years. These Working Plans serve the purpose of a short-term Master Plan. The project report prepared for the establishment of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Development Corporation embodies development plans for the next 15 years in the matter of exploitation of forests which hitherto remained unexploited due to remoteness and inaccessibility. In addition, a project report is also stated to be under preparation for establishment of wood based complexes under joint sector venture with the participation of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest Development Corporation. Government are of view that these project reports serve the objectives of a Master Plan as envisaged in the Estimates Committee's Report.

54. The Committee note that there are scientific working plans in South and Middle Andamans where forestry management has already been extended. These plans are revised at an interval of 10 to 15 years. In addition a project report is also stated to be under preparation for establishment of wood based complexes under joint sector venture with the participation of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Development Corporation. While these working plans have their own use, the Committee feel that it would be desirable to formulate a Master Plan which may spell out a broad strategy for an overall and long-term development and exploitation of forest resources of the Islands economically, efficiently and in the best interests of the country. As the Inspector General of Forest himself put it during evidence before the Committee in March, 1975, that while the Master Plan is meant to lay down clear statement of objectives to use the forest areas to the maximum benefit and advantage of the population, the working plans would be restricted to a particular period under these broad objectives. The Committee would therefore like Government to reconsider whether it would not be beneficial to formulate a Master Plan containing a broad strategy for long

term development and exploitation of fresh resources in the Islands and which could serve as a guideline for formulation and implementation of the working plans in an integrated manner.

Small Industries Service Institute

Recommendation (No. 37)

55. In paragraph 5.32 of their 87th Report the Committee had expressed distress over the fact that the Small Scale Industries Service Institute recommended by them in their 43rd Report, had not yet been set up and was not likely to be set up before 1976-77. There was no technical institute in the Islands to provide training to the local population. The Committee had emphasised that strong educational and training base was an important requisite to build up infrastructure for industrial development and to sustain its growth. This, in Committee's view, was all the more important in the case of these Islands as there was acute shortage of skilled labour and technical know-how among the local people which was hampering the industrial progress of these islands. The Committee had therefore, recommended that urgent attention should be given to the setting up of a compact Small Industries Service Institute and a Technical Institute in the Islands at the earliest.

56. It was stated by government in reply that according to the phased programme drawn up by the Small Industries Development Organisation for opening branches of the Small Industries Service Institutes during the Fifth Five Year Plan period, one such institute was to be established in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the year 1977-78. In view of the recommendation of the Estimates Committee this was reconsidered by the Government and it was decided to advance the establishment of the Branch Institute in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 1976-77 to 1977-78. Necessary instructions were stated to have been issued to the authorities concerned to prepare estimates for the establishment of the Branch Institute during the year 1976-77.

57. Asked whether there was any proposal to establish a technical institute in the Islands, as recommended by the Estimates Committee, to provide technical training to the local population with a view to strengthening the educational and training base in Islands, it has been stated by Government in reply that it had not been possible to establish the institute during the year 1976-77. The Department of Industrial Development was, however, busy finalising the details of the scheme and the institute was expected to come up soon.

58. The Committee regret to note that although their recommendation for setting up of a Small Industries Service Institute in the Islands, had been accepted by Government, the Institute has not yet been set up.

The Committee urge that early steps should be taken by Government to establish a compact Small Industries Service Institute and a Technical Institute in the Islands at the earliest to provide educational and training base in the Islands in the interest of building up an infrastructure for industrial development of the Islands.

Fisheries Development

Recommendation (Nos. 61 & 65)

59. In paragraph 7.12 of their 87th Report the Committee had noted that in the draft Fifth Five Year Plan, the target of attaining a level of 6500 tons of fish production was originally fixed with a Plan outlay of Rs. 4.5 crores which was subsequently scaled down to Rs. 0.94 crores and a revised target of attaining a level of 1600 tons of fish production had been fixed. This revised target of fish production would largely meet the domestic requirements of the inhabitants of Andaman and Nicobar Islands only. The Committee had expressed surprised over the fact that the allocations for the Fifth Plan had been reduced by about 75 per cent on the ground of constraint of resources even in the case of a highly productive field as fisheries and in a territory like Andaman and Nicobar Islands which had vast economic potentialities in this field. The Committee emphasised that in the existing circumstances when there was an urgent need to attain self sufficiency in the matter of food and when there was great demand for fish in the country, concerted efforts should be made by Government for development of fisheries and increasing the production of fish in these islands so that not only the demands of the local population might be met in full but fish could be exported to mainland also to meet the requirements of people there, particularly those residing in West Bengal where fish constitute part of the staple food. This would also help the economic development of the Islands and would improve the economic conditions of local population.

60. Government stated in reply that the Working Group on Fisheries in the Planning Commission considered the total cost of provision of these facilities as Rs. 4.5 crores and that these schemes on full development could raise fish production to a level of 6,500 tonnes per annum. However, in view of the constraint on resources, it was felt that plan provision for extensive infrastructural facilities, large deep sea fishing vessels, etc. should be made only after the successful conclusion of the investigations on sustainable fish yield, location of fishing grounds, craft and gear best suited for their exploitation, type of processing and storage, facilities for marketing, etc. The outlay required on schemes that could be implemented before the conclusion of the survey was worked out as Rs. 0.94 crores, which could take fish production to level of 1600 tonnes per annum. It has been stated that as soon as

the surveys are completed and schemes worked out for large scale development of fisheries, provision of necessary funds could be examined and provided if necessary.

61. In paragraph 7.24 of the 87th report the Committee had noted that basic data regarding the potential of fish in and around the Andamans and Nicobar Islands was not available and it was only in pursuance of the recommendation of the Estimates Committee, made in May 1970 that a deep sea fishing station had been set up at Port Blair in 1972, with two vessels which had been doing survey for nearly two and half years. The Committee had noted with regret that the data was still in the process of being collected. The Committee emphasised that basic data regarding the availability of fish in and around the Islands was pre-requisite for undertaking development of fisheries and for the maximum utilisation of the fishing potential in that area. The Committee had, therefore, urged that a time-bound programme for the collection of basic data regarding fisheries should be prepared and the work completed most expeditiously. The Committee had pointed out that the very fact that fishing boats from far off places like Japan, China, Taiwan and Thailand come around these Island for fishing, was a clear indication of the vast potentialities of fishing in the area.

62. It was explained by Government in reply that a complete survey of the fishery resources of the waters around these islands was a stupendous task, requiring a large organisation with adequate number of fishing vessels. With the limited organisation and vessels available with the Exploratory Fisheries Project, only 2 vessels could be stationed at Port Blair, where they had been working for the last 4 years. The survey so far conducted had revealed the possibility of commercial fishing with long line fishing gear, while the possibility for fishing with trawl nets and purse-seining nets seemed remote from the 3500 sq. km. surveyed. It was stated by government that the 57 ft. vessels available with the Exploratory Fisheries Project were found to be inadequate for operation in these waters although in the absence of larger sized vessels, the survey was being continued with these vessels. It was hoped that with the acquisition of larger sized vessels towards the end of the Fifth Plan, the survey fleet in these islands could be suitably strengthened.

63. As a detailed survey for the resources would take a large number of years to complete, the industry was being encouraged to enter fishing with the available data.

64. The Committee wanted to know whether a time-bound programme had been drawn up for completion of the surveys/investigations of the fisheries resources in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

65. Government have explained in reply that exploratory survey was a continuing programme. Survey had to be carried out using different types of fishing methods over a period of years to obtain even a general picture of the resources. This picture was reviewed in the light of repeat surveys carried out in the areas. It has been stated that even on the mainland, surveys were being carried out in a continuing basis.

66. The Committee enquired the number and sizes of the vessels available with the Explanatory Fisheries Project and the number and sizes of vessels that were required for the expeditious completion of the survey and programme drawn up to acquire the same.

67. It has been stated in reply that the Exploratory Fisheries Project has at present 2 vessels of 57 ft. length, one long liner and the other purse-seiner. For a reasonably intensive survey of the economic Zone (200 miles) around Andaman and Nicobar Islands about 10 vessels (about 23 metres) would be required, of which 2 may be trawlers, 2 purse seiners, 4 long-liners and 2 pole and line fishing vessels. Negotiations were being held with aid-giving countries for obtaining assistance in the supply of vessels etc. for the survey programme along the East Coast, including the sea around Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Besides the operation of the Fisheries Project at Campbell Bay, as recommended by the Technical team, would also provide additional information on the fishable resources of the area.

68. The Committee are constrained to observe that the work relating to exploratory fisheries survey in Andaman waters has not made much headway. The working group on fisheries in the Planning Commission had estimated the total cost of provision of facilities for full development of fisheries resources around the Islands as Rs. 4.5 crores and a target of attaining 6500 tonnes per annum of fish production was originally fixed. In view of constraint on resources and pending successful conclusion of the investigation on sustainable fish yield, locating fishing grounds, craft and gear best suited for their exploitation, type of processing and storage, facilities for marketing etc. This was scaled down to Rs. 0.94 crores which would take fish production to a level of 1600 tonnes per annum. It was stated by Government that as soon as the surveys were completed and schemes worked out for large scale development of fisheries, provision of necessary funds could be examined and provided if necessary.

The Committee find that Government have no time-bound programme to complete a preliminary survey or to make even a general assessment of the fisheries resources in the Andaman waters as according to Government it is a 'stupendous' task which has to be taken on a continuous basis. The

Committee, however, note that ten vessels would be needed for a reasonably 'intensive' survey and Government are taking steps to procure the same from aid giving countries.

The Committee would urge Government to procure the requisite equipment for an intensive survey of fisheries resources around the Islands expeditiously and take up the exploratory work earnestly in accordance with a time bound programme to obtain at least a general picture of the fisheries resources so that the work regarding fisheries production could be undertaken at the earliest. The Committee hope that pending detailed survey which may take time, concerted efforts should be made by Government to ensure that the known fisheries resources around the Islands are exploited to the maximum extent.

Acquisition of Mechanised Fishing Boats

Recommendation (No. 67)

69. In paragraph 7.37, the Committee were constrained to observe that although twenty mechanised boats were expected to be received by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration by the end of 1971, not a single boat had been received even upto April, 1975. In respect of 7 boats, the construction was stated to be in an advanced state. The Committee were not convinced with the reasons advanced by the Government for delay in acquiring these boats. They deplored the casual manner in which the matter of acquisition of these mechanised fishing boats had been dealt with by the Government which had greatly hampered the development of fishing in the Islands. The Committee recommended that Government should give top priority to the acquisition of these mechanised fishing boats and ensure that they were put into operation without delay. The Committee also wanted government to fix responsibility for such unconsciousable delays and inform them of the action taken.

70. Government have stated in reply that according to accelerated development programme in 1965 drawn up by the Department of Rehabilitation it was proposed among other items to introduce 160 mechanised boats and to begin with, it was planned to have only 20 boats—8 of 38' length and 12 of 30' length. Engines for the purpose were also ordered to be imported. However, there being no favourable response to the hire purchase offer, 12 engines meant for 30' boats were sold to the Lakshadweep Administration and West Bengal Government. While repacking the engines it was noticed that only 7 engines of the type suitable for mounting on 36' boats were available. In the circumstances there were only 7, 36' boats to be constructed and brought to the territories. Four of these boats are stated to have since been completed and have

already been transported to Port Blair where they have started fishing. The remaining three boats are said to be nearing completion and will be transported to Andamans as soon as these are ready.*

71. It has been stated that though there has no doubt been delay in providing the Andaman and Nicobar Administration with the mechanised boats yet any individual or organisation can hardly be blamed and held responsible for the same. The scheme was initiated by the Department of Rehabilitation and the orders were placed by the Chief Commissioner of Andamans with commendable intentions but both of them had no technical staff to assist in this work and hence had to depend on other agencies. As it could not be possible to entrust the boat construction to a contractor or any other agency the orders were placed with the DGS&D with the designs and specifications supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture. At one stage after accepting the tenders submitted by M/s. Rubi Engineering and Boat Building Corporation, Cochin, the DG (Shipping) felt that the designs of the boat were perhaps deficient in stability and characteristics. It created some uncertainty and the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) was brought into the picture. While the designs were being scrutinised by the MMD a communication was received from the Ministry of Defence (Navy) who desired that the designs should also be cleared through them before the order was executed. These factors are stated to have led to delay in the approval of design which was finally cleared by the Ministry of Defence (Navy) only on 17-4-1974.

72. The Committee are disappointed to note that while according to the accelerated development programme drawn up by the Department of Rehabilitation as early as in 1965 it was proposed, among other things, to introduce 160 mechanised boats and to begin with it was planned to have only 20 boats by 1971, only 4 mechanised boats have been put into operation recently. Three are nearing completion. No definite programme to acquire and operate the remaining 13 boats, appears to have been formulated. All this has obviously affected the whole programme of accelerated

*Indicating the latest position in this regard it has been stated by the Ministry of Home Affairs at the time of factual verification of the report vide their O.M. No. U-16016/3 (S-61)/77-ANL dated 6 December, 1977 that :—

“Seven mechanised boats were procured by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration out of which four were put into operation and the remaining three would be put into operation as soon as staff is available. Suitable staff is not available locally and the question of recruiting the staff from the mainland is being examined.

As regards the future programme, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration propose to procure 66 mechanised boats during the coming five years. However, this is subject to approval by the Planning Commission. In addition to the above 19 mechanised boats are proposed to be procured under the schemes falling under the Central Sector.”

development of fisheries in the Islands adversely. The Committee, consider the delay in acquisition of mechanised boats for increased fish landing in the Islands unfortunate and are of the view that with proper planning and foresight the delay could have been avoided. The Committee desire that keeping in view the difficulties faced in the matter of implementation of the whole programme and in the light of experience gained from the working of the 4 mechanised boats, a well thought-out programme should be drawn up for introducing larger number of suitable mechanised boats and the programme implemented assiduously in the interest of the economic development of the Islands.

Implementation of Recommendations

73. The Committee would like to emphasise that they attach the greatest importance to the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Government. They would, therefore, urge that Government should keep a close watch so as to ensure expeditious implementation of the recommendations accepted by them. In cases where it is not possible to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee in time with reasons for non-implementation.

74. The Committee would also like to draw attention to their comments made in respect of the replies of Government to Recommendations at serial nos. 9, 12, 17, 34, 36, 40, 49, 62, 68 and 72 (Chapter II). They desire that Government should take action in pursuance thereof and also furnish the requisite information to the Committee, where specifically called for.

75. The Committee also desire that final reply in respect of the recommendation contained in Chapter V of this Report may be furnished to the Committee expeditiously.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Serial No. 4, Para No. 2.25)

The Committee further recommend that the strength of doctors in the Islands particularly in the outlying Islands, should be reviewed so as to ensure that the same is adequate in number and specialisation to provide effective medical care to the residents of these Islands.

Reply of Government

The doctor-population ratio of this Territory is higher than that of plains in the Mainland. The staffing pattern in hospitals and PHCs in the mainland cannot, therefore, be strictly followed in these Islands. The existing medical facilities are constantly being improved. Expansion of the specialist services will be given due consideration in the current and subsequent plans.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. No. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 6, Para No. 2.52)

The Committee note that T. B. is among the more prevalent diseases in the Islands. They also note that the mass radiography of the general population is stated to be not feasible in view of the operational, technical, financial and other difficulties. The Committee would in these circumstances suggest that a time-bound programme may be formulated to detect cases of T. B. through other conventional methods like simple sputum microscopy through the existing health and medical institutions and through mobile dispensaries specifically set up for the purpose.

Reply of Government

The Union Territory Administration has been advised to organise sputum microscopy facilities and domiciliary treatment services in association with the general health and medical institutions located in the Islands. Though there is paucity of funds, efforts are being made to formulate a time bound programme for detection of T. B. cases, through conventional methods. As regards the establishment of mobile dispensaries

specifically for the case finding and treatment activities, it is reiterated that taking the epidemiological nature of the TB disease and various other relevant technical administrative and operational factors and the terrain into consideration, the scope of mobile dispensaries exclusively for sputum microscopy examinations and carrying out domiciliary treatment activities in TB Programme is extremely limited in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and hence not advocated.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state whether the time bound programme has since been formulated to detect cases of T. B. through conventional methods and if so, give particulars of the programme.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

A time bound programme to detect case of Tuberculosis in Andaman and Nicobar Islands has already been formulated and has been suggested to the Health Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The programme has been formulated as per the broad concepts as enunciated in the National T.B. Control Programme and as a first step a District T.B. Centre has already been established at Port Blair with suitable budgetary provisions. The Key-staff of the T.B. Centre has also been got trained at National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore or organise sputum case-finding and domiciliary treatment of T.B. patients through the general health and medical institutions located in the Union Territory, so that the bulk of existing T.B. patients and the ones which will arise in the population in the ensuing years are properly diagnosed and effectively treated during the course of the next 8-10 years.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 7, Para No. 2.53)

The Committee are concerned to note that Leprosy is another disease prevalent in the Islands with nearly 300 cases in 1971. They further note that at present there are arrangements for only a 15-bed hospital in the territory and about 60 patients have registered for treatment. The Committee would like Government not only to ensure that all the patients of this dreaded disease in these Islands are registered within a fixed period but are also placed under proper treatment. Effective steps should also be taken to prevent the spread of this disease on the Islands.

Reply of Government

During the Fifth Five Years Plan target of 8 S. E. T. Centres, one Non-medical Supervisor, two Urban Leprosy Centres, one Re-constructive Surgery Unit, one temporary Hospitalisation Ward and one District Leprosy Officer under the N. L. C. P., 100 per cent Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been specified for this territory so that all the cases are detected and brought under treatment.

Following Units/Centres have so far been established in this Union Territory during the 5th Plan for providing indoor and outdoor diagnostic and treatment facilities to contain the spread of infection in the community :—

Name of the Component	1974-75 (Achievements)
1. Survey Education and Treatment Centre	5
2. Non-medical Supervisor	1
3. Urban Leprosy Centre	1
4. Reconstructive Surgery Unit	..
5. Temporary Hospitalisation Ward	1
6. District Leprosy Officer	

In addition one District Leprosy Officer and one Non-medical Officer's Unit will be established during 1976-77 for expansion of the Leprosy Control Programme.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 9, Para No. 2.55)

The Committee further note that there has been acute shortage of X-Ray films in the Islands, impeding proper treatment in Hospitals. Shortage of drugs is also reported. The Committee are unable to appreciate the persistence of these shortages over the years. Now that X-Ray films and drugs are being produced within the country in large quantities there is no reason why with proper management the requirements of these outlying Islands cannot be met in full. The Committee stress that the matter of shortage of X-Ray films and drugs should receive attention at the highest level and immediate steps should be taken not only to meet in full the requirements of the Islands but also to build up adequate buffer stocks to obviate any chances of shortage of X-Ray films and drugs in the Islands. The Committee would like to be informed within three months of the concerted measures taken in this behalf.

Reply of Government

X-Ray Films : At present the stock of X-Ray films in the territory is good. There was however some shortage of films between middle of August and end of November, 1975. Instruction have now been issued to the Administration to place quarterly indents well in time to ensure regular supply and build up adequate buffer stock.

Drugs : Ministry of Health and Family Planning have reported that as a result of discussions between that Ministry and the Chief Commissioner in February, 1975, a procedure was evolved to the effect that M. S. D. Calcutta will make full supply of items indented for the by the A & N Administration in instalments for which purpose indent will be submitted to the M. S. D. Calcutta by the authorities concerned six months in advance. The A & N Administration were also required to confine their demands under the above arrangements as far as possible within the items listed in the V.M.S. The provision regarding the supply against indents placed by the A & N Administration on the M.S.D. Calcutta for the year 1975-76 is indicated below :—

Date of receipt of indent	Date of First supply against the indent	Date of completion of supplies	Percentage of supply of the drugs against the indent
7-3-1975 (416 items)	13-6-1975 (235 items 66%)	16-2-1976	90.14%

The indent included 28 NIB items of which 13 were supplied.

Steps are being taken to guard against any possible gap between the placing of an indent and receipt of supplies. Also the question of building of reserve stock of non-perishable items is receiving attention.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL dated 30-4-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the circumstances under which it required nearly one year to complete the supplies against the indents for 1975-76 and the measures being taken to guard against the gap between the placing of the indents and the receipt of supplies.

Please indicate also the delivery date stipulated in the indent dated 7-3-1975 for 416 items referred to in the reply.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

The Ministry of Health have reported that the percentage of supply from Medical Store Depots to the indentors is in the neighbourhood of 50 to 60 per cent. The main reason for the shortfall in the supply is paucity of funds to meet the total demands of all the indentors. Secondly, all items value of which exceeds Rs. 50,000/- have to be procured through DGS & D. In many cases there are failures/delays in obtaining stores from that source. Another reason is non-availability of certain medical stores, primarily drugs of standard quality in the market as and when required.

2. In the case of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the indent was received in March, 1975 in Medical Store Depot, Calcutta asking for supplies in May, 1975. In the middle of February, 1975 the question of supplies of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was discussed between the Chief Commissioner of Andamn and Nicobar Islands and officers of Ministry of Health and it was agreed that full supplies should be arranged against their indent even though in instalments and the indent should be submitted six months in advance. Pursuant to this decision the Medical Store Depot, Calcutta went on making supplies throughout 1975-76. 226 items were delivered in May, 1975. The remaining items were supplied in instalments subsequently. The total percentage of supplies made against his indent was 83. The principal reasons for the inability of the Depot to make full supplies have been stated above. The most disturbing factor as far as Medical Store Depot, Calcutta is concerned was that for 2-3 months starting from the fag end of the monsoons there were extremely heavy floods in Bihar and all the energies of the Depot were directed to meet the critical situation which had arisen there and massive quantities of life saving drugs had to be rushed to Patna. To a lesser extent the supplies had also to be arranged on top priority basis to the States of Orissa and Assam.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of Committee

The Committee desire that in view of the unique position of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which are cut off from the mainland special treatment may be accorded to these Islands in regard to the supply of drugs and it may be ensured that there are no shortages of drugs in the Islands.

Recommendation (Serial No. 10, Para No. 2.61)

The Committee are deeply concerned to note that adequate arrangements for treatment of eyes do not exist in the Islands at present. Even

for ordinary day-to-day requirements like prescription of eye glasses there are no arrangements. As mentioned earlier in the Report the post of Junior Ophthalmic Surgeon has remained unfilled since October, 1972. The Committee do not consider that sending of a team of eye specialists to Andaman and Nicobar Islands from time to time is a conclusive answer to this problem. They would recommend that regular arrangements for treatment of eyes and prescription of glasses should be made in the major Islands immediately.

Reply of Government

Lt. Col. S. K. Chakravarty has been given appointment to the post of Junior Ophthalmologist under the A & N Islands on deputation basis. He joined the post on 12-4-1976.

Further, the A & N Admn. had deputed Dr. G. Motiram, Medical Officer, G. B. Pant Hospital, for a short course of Ophthalmology at the Ophthalmic Hospital, Egmore, Madras. He has since returned after completion of his course in April, 1976.

It is hoped the posting of these two doctors will go a long way to meet the requirements of the Islanders. Besides the need for posting a Refractionist is also being examined.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 11, Para No. 2.62)

The Committee note that the National Trachoma Control Programme was put into operation in the Union Territory in 1974-75. A coverage of 90,000 under 5 blocks was the target for the operation of the programme and the same is expected to be covered during 1975-76. The Committee hope that the targets fixed for 1975-76 under the National Trachoma Control Programme will be duly achieved.

Reply of Government

It is confirmed that the targets fixed for 1975-76 under the National Trachoma Control Programme for the Union Territory were duly achieved.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 12, Para No. 2.63)

The Committee would like Government to pay special attention to the health of the tribals and new migrants, particularly of children of the age group 0-5 years. In this context the Committee cannot too strongly stress that from the very beginning Government should see that the colonies and hutments are so built and designed as to conform to health and hygiene requirements. Special attention should be paid to drinking water and sewerage. Government may also encourage the inhabitants and settlers to adopt dietary habits which will help to build resistance to disease.

Reply of Government

The Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar is composed of 319 islands with a total area of about 8,203 sq. kms. out of which 38 islands are inhabited with a total population of 1,15,133 as per 1971 Census including tribal population of 18,102 which comes to 15.7 per cent of the total population. The tribals are generally concentrated in the Nicobar group of islands. At present, there are 12 hospitals, 3 primary Health Centres with its 3 sub-centres and 51 dispensaries functioning in the Union Territory. Medical facilities are equally made available to the tribal and backward classes along with others. In comparison to the general norms of one Primary Health Centre for a population of one lakh and one sub centre for a population of 10,000 the Andaman and Nicobar islands have one P.H.C. for a population of 20,000 and one sub-centre/dispensary for every 5,000 population as relaxed for tribal areas.

Under the Plan Schemes for Maternal and Child Health sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning 2,000 children are targetted to be immunised with triple vaccine and 1,000 mothers against tetanus. 5,000 mothers and 5,000 children are expected to be given iron and folic acid tablets to prevent nutritional anaemia and 1,000 children would receive vitamin 'A' for deficiency diseases. Training is imparted to the traditional birth attendants who assist at child-birth to improve their skills and knowledge. Other nutrition programmes, like special Nutrition Programme and Mid-day Meal Programme are also being implemented in the territory. The State Nutrition Division is also undertaking programmes for nutrition education so as to educate the population to adopt better dietary habits.

The Ministry of Works & Housing in consultation with the Andaman and Nicobar Administration are considering action regarding design of colonies and hutments and provision of water and sewerage facilities.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to know the action taken by the Ministry of Works and Housing in consultation with A&N. Administration for designing of colonies and hutments and provision of water and sewerage facilities.

Recommendation (Serial No. 13, Para No. 2.64)

The Committee would also stress the need for setting up well-equipped and adequately manned family planning units so as to propagate the knowledge and make available family planning facilities to the inhabitants and settlers in scientific and rational manner.

Reply of Government

The Family Planning Programme is being implemented by State Governments/Union Territories Administration as a Centrally sponsored programme and cent per cent assistance is given by Government of India for provision of necessary infrastructure, staff and equipment required for motivation, educational purposes and providing services to the people. So far as Union Territory of Andamans and Nicobar Islands is concerned, the funds allocated and expenditure incurred by the Union Territory Administration during the last four years and current year are as under :—

Year	Budget provision	Revised Estimates	Deptt. figures of expenditure
			(Rs. in Lakhs)
1972-73 .	0.75	0.65	0.58
1973-74 .	0.40	1.07	0.97
1974-75 .	1.37	1.52	1.47
1975-76 .	1.50	1.75	1. 81
1976-77 .	1.90		..

*Estimated expenditure on Final Grant.

2. According to the reports received in Ministry of Health & Family Planning, the following categories of staff at different levels for Family

Planning work have been sanctioned in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands :

Category	Staff sanctioned
<i>At the Rural Level</i>	
F.P.H.A.	4
A.N.M.	7
<i>At the Urban Level :</i>	
(For Centres run by state Government only)	
PHN/LHV	2
A.N.M.	3
<i>At the Distt. F.P. Bureau</i>	
Dist. F.P. Office	1
Driver-cum-Mechanic	1
Stat. Investigator	1
F.P. Field & Evaluation Worker	1
A.N.M.	1

As regards the performance of sterilisations IUD insertion and C.C. Users, it is observed that there is a marked improvement during the year 1975-76 and achievements have been in excess of targets. Performance figures for the year 1975-76 are given below :

Method	Performance during 75-76	Percentage achievement of Target	Percent increase(+) Decrease(-) over 1974-75	Percentage of couples protected
Sterilizations	222	111.00	(+)36.2	6.9
IUD	184	184.0	(+)174.6	1.8
C.C. Users	703	117.2	(+)70.6	4.0

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 17, Para No. 3.12)

The Committee are constrained to observe that inspite of the recommendation made by them as far back as May, 1970 regarding improvement in the dilapidated conditions of the Cellular Jail and its maintenance as a national monument, progress made in this direction so far has not been satisfactory. The implementation of the phased programme for construction of buildings for offices, stores and new Jail Complex etc. with a view to shift them from the Cellular Jail, has been, very slow. No work has

been done in Wing No. 6, as this is occupied by officers for whom alternative accommodation is yet to be constructed. Even site selection and preparation of detailed estimates for this purpose have not been carried out by the A.P.W.D. In regard to the Entrance Block and Wing No. 7 which are occupied by the Medical Department and Nurses, only part of the work has been done. Even though the Nurses Hostel has been completed, four Jail Wardens and one staff Nurse are still residing in the Entrance Block of the Jail which is to be vacated on the construction of a new Jail Complex.

The Committee are distressed at the slow progress made in the vacation of the various Wings of the Cellular Jail which is to be maintained as a national monument. They would like Government to take effective measures in this regard. The Committee urge that a well-defined and time-bound programme should be prepared for the vacation of the various Wings of the Cellular Jail building and to maintain them properly.

Reply of Government

A programme for vacating Wing No. 6 of the Cellular Jail presently used as residential accommodation for the bachelors or single officials has been drawn up. Estimates for construction of alternative accommodation for them have been sanctioned and suitable site has been allotted for the purpose at Junglighat. Rs. 2 lakhs have been provided in the budget for 1976-77 and efforts are being made to complete the work by the end of 1977.

The office furniture and other medical stores could not be shifted from Wing No. 7 due to inadequacy of space in the new medical complex. However, alternative accommodation to ensure early clearance of this wing is being arranged. Normal maintenance such as white-washing and red ochre wash are being done in this wing. Out of 129 old rusted grills in the Varandah of this Wing, 116 grills have since been replaced and the remaining 13 are being replaced.

The Staff Nurse who was living in the Entrance Block has already shifted. The office of the Director of Medical and Health Services has also been shifted from the Entrance Block to the new Medical Complex. A decision to shift the three Jail Warders now living in this block and to provide them alternative accommodation on highest priority basis has been taken. As provision of permanent alternative accommodation is likely to take some time and delay shifting, arrangements have been made to shift them immediately to the old Isolation Ward after making certain alterations. The Principal Executive Engineer has been directed to carry out these alterations on the highest priority basis.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the latest progress in regard to vacation of the various wings of the Cellular Jail.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 Dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

The latest position regarding vacation of various wings of Cellular Jail is indicated below :—

Wing No. 1.—This wing is presently being used as District Jail and the proposal for its vacation is linked with construction of a new Jail complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 45 lakhs. On account of financial constraints it had not been possible to agree to the proposal of the Administration for a new Jail complex so far. The matter was however, recently re-examined during discussion by the Secretaries' Team headed by the Cabinet Secretary and a decision was taken, in principle, to clear the proposal out of non-Plan resources.

Wing No. 6.—This wing is accommodating bachelor (single) Officers. A new building for bachelor's mess is at present under construction at Port Blair.

Wing No. 7.—It was proposed to shift office furniture and other medical stores from Wing No. 7 to the new Medical Complex. This could not be done because of inadequacy of space. Construction of new building for the purpose could also not be undertaken during the last year due to financial stringency. The necessary plans and estimates are, however, now under preparation and financial provisions have been made.

Due to heavy cyclones in the Islands, the staff remained busy and the repair and reconstruction of a number of civil works damaged during the cyclones could not be undertaken. This gave a set back to the work of carrying on certain alterations in the old Isolation ward. Efforts are being made to make up the loss. Meanwhile, provision is being made to provide permanent alternative accommodation also.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL dated 30-4-1976]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee need hardly stress the importance of vacating the various wings of the Cellular Jail early in the interest of its proper maintenance as a national monument.

Recommendation (Serial No. 19, Para No. 3.14)

The Committee further note that the proposal for the construction of a new Jail Complex has been approved by the Planning Commission and that the scheme has been incorporated in the Fifth Five Year Plan of this Union Territory. The Committee would stress that necessary measures should be taken to implement the scheme for the construction of a new Jail in the Islands as early as possible so that Wing No. 1 which is being used as a Jail is vacated and the objective of preserving the "gaunt severity" of the Cellular Jail may be fulfilled.

The Committee have no doubt that in constructing the new Jail Complex in the Islands, it would be ensured by Government that the latest advances in the construction of Jails as also arrangements for education and training of the convicts with a view to facilitate their rehabilitation after the expiry of their term of imprisonment, are introduced and the Jail is run as a model jail to serve as a contrast to the treatment meted out to the freedom fighters in the Cellular Jail.

Reply of Government

The proposal regarding construction of new jail complex at an estimated cost of Rs. 45 lakhs has been reviewed again in consultation with the Planning Commission in all its details. In view of the financial constraints it has been decided to defer the proposal for the present and to manage with the existing jail complex after carrying out certain improvements without affecting to the historic character and gaunt severity of the building.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 20, Para No. 3.15)

The Committee are glad to note that at long last the list of names of the Freedom Fighters who were incarcerated in the Cellular Jail in Andamans has been finalised by the Andaman Administration in consultation with the Freedom Fighters Fraternity Circle, Calcutta. These names have now been written on the wooden plaques. The Committee desire that the work relating to the inscription of the names in marble for suitable display in the Central Tower of the Jail should also be completed before the end of 1976 and the Committee informed. The Committee would like Government to ensure that the names of all the freedom fighters who were incarcerated in the Cellular Jail are correctly spelt out and inscribed on the marble plaques and are shown under their respective States.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is accepted. The list of names of the Freedom Fighters has been finalised by the Administration in consultation with the Freedom Fighters Fraternity Circle, Calcutta. The Secretary, Ex-Andaman, Political Prisoners' Fraternity Circle, Calcutta has furnished a copy of the corrected final list of freedom fighters. The names are being inscribed on 30 marble plaques of size 7' in length and 3'-6" in width. Supply orders for these marble plaques with inscriptions engraved on them have been placed on a firm in Calcutta. The first 10 plaques with inscriptions have already been received by the Administration and these will be installed in the Cellular Jail shortly. The remaining plaques are under preparation and a special watch is being kept to ensure that this work is completed without delay.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 21, Para No. 3.20)

The Committee desire that a carefully-scheduled brochure should be compiled on the life and conditions in the Cellular Jail during the freedom struggle with the help of the non-official organisations who have evinced interest in the matter in the past as also with the help of the freedom fighters who were incarcerated in that Jail, and who are still alive. This brochure apart from its historical importance could well serve as the basis for setting up son-et-lumiere show at the Jail in due course.

Reply of Government

The compilation of a brochure on the lines recommended has been taken up by the Editor (Gazetteer) of the A&N Administration. The compilation of the required Brochure requires minute scrutiny and thorough study of the old records available with the Administration and also consultations by correspondence with non-official organisations who have evinced interest in the matter in the past as also freedom fighters who were incarcerated in the Cellular Jail and who are still alive. It will therefore take some time to bring out the brochure.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 22, Para No. 3.26)

The Committee note that progress made towards installation of the statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in implementation of the recommendation made in paragraph 1.33 of their 128th Report (1969-70) and reiterated in paragraph 3.25 of their 43rd Report (1972-73). The formal

order for casting a 15' bronze statue was placed on Shri R. P. Kamat in August, 1974 and the delivery was expected within a year's time. The Committee cannot help pointing out that though Government, while accepting the recommendation, had stated in their reply furnished in February, 1971 that it had already been decided to erect a statue of Netaji at Port Blair, they have taken more than three and a half years thereafter to place an order for the statue on the supplier. The Committee would urge Government to ensure that at least now no further delay occurs in the procurement and installation of the statue. The Committee desire that the statue should be installed and the area around it properly developed not later than December, 1976 and the Committee informed.

Reply of Government

The Government of India have decided to erect a 15' high bronze statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose on a 10' pedestal at Port Blair. Shri R. P. Kamat, a leading sculptor of Bombay has been entrusted with this work. The final model of this statue has since been approved and it is hoped that it will be erected at Port Blair before December, 1976.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 23, Para No. 4.21)

The Committee are constrained to observe that even after a lapse of five years since the presentation of their 128th Report in May, 1970, no significant improvement has been made towards fuller utilisation of the vast forest resources available in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Though the forests in these Islands are being worked for the last 85 years, major portion still remain virgin and Government's efforts still stand around exploratory studies. The level of exploitation still remains to the tune of less than 1 lakh cubic metres of forest wealth as against the total capability of 3.65 lakh cubic metres per annum. This quantity does not, however, take into account the quantum of timber from species which have still not established themselves in the trade. If the entire stock of wood is taken into account, the quantity available annually for exploitation is estimated to be about 12 lakh cubic metres. Thus the present exploitation which is between 90,000 and 98,000 cu.m. annually, works out to about 8 per cent only. Even taking into account availability of exploitable timber which has an established market, it is regrettable that more than 2.5 lakh cubic metres timber per year is not harvested at all. The loss is more striking in terms of value. It has been estimated that a sum of Rs. 1.25 crores is lost to Government revenue due to under-exploitation. On the

basis of market value it works out to about 6.25 crores. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the optimum utilisation of forest wealth available in the Islands, apart from increasing the revenue of Government, would greatly help in the development of forest based industries, augment employment potential, and enable the country to enter the world market in timber. The Committee would, therefore, reiterate that government should undertake a crash programme for the economic and scientific exploitation of forest wealth so as to ensure maximum possible yield from the rich forest resources of the Islands. The Committee would however urge that all due precautions should be taken that the programmes do not lead to denudation of forest wealth resulting in ecological imbalance.

Reply of Government

The problem of non-utilisation of a major portion of wood raw material in tropical forests is not confined to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands alone. This problem exists all over the tropical rain forests. Heterogeneity of composition, diverse wood properties, variations in the availability of individual wood species are some of the common factors operating against the fuller utilisation of tropical rain forests.

The total annual wood potential of these islands has been estimated at 3.65 lac m³. As against this, the present level of exploitation remains to the tune of less than one lakh m³. For the economic and scientific exploitation of forest wealth and to ensure maximum possible yield from the forest resources of these islands, a revised project report for the establishment of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Development Corporation has been prepared. According to the programme envisaged in the revised project report, an additional quantity of 1.20 lac m³ timber will be exploited annually in phases during the period of next five years in Little Andaman and North Andamans which remained un-exploited so far. Due precautions to avoid denudation of forest wealth resulting in ecological imbalance will be taken based on the recommendations of Multi-Disciplinary Study Team and suggestions made by Dr. Mcvean, an I.U.C.N. expert who visited the Islands recently.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 24, Para No. 4.22)

The Committee do not fully share the views put forward by the Inspector General of Forests during evidence that a positive benefit was accruing through burning of the species, not presently being utilised. They would rather hold the view that much of burning of this type was being resorted to on account of non-utilisation. The Committee, however,

note the assurance given during evidence that management of the forest wealth in the Islands is presently engaging serious attention of Government. For this reason a Corporation with an equity share of Rs. 400 lakhs is proposed to be set up to extract timber, process the extracted timber by setting up saw mills and plywood factories etc., and raise plantations in the extracted areas. The Committee desire that the proposal for setting up of a Corporation or any other suitable organisation will be finalised without further delay and translated into action not only to obviate the loss of revenue being suffered by Government but also in the interest of improving the availability of wood for industrial use, creating employment opportunities and entering export possibilities. Above all it would help to accelerate the development of the hitherto neglected Islands of Andaman and Nicobar.

Reply of Government

Slash burning in the forest areas is resorted to for artificial regeneration purposes in order to enrich the soil with wood ash and to control the growth of weeds. This is the usual practice in most plantation areas on the mainland also. The soil of these islands is not rich in minerals. As submitted earlier, the volume utilisation should not be considered optimum. On the mainland, 80 per cent volume can be utilised on account of the demand. In the Islands it is not possible to consume all the species in the form of fuel, because there are only a few settlements and as such the left over material in the forest creates natural hazards such as fires in dry season. Therefore, such left over material is required to be disposed of. Left over material is similarly disposed of in many hill forests of the Himalayas as a fire-prevention measure.

The memorandum and articles of Association of the proposed Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest Development Corporation are under finalisation. The Project Report has since been referred to the Public Investment Board, Ministry of Finance, for clearance. A decision has been taken that there will be two sub-projects namely one dealing with forests and the other dealing with commercial plantations.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 27, Para No. 4.52)

The Committee note that 16,000 hectares are estimated to be under coconut cultivation in the Andamans and that during the Fourth Plan, Coconut plantation was extended to 745 hectares as against the target of 620 hectares during that period.

The Committee, however, note that in their Techno-Economic Survey of the Islands (1972) the National Council of Applied Economic Research had recommended 10,000 hectares to be brought under coconut plantation in Nicobar Islands and 1000 hectares in Andaman Islands during the next ten years. The Committee, however, note that according to Government large scale plantation in the Islands would be possible only with the establishment of a Plantation Corporation. The Committee desire that urgent and effective measures should be taken to accelerate the plantation programme to cover the area of 10,000 hectares in Nicobar Islands and 1,000 hectares in the Andaman Islands as recommended by the N.C.A.E.R. The Committee would like to be informed of the detailed plan drawn up for encouraging coconut plantations during the next five years. The Committee would stress that no effort should be spared to introduce the best suited coconuts of highest yield in the new plantations so as to improve the economic condition of the inhabitants/settlers. The Committee would like the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to take special interest in this challenging task and so arrange research and extension work, as to maximise the benefit to the inhabitants and settlers of these Islands.

Reply of Government

Apart from the programme of extending coconut cultivation over 1000 hectares during the Fifth Plan which is being implemented by the Administration the Project Report of the Forest-cum-Plantation Corporation, the establishment of which is under processing, envisages coverage of about 2500 hectares during a period of five years.

The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established a research Station at Sipighat which is 15 Kms south of Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Station has an area of 32 ha. including five ha. of mangrove forest. The Station has taken up four research projects, including introduction and study of germplasm material in coconut. The project would bring out the most promising varieties for the area.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 28, Para No. 4.57)

The Committee note that against the target of 305 hectares of land for arecanut plantation during the Fourth Plan, the achievement was about 250 hectares only. They also note that the present policy of Government is not to encourage extension of area under arecanut but instead to lay more emphasis on intensive cultivation. The Committee, however, hope that the

target of plantation of 250 hectares under arecanut plantation laid down for the Fifth Plan will be achieved and that concerted action would be taken by Government to see that the inhabitants and settlers take to more intensive cultivation of arecanut so as to achieve higher yields.

Reply of Government

During the first two years of the Fifth Plan, 106 hectares were covered by new arecanut plantations. The target for the next three years is 150 hectares. For promoting intensive cultivation 29 demonstrations were conducted during the first two years of the plan and this programme is being continued.

As stated in reply to recommendation No. 27 the Central Plantation Crops Research Institute of the Indian Council on Agricultural Research has established a research station of Sipighat. The Project will bring out the most suitable varieties for the area and this will help in promoting higher yields.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 30, Para No. 4.73)

As observed by the Committee in their 43rd Report presented to Lok Sabha in April, 1973, India is at present deficit in vegetable oils and is importing red oil palm worth Rs. 3 to 4 crores. The Committee are happy to note in this connection that Andaman and Nicobar Islands offer good scope for raising large scale plantations of red oil palm. Studies have been carried out in this regard and a plantation project has been initiated at Katchal envisaging plantation of over 2,400 hectares.

The Committee, however, note that the project report which was prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture has not yet been sanctioned and is stated to be pending with the Ministry of Finance. They further note that as against the target of planting red oil palm in an area of 2,400 hectares, proposed to be covered in a five year period, experimental plantation has been raised so far in about 1/2 acre by the Forest Department in Baratang and 20 acres in Katchal by the Rehabilitation Department. During the Fifth Plan also, only 100 hectares are targeted to be covered as the scheme had not been sanctioned.

The Committee urge that early decision on the scheme should be taken. In this connection the Committee would like to invite the attention of Government to the observations of the Multi-disciplinary Team on Andaman and Nicobar Islands that "the site for the red oil palm plantation and

village No. 1 in Little Andaman and certain areas of the villages established along the North-South Road in Campbell Bay do not appear to have been selected after considering all aspects". The Committee desire that this aspect of the matter should be examined in depth while finalising the scheme for red oil palm plantation in the Andamans and selecting the sites for such plantations. The Committee would like to stress the need for systematic review of the scheme and development of research and extension services so as to make sure that it is proceeding on the right lines and would prove beneficial to the interests of inhabitants and settlers.

Reply of Government

The Project Report for the development of Red Oil Palm in Andaman & Nicobar was first prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1971 and was revised in October, 1974. The project Report was considered by the Public Investment Board at its meeting held in March, 1975 but was desired to be revised on the basis of the guidelines provided. One of the objections raised was that it was necessary to consult environmental authorities before large scale clearing of forests so as to ensure that ecology of the area was not disturbed.

The revision of the Project Report was taken in hand. But in the meantime a Multidisciplinary Team visited the Islands in May, 1975 to make ecological studies and submitted its report to the Government. The report of this Multidisciplinary Team was examined in the Ministry of Agriculture and the following decisions were taken :—

- (i) For further deforestation of the Islands a Task Force may be constituted by the Chief Commissioner, Andaman & Nicobar.
- (ii) Recommendations of this Task Force will be examined by a Land Use Committee, under the Chairmanship of Chief Commissioner.
- (iii) Final orders on the recommendations of this Committee will be passed by the Ministry of Agriculture.

In a meeting held on 5th April, 1976 in the Ministry of Agriculture the following revised phasing for the project has been suggested :—

I year	. . . . .	100 Hectares
II year	. . . . .	200 "
III year	. . . . .	400 "
IV year	. . . . .	500 "
V year	. . . . .	600 "
VI year	. . . . .	600 "

2400 Hectares

Action is now being taken to get the clearance of the Land use Committee to this phasing. As soon as their clearance is received action will be taken to revise the Project Report and resubmit it to the Public Investment Board for their sanction.

The observation of the Committee regarding the selection of area will be duly kept in view.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 31, Para No. 4.74)

The Committee need hardly stress the importance of evolving palm varieties which are best suited to the soil and conditions of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and which give the maximum oil yield.

Reply of Government

Oil Palm is a recent introduction in the country. Tenera which is a hybrid between Pisifera (Male parent) and Dura (Female parent) has been found to be a suitable oil palm variety for the soil and conditions existing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This Palm is not indigenous to India and the parentel material particularly the male is not available in the country and the countries having this material namely Malaysia and Nigeria are not willing to supply it. The present production programme in the Islands is based on the imported Hybrid plant material from Nigeria. Efforts are being made to locate the proper parents of the Oil Palm in the country to have cross breeding programme. A centre under the Central Plantations Crops Research Institute, Kasargod (Kerala) has been sanctioned in Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the 5th Plan. A team of ICAR experts in different disciplines visited the Islands from 6th to 11th May, 1976 to suggest ways and means to consolidate the work in different areas under ICAR.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 32, Para No. 4.75)

The Committee have no doubt that Government would ensure that the plant for extraction of red palm oil is installed in time as an integrated part of the project so as to derive maximum benefit from palm plantations as also reduce the problem of transport of the palm kernel.

Reply of Government

The Project Report provides for the setting up of a factory for extraction of palm oil as a part of the Project. The factory is expected to start functioning as the first year's crop comes in.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 33, Para No. 4.84)

The Committee had in May, 1970, observed in their 128th Report that although coconut and arecanut were the main stay of the economy of the Islands, yet there was no open market for these commodities. The Committee had recommended that Government should draw up a phased programme to achieve the desired goal at an early date as it affected the economic growth of the tribals. Though more than five years have elapsed since the recommendation was made by the Committee, they are constrained to observe that no tangible progress has been made by Government in this direction so far.

The Committee note that there are daily markets in the Andaman Group of Islands and cultivators generally sell their produce through these markets. In the absence of a definite market and experienced local entrepreneurs in these Islands, the Marketing Wing of the Andaman Administration has to act as a liaison to fetch better price for the cultivators.

The Committee feel that there is a responsibility devolving on the administration to encourage genuine cooperative movement among the local inhabitants and settlers so that they are able to organise themselves at the grass root level to fetch best prices for the local produce and to purchase essential commodities including controlled cloth at most competitive rates.

Reply of Government

Coconut is an important cash crop in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In south Andaman it is grown in plantation scale. The bulk of the production in these areas is usually marketed through a group of cooperative societies. In the absence of any market, it is sold in retail. At times of any glut in supplies, the marketing wing of the department of Agriculture acts as a liaison and takes immediate measures for the quick disposal by calling tender. Recently Mainland entrepreneurs like NCDC, NAFED and private bodies have shown interest in lifting stock of coconuts produced in the union territory. The Administration of the Islands have also taken simultaneous steps to set up oil rotary units so that a part of surplus produce could be converted for production of oil. One oil rotary unit has already been set up.

The produce of North Andaman does not face any problem for its marketing. The Marketing wing besides acting at liaison does keep a watch on the price movement, arrivals of the crop.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 34, Para No. 4.85)

The Committee note that the trading rights in the southern parts of the Islands are governed by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 and the Rules framed thereunder, and the non-tribals cannot purchase land or start trading there. At present, one company, M/s. Akooji Jadwet, is controlling these activities. Consequently, the tribals have no alternative but to sell their products to them and purchase their provisions from them. The Committee also note that the Company had taken an injunction from the Calcutta High Court which was pending since 1967. The result is that the Andaman Administration is unable to set up any trading organisations there. The Committee desire that while taking advantage of the present emergency in the country, this matter should be taken up at the highest level so that the problem could be resolved once and for all and the monopoly of the private company done away with, to enable the tribals to sell their products in the open market which could fetch them better return for their products. The Committee need hardly stress that it would go a long way in enabling the tribals to stand on their own feet and free them from exploitation if suitable marketing facilities are provided to them whereby they can sell their produce and purchase essential commodities like kerosene, standard cloth and other essential commodities at fair prices.

Reply of Government

The cases pending before Calcutta High Court have been withdrawn by M/s. Akoojee Jadwets have also agreed to withdraw themselves from the trading activities in the Nicobar Group of Islands. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration are now taking steps to provide for suitable and adequate marketing and trading facilities for tribal people.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the precise action taken so far towards providing suitable and adequate marketing and trading facilities for the tribal people on withdrawal of M/s. Akoojee Jadwets from the trading activities in the Nicobar group of islands.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

The assets and activities of Nancowrie Trading Company controlled by M/s. Akoojee Jadwets have since been transferred to Nancowrie Mercantile

Company, which is a purely tribal company. The new Company will provide all the marketing and trading facilities including the canteen services previously provided by M/s. Akoojees'.

2. A Team headed by Shri M. S. Gill, Managing Director, National Cooperative Development Corporation visited the Islands in January, 1976 and studied the possibility of development of Cooperatives in the Islands with special reference to consumers movement, marketing of vegetable and other agricultural products and also the conversion of the tribal companies in the Nicobar group of Islands into full-fledged cooperatives. The report of the team is awaited.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee desire that follow up action in the light of the findings of the above report may be taken expeditiously.

Recommendation (Serial No. 35, Para No. 5.30)

The Committee note that in 1965 the team on Accelerated Development Programme for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands had recommended the setting up of wood-based and other industries in the Islands. In the report of Techno-Economic Survey carried out in 1972, the National Council of Applied Economic Research had also recommended the setting up of such industries in the Islands, including two units for processing about 5,000 tonnes of logs into packing case stocks, setting up of additional rice milling capacity and two oil mills for crushing copra. The Committee in their 128th Report (1969-70) presented in May, 1970 and later in their 43rd Report (1972-73 presented in April, 1973 also stressed the imperative need for setting up of wood-based and other industries in the Islands. They regret to point out that in spite of the matter regarding the setting up of such industries in the Islands being pursued since 1965, no significant progress in this regard has been made. The Committee regret to note that in the Project Report for the development of Mixed Tropical Forests of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1974) it has been stated that there has been neither expansion of existing wood-based industries nor induction of new wood-based industries in the private or public sector in these Islands.

It is regrettable that no concerted efforts have been made to develop and expand industry based on the rich forest resources of these Islands which remain largely untapped.

The Committee would, however, like to sound a note of caution that the exploitation of the forest wealth should be done in a most judicious manner so as not to denude the islands of this rich natural resources or to affect adversely the ecological conditions.

Reply of Government

The existing wood-based industries have programmes for expansion. The match splint factory at Port Blair has programmed for doubling its capacity. Their proposal for expansion is under consideration of the Government. One plywood factory has been issued a letter of intent for doubling its capacity and the other plywood factory has applied for expanding its capacity which is under consideration. In addition, a number of firms have approached the Administration for permission to establish wood-based complexes in the islands. The proposals are being examined. Simultaneously, steps are also being taken to establish wood-based complexes in the joint sector with the participation of the proposed Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Development Corporation.

The details of existing capacity of the wood-based Industries established in the Islands and the average annual consumption of timber by each unit are as under :—

Sl. No.	Name of Industry	Installed capacity in cu.m. (Approx.)	Average annual consumption in cu.m. (Approx.)
1.	Western India Match Co. Ltd., Port Blair	10,000	8,000
2.	Andaman Timber Industries Ltd., Bambooflat	13,100	12,000
3.	Jayshree Timber Products, Bakultala	16,800	10,000
4.	The Albion Plywood Ltd., Long Island	16,800	6,000
5.	Forest Department Saw Mill, Chatham	35,000	32,000
6.	Forest Department Saw Mill, Betapur	4,500	3,000
7.	Andaman Harbour Works Saw Mill, Little Andaman	3,000	2,000
8.	Andaman Wood Products Saw Mill, Port Blair	3,000	2,000
9.	Shri Dori Lal's Saw Mill, Port Blair	1,500	1,000
10.	Shri Murari Lal's Saw Mill, Port Blair	1,500	800

In order to enable the wood-based industries already established in these islands to utilize their full capacity, forest coupes for a period of 3 years were allotted to the industries at Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 for meeting their requirement of wood raw material. Now it has been decided to allot forest coupes for a period of 10 years to these industries (1 to 3) except

Sl. No. 4, viz., the Albion Plywood Ltd., which after intermittent periods of inactivity, was virtually closed in 1975. The Hardwoods available from the forest coupes allotted to the industries at 1 to 3 above can be utilised by the small saw mills mentioned at serial No. 8 to 10 for conversion in their saw mill under their own mutual arrangements.

The following capacities have been approved for grant of letter of intent/industrial licences in the last 3 years :

1. M/s. Andamans Timber Industries Ltd., Commercial Plywood 3 million sq. metres
Calcutta. Industrial Licence granted on 21-7-75.
2. M/s. Jayashree Timber Products Ltd., Veneers, Commercial Plywood & allied
New Delhi. products like black boards and flush
doors—4 mill. sq. metres.

Letter of Intent granted on 29-8-75.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 36, Para No. 5.31)

The Committee note that the problems of providing infrastructure such as transport, communication facilities, water and power, trained manpower and institutional finance remain largely unresolved. The activity for industrial development of the Islands so far is largely confined to grant of loans to industrialists and providing financial assistance in the form of managerial subsidy to the industrial cooperatives and distribution of improved tools on 50 per cent subsidy. Even in these matters the progress made so far is tardy as only an amount of Rs. 21,000 was distributed as subsidy on improved tools till 1972-73 and an amount of Rs. 15,000 was expected to be spent during 1973-74. The total expenditure expected to be incurred on the industrial sector during the 4th Plan was Rs. 3.9 lakhs against an outlay of Rs. 5.1 lakhs. All this indicates that the development of industries in the Islands has not received the attention that it deserved.

Reply of Government

The concern expressed by the Committee on the subject is noted. This issue was discussed in the Central Coordination Committee for Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the 6th July, 1976 and it was noted that in the present state of economy and infrastructure available in the Islands particularly energy it would not be realistic to hope to make a major break through towards rapid industrial development of the Islands. At the same time it was decided that all endeavours be made to ensure that some industrial units particularly based on timber and fisheries be encouraged. An officer of the Department of Industrial Development would visit the Islands shortly to have an over all view of the problem and suggest possible steps which can be taken in this direction.

[M.H.A. O. M. No. U-16012/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee may be apprised of the recommendations made by the officer of the Department of Industrial Development who visited the Islands and concrete measures taken in implementation of his recommendations.

Recommendation (Serial No. 38, Para No. 5.33)

The Committee would like to draw attention to the recent change in the curricula in school education according to which the syllabi would conform to the 10+2+3 formula. The whole idea underlying the change is to give importance to vocational training suited to the requirements of the area. The Committee would like Government to draw up a time-bound programme for providing the requisite facilities in various schools in the Islands so as to enable the students to imbibe knowledge and skills which would be of help in the development of the Islands.

Reply of Government

The Directorate of Education A & N Admn., have already introduced the new pattern of Education (10+2) with effect from July, 1975 in all the Higher Secondary Schools of the Union Territory of A & N Islands.

A list of subjects for work experience recommended by the Central Board of Secondary Education, Delhi, has been circulated by the Administration to their various Departments with a view to finding out as to what type of raw materials, tools, machinery, workshop facilities and trained personnel will be available from different organisations to assist the schools to introduce suitable work experience programme.

[M.H.A. O.M. Uo. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 39, Para No. 5.34)

The Committee consider that one of the hindrances in the growth of industries in these Islands is the lack of capital and shortage of institutional finance. The banking facilities are also meagre. The Committee note that the Syndicate Bank has agreed to open a branch in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee are unable to appreciate the lack of interest by nationalised banks in opening branches in the Islands. The Committee desire that the Department of Banking in consultation with the nationalised banks should draw up a comprehensive plan for providing banking facilities in the Islands so as to provide requisite finances for development of industry and commerce.

Reply of Government

State Bank of India, as the lead bank for the Union Territory has carried out a general survey of the economy of the islands and identified growth centres for branch opening. During the year 1976, the State Bank of India proposed to open branches at 3 more centres, viz. Diglipur, Hut Bay and Car Nicobar. During 1977 Mayabunder and Nancowrie are proposed to be covered by the bank. Syndicate Bank have also opened two branches, one at Port Blair (HQ) and the other at Campbell Bay. They also hold a licence from the Reserve Bank of India for branch opening at Wimberlygunj. The Co-operative Bank Ltd., has four branches at Port Blair (HQ); Wimberlygunj; Mayabunder and Diglipur.

The Department of Banking have reported that the State Bank of India have formulated a comprehensive credit plan covering Andaman and Nicobar Islands. A credit plan for Southern Andaman Block is already under implementation.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 40, Para No. 5.35)

The Committee note that with a view to setting up new industries in these Islands, 10 schemes with an outlay of Rs. 3.6 lakhs had been formulated for implementation during the year 1974-75. These schemes, *inter alia* include the setting up of a training centre in carpentry, blacksmithy, cane and bamboo work at Rangat, deputing 6 artisans for advanced training in Handicrafts on the mainland, setting up a design centre at Port Blair to impart training to 10 persons in wood carving and decorative furniture, cane and bamboo work etc., setting up of a pilot project for coconut husk utilisation, and setting up of a demonstration centre in cane work, as also the establishment of an industrial estate. The Committee further note that besides the above schemes, it was proposed to implement 3 centrally sponsored schemes for development of industries in these Islands viz., schemes of 10—15 per cent outright grant/subsidy to industrial units, National Programme for non-student youth-Establishment of Work Centre and Rural Industries Project Programme. The Committee stress that concerted efforts should be made to implement these schemes according to a time-bound programme. They would like to be apprised of the specific progress made in the implementation of these projects so far.

Reply of Government

As regards the scheme of 15 per cent capital subsidy to industrial units, the Administration has been informed that according to the provisions of the capital subsidy scheme the Administration has to make the

payment of the subsidy in accordance with the scheme to entrepreneurs and claim reimbursement from the Government of India later. In the claims submitted by the Administration certain details were lacking and the Administration has been requested to submit complete information in regard to the claims after making payment of the same to the units. The claims as and when they are received complete in all respects will be attended to and funds released to the Administration.

The entire Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been selected as a Rural Industries Project for the purpose of intensive development of small scale industries in this Territory. During the year 1975-76 an amount of Rs. 1.50 lakhs comprising Rs. 0.50 lakhs as grant and Rs. 1 lakh as loan was sanctioned to the Union Territory. At the request of the Union Territory Administration for assistance in regard to procurement of services of suitably qualified personnel to man the posts in the Rural Industries Project, the Government of Kerala has been approached for deputation of qualified personnel for working in the Rural Industries Project. Negotiations in this regard are going on between Government of Kerala and Andaman and Nicobar Administration. As soon as the requisite staff is appointed techno-economic survey of the area will be conducted and development plan will be drawn up based on the findings of the techno-economic survey.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

(a) Please indicate the precise progress made in physical and financial terms of the 3 centrally sponsored schemes for development of Industries in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) Please state the progress made towards procurement of services of suitably qualified personnel to man the posts in the Rural Industries Project of the Union Territory Administration and for conducting the techno-economic survey of the area for the purpose of intensive development of small scale industries in the territory.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

The three schemes referred to in the report of the Estimates Committee on Andaman and Nicobar Islands are :—

- (1) Central Schemes of 10—15 per cent outright grant/subsidy to the industrial units ;

- (2) National programme for non-student youth-establishment of Work Centre ; and
- (3) Centrally-sponsored schemes of rural industries projects.

2. The Ministry of Industry received claims for reimbursement of the investment subsidy in respect of 12 units. In money terms the claim amounts to Rs. 2.36 lakhs. Of these 12 cases, 10 cases have since been cleared and clarifications have been sought in respect of the remaining two cases.

3. A work centre to develop coconut shells, horn wood, wooden toys and cane and bamboo craft has been set up at Port Blair under the national Programme for non-student youths-establishment of works centre. 5 candidates are admitted for training in each trade for a duration of one year and are given a stipend of Rs. 40 per month each. In the first batch 15 candidates i.e. 2 in coconut shell craft, 4 in horn work, 5 in wooden toys and 4 in cane and bamboo craft were trained. In the second batch 11 candidates i.e. 4 in coconut shell craft, 1 in horn work, 3 in wooden toys and 3 in cane and bamboo craft were trained. Third batch of 20 candidates i.e. 5 in each trade is under going training at present.

4. One rural project has been allotted to the Islands. Though the progress so far has not been very encouraging due to non-availability of technical and qualified staff, efforts are being made to remove this obstacle.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like that a careful watch is kept so that the Rural Project makes real headway. Concerted attempts should be made to secure the services of technical and qualified staff without any further loss of time.

Recommendation (Serial No. 41, Para No. 5.36)

The Committee would particularly like to stress the need for early implementation of the scheme of National Programme for non-student youth-establishment of work centre. They recommend that the results of the working of the scheme should be evaluated and similar/improved centres should be set up in other big Islands within a period of five years.

Reply of Government

Under the National Programme for non-student youth a Work Centre was started at Port Blair on 23-12-1974. 20 candidates were enrolled for Training in this Centre in four trades viz., Coconut and Shell Craft, Horn work, Wooden toys and cane craft, out of which 14 candidates completed training on 22-12-1975. A fresh batch of 20 candidates are to be enrolled for training in this centre. Position about opening more centres at places other than Port Blair is under review. A decision in this regard will be taken after evaluating the results of working of the centre. Any realistic evaluation would however be possible after this centre has worked for more than a couple of years.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 42, Para No. 5.37)

The Committee also recommend that at least one Nehru Yuvak Kendra should be started in the Islands during the Fifth Plan period so as to provide a focal point for development of extra-curricular interests amongst the youth and channelise their energies in constructive directions. In the light of the experience gained, the activities of the Nehru Yuvak Kendras may be suitably expanded with special accent being placed on the welfare and well-being of non-student youth.

Reply of Government

A Nehru Yuvak Kendra is working in this Territory since 1973-74, for development of extra-curricular interests, amongst the youth and for channelising their energies in constructive directions. The activities of Nehru Yuvak Kendra have been expanded with special emphasis on the welfare and well-being of non-student youth. The Nehru Yuvak Kendra is also playing a very good role in promotion of games, sports and on-formal education.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 43, Para No. 5.38)

The Committee are surprised to note that transport subsidy scheme, notified by Government in 1971 which envisaged payment of 50 per cent of transport on raw material and finished goods from one place to another in the case of the various backward regions in the country, has not so far been made applicable to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is regrettable that the question of extending the transport subsidy which was stated to be under consideration in 1973 when the Committee submitted their

43rd Report remains still undecided and the subsidy is not available to the industrialists in these Islands although these Islands are admittedly backward. The Committee would like Government to go into the reasons for the inordinate delay in making the scheme of transport subsidy applicable to these Islands and extend the same without further delay. The committee hope that in arriving at a decision regarding applicability of transport subsidy, the strategic importance of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the imperative need for mitigating to a considerable extent the legacy of backwardness and neglect in this important area would receive due consideration.

Reply of Government

The Transport subsidy scheme which was introduced in July, 1971 as a measure of relief to the entrepreneurs setting up units in selected remote areas by way of payment of 50 per cent of the cost of freight incurred on the movement of raw materials and finished goods from and to specified rail heads was to expire in July, 1976. The question of extension of the Transport Subsidy scheme for a further period and also extension of the Transport Subsidy Scheme to cover the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been under consideration of the Government. A decision has now been taken to continue the subsidy scheme for the entire plan period. The question of extension of Transport Subsidy Scheme to the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is under consideration having regard to the fact that even now the freights charged are below the economic level.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please indicate the reasons for the delay in extension of the Transport subsidy scheme to the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 Dated 30-12-1976]

Further reply of Government

The issue required a very detailed examination by a number of Ministries. Earlier thinking on this issue had been that since the freight rates in the area were already too low and subsidised, there was no further case for transport subsidy. This was re-examined by the Ministry of Industry in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the decision has now been taken to extend the Central transport subsidy scheme to Andaman and Nicobar Islands *vide* their letter No. 6-(3)/75-RD dated the 1st December, 1976.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016//77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 44, Para No. 5.39)

The Committee are constrained to note that water and power are other constraints in the development of industries in the Island. It has been stated that water for the industries is now available in the Islands with the commissioning of the Dhanikhari Water Supply Project recently and that power would also be available with the Commissioning of 3 M.W. diesel generating sets. The Committee would urge the Government to ensure that these schemes are completed and commissioned expeditiously so that the basic infrastructure required for the development of industries is provided. The Committee would further like Government to take suitable steps not only to meet the existing demands for water and power for industries but also to keep in view the likely increase in their demand in future and provide the same so as to give a fillip to the setting up of industries in the Islands. The Committee need hardly stress that water and power should be made available to the industries at cheap and economic rates to accelerate their rapid development.

Reply of Government

The load demand of Andaman and Nicobar territory which is presently of the order of 2 MW is expected to rise to 3 MW by the end of 1978-79, according to the assessment of the Ninth Annual Electric Power Survey. The power requirements in the Islands are met by small thermal and diesel generating stations. The aggregate installed generating capacity in South Andaman which is main Island of activity is of the order of 3.6 MW with a total derated capacity of 2.4 MW corresponding to a firm capacity of 2 MW. The Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Power Projects at its meeting held on 2nd December, 1974 had recommended an additional installation of 3, MW of diesel generating capacity in order to meet the demands towards the end of Fifth Plan and early Sixth Plan period. Against this, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration have recently procured a second-hand generating set with a nominal rating of 1060 KW and derated capacity of 600 KW. The project estimate amounting to Rs. 143.50 lakhs covering installation of this diesel set and three members 850 KW new diesel generating sets to be procured from indigenous source was, therefore, formulated with a provision to install two new units in the Fifth Plan and one unit in the early Sixth Plan period. With the commissioning of the second-hand diesel generating set in early 1976-77 the firm capacity availability is expected to be 2.6 MW. In order to meet the gap arising in the demand and availability in 1978-79, the Administration has been authorised to take immediate steps or placing of orders for one generating set of 850 KW and provision of funds for advance payment has been made in the Annual Plan of the Territory for the year 1976-77.

As regards availability of water, Government are aware of the scarcity and are taking necessary steps to improve the position. Besides Dhanikhari Dam, another Dam is proposed to be constructed on the river Kalpong in the North Andaman. Investigations at few other places are also being conducted by Central Water Commission and the Central Electricity Authority for locating Hydel Multipurpose Projects in these Islands."

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the progress if any made towards locating the Hydel Multipurpose Projects in the Islands.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 Dated 30-12-1976]

Further reply of Government

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Department of Irrigation, have reported that to supplement the existing power development in the Islands through diesel generating sets, it was proposed to have some hydro power projects. Based on recommendations of a Central Team of Experts, certain schemes were drawn up for detailed survey and investigation. Dhanikhari Hydro-electric Scheme is one of the projects investigated and prepared for taking up in South Andaman. In addition to Dhanikhari Dam, 2 more sites have been located for constructing hydro-electric schemes—one on Kalpong river in north Andaman to be taken up as Kalpong Stage I and the second Rangat Hydro-electric scheme to be taken up in Middle Andaman. Investigations on these two schemes have been completed and the project report for Kalpong Stag I is under finanlisation while that for Rangat scheme is under preparation. In addition to this, investigations for 4 more hydro-electric schemes i.e. Vasudhara, Kalpong Stage II, Korang Nalla and Panchavati have been taken up. Kalpong Stage II is in North Andaman while Korang Nalla and Panchavati are in Middle Andaman and Vasudhara is in South Andaman. The particulars of these schemes are given in the table below :—

Scheme	Particulars		
	Cost in lakhs of Rs. (Approx)	Power at 50% L.F.K.W.	Irrigation ha.
1. Dhanikhari	85.77	400	—
2. Kalpong Stage I	348.7	2400	1000
3. Rangat	365.0	2700	600
4. Vasudhara	53.1	88	280
5. Kalpong Stage II	243.0	370	2000
6. Korang Nalla	348.0	270	409
7. Panchavati	218.88	167	144

*at 60% L.E

The first three schemes have been given higher priority for detailed investigations.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 45, Para No. 5.40)

The Committee note that an industrial policy with liberal concessions to the industries in the Island is under consideration of Government. The Committee welcome this step as they consider that without liberal concessions it may be difficult to attract entrepreneurs to set up industries there. They would, therefore, urge that the industrial policy should be finalised expeditiously and publicised widely so as to attract larger number of industries to the Island which would give a fillip to their economic development.

Reply of Government

Please see reply to Recommendation number 40.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 46, Para No. 6.39)

The Committee are concerned to note that in spite of the anxiety expressed in their 128th Report presented in May, 1970 and again in the 43rd Report presented in April, 1973, concerted measures were not taken by the Andaman Administration and the Shipping Corporation authorities to resolve the Shipping bottleneck. The Shipping constraint has particularly come in the way of the exploitation of the vast resources of these Island. The Committee note that though the position somewhat improved by the commissioning of M. V. Vishwa Anand in 1974, it deteriorated in the following year when the Shipping Corporation had withdrawn 'M. V. Vishwa Anand' which resulted in accumulation of timber cargo to the tune of more than 10,000 cubic metres which had to be cleared by another ship on an *ad hoc* basis. The Committee also note that one of the factors contributing of Shipping constraint is the development of old ships which have to be quickly replaced and scrapped. The net effect of all these factors has been that a climate of uncertainty has been created about the regular availability of transport facilities between the Islands and mainland which has adversely affected the development of the Islands.

Reply of Government

1. The Shipping Corporation of India has already initiated remedial measures for over-coming the difficulties temporarily experienced in clearing

timber and timber product after withdrawal of Vishva Anand in December, 1974. From February, 1975, 3 special voyages with bigger vessels of about 6000 cu. m. capacity were provided and 18000 cu. m. timber and timber products were carried in addition to the regular voyages by the cargo vessel "Shompen" permanently employed in this service. M. V. Vishva Anand has been re-introduced in the service from February, 1976.

2. Presently M. V. Shompen and M. V. Vishva Anand are regularly operating in the service. Shompen was built in 1963 and Vishva Anand in 1958. It would, therefore, be seen that the cargo ships playing in the service are not yet due for scrapping. In addition to two cargo ships namely, M. V. Shompen and M. V. Vishva Anand, two passenger-cum-cargo ships, namely M. V. Andaman and State of Haryana have also been catering to the cargo traffic including timber.

3. The Central Coordination Committee for Andaman and Nicobar Islands discussed this issue on 6th July 1976 in all details and dimensions and noted that the old vessel STATE of HARYANA is going out of Commission. It was gratifying to note that its place would be taken by a newly acquired vessel KARANJA. Besides the cargo ships which are already in operation in the area the shipping corporation of India have already made arrangements to introduce two more cargo ships of 6,000 cu.m. capacity each. These will be sufficient to meet the cargo requirements of the islands even after the ship M. V. VISHVA ANAND is withdrawn.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 47, Para No. 6.40)

The Committee note that the Chief Engineer of Shipping Corporation submitted a report in June 1973 after carrying out an on-the-spot study of the Shipping problems of the Islands in pursuance of the recommendations of the Estimates Committee. The Committee regret that final decision has not yet been taken in respect of several important recommendations contained in that report. In fact, the Committee were informed of the action taken on these recommendations only in August, 1975, that is, after a lapse of two years. Even then, they find that decisive action is yet to be taken on a number of important recommendations. For example, final decision has not been taken about the placement of order for a ship for deployment on the Mainland-Andaman service as Mazagon Dock Ltd., have expressed their inability to construct 'Vikramaditya' as originally scheduled for this service. The Committee also find that additional mobile equipment for Chatham wharf and commercial Haddo wharf which had been recommended in the report of the Chief Engineer has yet to be procured and installed.

Reply of Government

The reference is presumably to the Report submitted by Shri D. L. Deshmukh, Chief Engineer, (ALHW), Ministry of Shipping and Transport, who carried out on-the-spot study of the shipping problems of the Islands and submitted the report in June, 1973. Decision/action has been taken on most of the important recommendations. However, the latest position in respect of some of the points on which final action has not so far been taken is indicated in the enclosed statement (Appendix I).

Recommendation (Serial No. 48, Para No. 6.41)

The Committee note that the problems relating to shipping are not confined to the adequacy of the number and size of ships but there are also other factors such as under-utilisation of shipping space, poor turn round of ships, uneconomic freight rates and passenger fares which are stated to have resulted in losses for the Shipping Corporation.

Reply of Government

In order to ensure proper utilisation of cargo space, the Shipping Corporation of India felt that as much cargo as possible should be shipped to and from Madras and Visakhapatnam. The Administration are examining the suggestion.

The Andaman & Nicobar Administration introduced a system of 3 shifts of 8 hours each with effect from 17-9-1975 to effect improvement in stevedoring. This has resulted in considerable cut down in delays at Port Blair.

As regards re-structuring of fares and freight aimed on the higher side, it would require consideration by the highest authority because any decision in the matter has to take into consideration not only the economy of the services but also the totality of circumstances.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

(a) Please state the decision taken on the question of shipping maximum possible cargo to and from Madras and Vishakhapatnam with a view to ensure proper utilisation of cargo space.

(b) Please state whether any decision has been taken on the question of re-structuring of fares and freights at the highest level.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-76]

Further Reply of Government

(a) As far as possible stores/Cargo are shipped through Madras invariably of the sources of procurement, on the mainland, are nearer to Madras than Calcutta. Sailings to Vishakhapatnam are still in experimental stage and proper utilisation of cargo space for these sailings would be possible only after a decision is taken for introduction of a regular sailing between Port Blair and Vishakhapatnam.

(b) The passenger fares between mainland and Islands were revised and are as follows :

Type	Fares before revision	Fares after revision
Delux	351	410
State Room	311	400
A Grade	260	390
BI Grade	219	329
B Grade	207	311
C. Grade	189	284
Bunk Class	41	55

2. The freight rate for general cargo was also revised by 25 per cent over the existing level as follows :

Type	Freight before revision	Freight after revision
General	Rs. 129 per cbm	Rs. 161.25 per cbm
Cargo	Rs. 181 per tonne	Rs. 226.25 per tonne

3. As regards timber, the proposal to increase the freight rate is still under consideration.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 49, Para No. 6.42)

The Committee further note that hitherto the Shipping Corporation of India was being given an annual subsidy to the extent of 80 per cent of its net losses on the running of vessels on Andaman Services. The Committee cannot help observing that the giving of subsidy in this manner does not act as an incentive to the Shipping Corporation to assess carefully the Shipping requirements both for the mainland-Andaman and the inter-islands services so as to provide vessels of more suitable capacity for such services and to effect utmost economy in operations. The Committee stress that a scientific study should be undertaken immediately of the traffic requirements of the islands by an expert team which should include the representatives of

the Andamans and Nicobar Islands, Shipping Corporation of India and the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and costing experts so as to formulate a national and pragmatic plan for providing this vital link most economically and efficiently in the interest of commerce, industry, integration and security of the country.

Pending completion of the study, the Committee recommend that Government should undertake a quick review of the position in consultation with the administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands so as to ensure that Shipping Corporation of India continues to provide services in an assured and well-regulated manner to cater fully to the requirements of shipping between the Islands and the mainland and inter-Islands. The position should be reviewed at least once a quarter in order to remove any deficiency which may come to notice.

Reply of Government

A Review Committee under the Chairmanship of CC, Andamans and consisting of senior officers of the Ministries of Home Affairs and Shipping and Transport, Shipping Corporation of India and Andaman Administration, has been constituted to review the working of the Mainland-Andamans and Inter-islands shipping services. The Committee met at Port Blair in May 1976 and have submitted their observations aimed at improving shipping services in this sector. These are presently under examination and necessitate decisions at various levels.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

(a) Please furnish a statement showing the observations made by the Committee constituted to review the working of the Mainland-Andaman and Inter-Islands shipping services and action taken thereon, if any.

(b) Please state the steps taken, if any, towards undertaking a scientific study by an expert team, of the traffic requirements of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as suggested by the Estimates Committee.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-76]

Further Reply of Government

(a) A statement indicating the main recommendations made in the first and 2nd meetings of Review Committee held on 18 to 20th May, 1976 and 15th September, 1976 respectively and action taken thereon is at Appendix II.

(b) A study group was set-up to look into the Shipping problems of the A&N Islands and to make a realistic study of the traffic potential in this sector. A copy of the report is enclosed at Appendix III.

[M.H.A. O.M. No.U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee may be informed of the decisions taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Report on the Traffic Potential and Tonnage assessment for the Mainland/Andaman service.

Recommendation (Serial No. 50, Para No. 6.43)

The Committee note that the question of continuance of payment of subsidy for the shipping services is under considering. The Committee would like to draw attention of the Government to the fact that recognising the need for providing cheap transport to the masses the suburban services of the railways are heavily subsidised. Similarly, the provision of rail services in strategic areas and on the North-East Frontier Railway do not carry the obligation to pay return on the capital invested. The Committee feel that the provision of shipping services to these Islands should be based on the same considerations as are underlying the provision of rail services in the strategic areas in the North-East. The Committee have no doubt that while considering the question of payment of subsidy, Government would keep in view the larger interest of providing dependable means of communication between the Islands and the Mainland and in between the Islands in the interest of integrity of the country, development of trade and industry and the strategic position that these Islands occupy in the Indian Ocean. Moreover, it has to be realised that the Shipping Corporation, being in the public sector, has to undertake services which are in larger public interest though they may not be exactly remunerative in terms of money. In the opinion of the Committee this should not pose any insurmountable problem as the Shipping Corporation of India has been earning sizeable profits out of its other operations during the last few years.

Reply of Government

Noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 51, Para No. 6.44)

The Committee note that there is a proposal of the Shipping Corporation for revision of freight rates and passenger fares. The Committee have no doubt that Government would keep in view the considerations mentioned

above as well as the paying capacity of the inhabitants of these Islands, and the need for fostering closer ties between these living in the Islands and the Mainland by encouraging cheaper travel and trade. The Committee would also like Government to take into account the scope for improving efficiency by better utilisation of capacity, rationalisation of services and by effecting economy in administrative and fuel costs.

Reply of Government

The passenger fares and freight rates were revised with effect from 15th November, 1976. The revision of freight rates for timber and timber products is however, still under consideration. While revising the fares and freight structure the paying capacity of the inhabitants of the Islands has been duly taken into account. The bunk class fare which was last revised in 1963 has been increased from Rs. 41 to Rs. 55 only even though the fare for achieving break-even results on the basis of 1974-75 works out to Rs. 230 per head per adult. The freight rates for timber and timber products, which is the major cargo moving from the islands have not so far been revised, pending a deeper study, even though the freight rates for the other commodities have been raised thrice by the Indian Coastal Conference after 1967.

2. In this connection please also reply to recommendation No. 48.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 52, Para No. 6.45)

As pointed out earlier, under-utilisation of shipping space and poor turn round of ships have also stood in the way of provision of adequate shipping facilities to these Islands. The Committee would, therefore, like to stress that concerted measures should be taken by Andaman Administration to improve port facilities so that cargo is loaded and unloaded most efficiently and without delay and all available shipping space is fully utilised. Every hour that a ship is detained in a port raises the cost of operations. The Committee see no reason why with the experiences that has been gathered over the years for handling of large quantities of cargo in the main ports of the country, effective plans for efficient operations of the ports of Andaman and Nicobar Islands could not be drawn up for implementation. The Committee would like concerted action to be taken by Government to see that requisite facilities are provided at these ports as per a time-bound programme. The Committee need hardly stress that the system of payments to labour for handling the cargo at the Port should be such as to put an accent on efficient and safe-handling of cargo so that these services are built on sound and efficient basis from the very inception.

Reply of Government

A team of experts was sent by the SCI to Islands in March, 1975 for carrying out on-the-spot study of the conditions in the islands and *inter alia* suggesting ways and means for improving the cargo handling rate in the Islands. The team suggested *inter alia* reorganisation of the Andaman Labour force, introduction of three-shift system instead of two-shifts, payment of incentives to the labour, tightening security arrangements on the wharfs and arranging proper tallying of the cargo etc. The Andaman Administration have already introduced three-shift working of labour and the incentive scheme. The SCI is also deputing a Technical Expert to acquaint the Andaman labour force with the modern methods of handling cargo. Efforts are also being made to acquire adequate cargo handling appliances at Port Blair. With the implementation of all these measures the cargo handling rate at Port Blair is expected to increase further. This would in turn result in stepping up the frequency of sailings and carriage of more cargo.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 53, Para No. 6.65)

The Committee regret to note that only 80 kilometres of roads, out of the 127 kilometres targeted for the Fourth Plan, were completed during that period. The Committee understand that a target of 145 kilometres of road construction which includes the spill-over of 47 kms. from the Fourth Plan, has been provided in the Fifth Plan. The Committee were given to understand that the resources allocated for road construction are inadequate for the achievement of the above target. The Committee would like Government to review the matter in all its aspects so as to make available adequate funds for completion of roads which are considered necessary in the interest of development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee would stress that in view of the constraint of resources, priorities for road construction should be most carefully drawn up and executed so as to get the best return on the capital invested and achieve the objective of the better communications for trade and industry.

Reply of Government

Government are fully alive to the need and urgency for the improvement of road communications in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and are making continuous efforts in this direction.

The priorities for road development in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been recently reviewed and it has been decided that outlay for rural roads be increased being vital to the needs of the local population. It was also decided that the balance portion of Great Andaman

Trunk Road passing through South Andaman from Point 87 kms to 110 kms Point be suspended for the time being as this portion passes through Jarwa reserves. Efforts are being made by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to be-friend this tribe who have been unfriendly so far and as soon as the co-operation of this tribe is forthcoming the remaining work in South Andaman on this road would be taken up and completed. In the meantime, it is planned to construct a feeder road to Port Meddows from 87 km. Point. The missing links between Baratang and Mayabunder are targetted to be completed by the end of 1976-77.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 54, Para No. 6.66)

The Committee are concerned to note that no master plan has yet been prepared for development of roads on these Islands. The Committee stress the need for completion of surveys and preparation of detailed master plan for laying of roads in those Islands which are already under habitation or which are proposed to be opened up for development. In drawing up the plan, the Committee would like to stress the need for utmost care to see that the roads in these virgin areas serve truly the purpose of development and do not suffer from some of the defects which have been noticed in the road alignments on the Mainland.

Reply of Government

The Andaman Trunk Road is the main link from the South Andaman to North Andaman. With the completion of this road, the main link would be provided. The width of the island is not much which is generally about 6 miles and the Andaman Trunk Road is uearly in the middle. In view of this a network of rural roads is required for connecting this arterial road with the interior. In South Andaman (where more than 60 per cent of the population exists) this network is already available. In the middle Andaman, the Andaman Trunk Road is through and the network of rural roads has been planned. It is only in the North Andaman that this network has not yet fully come up because of the scattered nature of population. All efforts are being made to ensure early filling of the gaps.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state whether a comprehensive timebound plan has been drawn up to fill the gaps in the Andaman Trunk Road, in the North Andaman, and if so, give particulars.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/ES/76 daed 30-12-1976]

Further reply of Government

The total length of Andaman Trunk Road in North Andaman as initially envisaged is approximately 86 kms. At present a length of 9 kms. of road from Aerial bay to Diglipur has been completed. An estimate for constructing 6 km. length of road from Diglipur towards Kalara received from the Andaman & Nicobar Administration is under examination. Detailed surveys for the remaining portion of about 7 kms. of the Diglipur-Kalara Section have been completed and the survey details are under scrutiny by the Principal Engineer, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Surveying in the reach from Kalara to Paraggara (length 11 kms.) is in progress. Beyond this point, there is no settlement worth the name and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration do not, therefore, propose to pursue the construction of the road beyond Paraggara for the time being.

2. In the meeting of Central Coordination Committee for Andaman and Nicobar Islands held on 6th July, 1976 it was agreed that the Andaman Trunk Road be constructed from Diglipur to Kalara and from there rural road be constructed up to Kalighat Jetty, from where Mayabunder could be connected by ferry service. This work is expected to be completed in about five years.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 55, Para No. 6.67)

The Committee are also concerned to note that till two years ago, road construction works were not being carried out in the Islands in a systematic manner and according to suitable specifications keeping in view the heavy rainfall and the treacherous terrain. They cannot also appreciate why there were not adequate arrangements for selection of suitable materials. The Committee stress that these shortcomings should be rectified without delay.

The Committee suggest that the specifications for the roads should be most carefully laid down keeping in view the long term requirements. Construction of roads should be undertaken according to standard specifications which would not only serve the present and the immediately foreseeable requirements but also the long term requirements so as to reduce the financial burden later on. The Committee need hardly point out that Government have the requisite expertise in the Central Road Research Institute and the Border Roads, two experienced organisations, to help evolve the best suited specifications at most economic rates for construction of roads in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Reply of Government

The suggestions are noted. However, it may be added that the road construction in Andaman & Nicobar Islands has to be carried out under most trying circumstances because of the difficulties in the transportation of the material and machinery, etc., from mainland to Port Blair and then to various Islands. There has been difficulty in the construction of the road due to lack of proper soil for sub grade. The climatic conditions in the Islands are such that the construction is possible only from December to April. With all these limitations care is being taken to ensure that the material used is not only according to exact specification required but also suitable for the area. The facilities for testing local materials have also since been provided and the quality of the roads has improved considerably.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 56, Para No. 6.68)

The Committee have no doubt that every effort would be made to utilise the local materials to the maximum extent possible in the interest of reducing the cost. The Committee further suggest that active help of the residents of these Islands should be enlisted in opening up communications and in the construction of roads so that they have a sense of involvement in the development process.

Reply of Government

In making roads in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the only outside material used is Bitumen. For the construction of bridges and culverts, cement and steel are brought from mainland. All other materials such as stone chips, sand, shuttering etc. are of local origin. Of course machinery is also brought from the mainland. The local population, wherever they are available and willing, are employed and their co-operation solicited.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 57, Para No. 6.69)

The Committee are also concerned to note from the Techno-Economic Survey conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research that road bridges and culverts over many streams and nullahs are not strong enough to bear heavy traffic. Apart from the need for strengthening the road bridges and culverts as may be required in the interest of smoother traffic, the Committee stress that the bridges and culverts be so planned as to meet the requirements for years to come.

Reply of Government

When the roads were planned initially in these islands, the traffic expected was very little (mostly forest trucks). The bridges were constructed using local technique and local materials i.e. timber logs which were readily available from the forests. The technique of construction of such bridges had already been known through Forest Department who had been operating in the Islands for the last about 80 years. However, a review of the existing bridges is being carried out by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration and a phased programme of their replacement with stronger bridges as required is being formulated.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 58, Para No. 6.72)

The Committee note that there are at present 60 buses with the Andaman Administration and 15 more are proposed to be added to them during the Fifth Plan against the demand of the Administration for 30 additional buses. As the bus service is the only mode of land transport on the Islands, there being no Railways, the Committee hope that the allocations will be reviewed at the time of mid-term appraisal of the Fifth Plan in the interest of the development of these Islands.

Reply of Government

In order to improve the road transport facilities and extending such facilities to other islands such as Great Nicobar, Katchal and Little Andaman, originally it was planned to acquire 30 buses during the 5th Five Year Plan period. Although the Planning Commission had accepted the above requirement, an *ad hoc* cut was imposed and acquisition of only 15 buses was sanctioned. The question of increasing the number of buses to be acquired during the 5th Five Year Plan has been taken up by the Administration with the Planning Commission.

Action will also be taken during the 5th Five Year Plan period for building up the infrastructure required at outstations for the better and more efficient running of the State Transport bus services there.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. 16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the decision taken on the question of increasing the number of buses to be acquired during the 5th Five Year Plan.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/ES/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

During mid-term appraisal the Planning Commission made a further provisions of funds for the purchase of buses under the Sector "Road Transport". Eight buses have already been purchased during the current plan period and 12 more buses are to be purchased during the remaining two years of the Plan.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 50, Para No. 6.73)

Apart from the need for augmenting the transport fleet by providing additional buses the Committee stress the need for organising the transport services in a most efficient and economic manner right from the beginning so as to lay sound foundation for their expansion in the years to come. The administrative and maintenance machinery concerned with transport should be made cost conscious at every level so as to provide these services at most economic and competitive rates.

Reply of Government

Efforts are always being made to maintain and run the transport services in an efficient and economic manner as far as possible. Necessary schemes viz. 'Reorganization of the Motor Transport Department' and 'Strengthening of the Automobile Workshop' have been included in the Fifth Five Year Plan of this territory, which envisage for improving efficiency and economy of the transport services. When these schemes are implemented fully, the administrative and maintenance machinery concerned with the transport services will be in a better position for economical operations of the transport services.

Although working of any sector always attracts cost consciousness, the maintenance of road transport services in this territory would remain somewhat costlier as compared to mainland because of socio-economic conditions in this territory. Though the department is functioning on commercial principles, yet the services cannot be operated strictly on commercial lines on all the routes as many services are to be maintained as essential services though not sufficiently remunerative e.g. transport facilities are to be provided to the students at concessional rates, etc.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 60, Para No. 6.78)

The Members of the Committee during the course of their visit to the Islands got a distinct impression that the bi-weekly air service between Calcutta and Port Blair has helped greatly in bringing the Islands closer to

the Mainland. While it may be that the service does not pay for itself commercially, these larger considerations have to be kept in view. The Committee have no doubt that the Government would keep in view this vital factor while examining any proposal of the Corporation for rationalisation of the type of aircraft to be used on these services or regulating frequency thereof or increasing the fare. The Committee are sure that in arriving at a decision on the issues involved, considerable weightage would be given to the fact that the air services for these Islands are as important as those operating from Calcutta to the North-Eastern regions of the country.

Reply of Government

Indian Airlines operate a bi-weekly service between Calcutta and Port Blair with a Viscount aircraft. The air fare on this sector has been increased effective 1-1-1974 from Rs. 410 to Rs. 510 to bring it in line with fares to places in the Eastern Region. Indian Airlines are evaluating various types of aircraft for replacement of their turbo-prop fleet, and are examining their economic viability for possible future operation on the Port Blair route, as also on other regional routes. The recommendation of the Estimates Committee will be kept in view while selecting a new type of aircraft, and generally in relation to the operation of air service to these islands.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 62, Para No. 7.13)

The Committee note that the Central Fisheries Corporation which is based in Calcutta is planning to enter the Andamans waters with mechanised boats and attempts are being made to attract some other fishing concerns in the private sector to set up their base in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. While welcoming these efforts, the Committee recommend that every possible endeavour should be made by Government to encourage the local fishermen also to take to fishing by providing them with mechanised boats and giving them training in the operation of these boats.

Reply of Government

The Central Fisheries Corporation was requested to undertake operation of mechanised fishing boats in the context of difficulties in arranging its operation by the Andaman Administration. The situation has somewhat changed at present as a post of Director of Fisheries has been created and filled in with an experienced officer from one of the Maritime States. It is now proposed that the Scheme of operating mechanised boats could be undertaken departmentally. The possibility of associating Central Fisheries Corporation in other development measures is being examined.

The Government is keen that the mechanised boats should be operated to the extent possible, by the Islanders themselves. For this purpose, a programme of introducing a large number of mechanised boats is being worked out by the Department of Agriculture wherein mechanised boats will be made available to the local fishermen on hire-purchase basis. A training centre for providing training for local candidates in the operation of mechanised boats, has already been sanctioned for the territories.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

(a) Please state whether the programme of introducing a large number of mechanised boats has been finalised by the Department of Agriculture and any progress made in implementation of the programme.

(b) Please state also the progress made in the setting up of the training centre for providing training for the local candidates in the operation of the mechanised boats.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/ES/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture have reported as follows :—

(a) Seven mechanised boats, of which four have already reached Port Blair, will be conducting trial fishing from various Andaman bases. These boats are equipped for bottom trawling as well as long-lining. In addition it is proposed to operate one pole and line fishing boat and a small purse-seiner. The operation of these boats would be watched for some time before a decision is taken on the type and category of mechanised boats to be introduced in large numbers.

The Technical Team has already recommended establishment of two boat building yards, one at Port Blair and the other at Campbell Bay.

(b) The Fisheries Training Centre of Port Blair started functioning in January 1977, with 20 trainees including tribal Nicobarese youth. This training course is of nine months' duration and would also be useful for Nicobarese boys to learn operation of mechanised fishing boats. Extension training programme proposed for Car Nicobar has for the present been held in abeyance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

The question of extending training programme for Car Nicobar may be reviewed after properly assessing the results of the nine months course introduced for Nicobarese boys to learn the operation of mechanised fishing boats.

Recommendation (Serial No. 63, Para No. 7.14)

The Committee note that an amount of Rs. 11 lakhs has been earmarked for the purposes of strengthening the Department of Fisheries during the Fifth Plan period. The Committee consider that in the context of an overall allocation of only Rs. 94 lakhs earmarked for Fisheries for the Fifth Plan period, the allocation for strengthening the Fisheries Department is rather high. They would, therefore, urge Government to critically review the allocations with a view to ensure that administrative expenses are kept to the absolute minimum level.

Reply of Government

The Andaman Administration would be retaining only Rs. 5 lakhs for 'strengthening of Fisheries Department'. This allocation is considered reasonable.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 64, Para No. 7.15)

The Committee note that the Inter-departmental team on Accelerated Development Programme, 1965 had recommended the setting up of a number of fish-based industries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In this connection, the Committee note that the scheme for shark fishing, curing shark liver oil and extraction and processing has been included in the Fifth Plan. The Committee desire that this scheme should be given high priority during the Plan period and all possible endeavours should be made to achieve the targets laid down in this regard. The Committee also hope that the other schemes recommended by the Inter-Departmental Team will also be implemented early.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted for compliance.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 66, Para No. 7.25)

The Committee note that adequate repair and maintenance facilities for the trawlers engaged in Survey work have been provided at Port Blair and problems relating to landing and berthing and loading and unloading of cargo etc., have been overcome with the completion of a fishing harbour at Phoenix Bay. Now that these facilities have been made available, the Committee hope that effective steps would be taken to ensure maximum utilisation of each of the trawlers so as to complete the survey work as also to determine and procure early the most suitable vessels for deep sea fishing in these waters according to a time-schedule which should be laid down in this behalf and strictly followed.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been noted for compliance. Efforts are being made in this direction.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 68, Para No. 7.38)

The Committee further recommend that based on the operation of these mechanised boats, Government should induct more mechanised boats of suitable design according to a time-bound programme so as to step up the production of fish in these Islands considerably.

Reply of Government

A Technical Committee has visited Andaman & Nicobar Islands to work out plans for development of fisheries, including introduction of mechanised boats. The Committee is also expected to make recommendations regarding construction of boats locally.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the recommendations made by the Technical Committee and actions initiated in implementation of these recommendations.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Department of Agriculture, have reported that the Technical Committee has recommended the following approach :—

- (i) A substantial step up of the traditional fishing through introduction of 100 dinghis for gillnetting, Long-lining and boat-seining in coastal waters.
- (ii) Increasing the number and types of small mechanised boats which will include :
 - (a) 50 numbers of 30 ft. motorised boats to be used for gillnetting, hand-lining, boat-seining and pole and line fishing in inshore waters ;
 - (b) 10 number of 36 ft. small mechanised boats to carry out purse-seining and long lining in the inshore waters and trawling in the coastal waters ;
 - (c) Introduction of 3 middle sized fishing vessels, 2 for pole and line fishing and 1 for purse-seining ;
 - (d) Introduction of 4 high sea fishing vessels, 2 of 50 ft. length equipped for long-line-cum-trawling, 1 tuna long-liner of 160 ft. length and 1 tuna factory ship-cum-long-liner of 130 ft. length.

The Technical Committee has recommended introduction of mechanised boats under the normal activities of the fisheries development as well as part of the Campbell Bay Project. Besides, private parties are to be engaged in undertaking fisheries. It is proposed to convert the Campbell Bay Project into a corporation on its satisfactory completion. The entire issue is being discussed in Delhi on 15-4-1977 in a meeting to be held by the Ministry of Agriculture wherein the representatives of private and public sector undertakings will also be present.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL, dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be informed of the decision taken in implementation of the recommendations of the Technical Committee.

Recommendation (Serial No. 69, Para No. 7.39)

The Committee stress that Government should take concerted measures to train local people in the operation of these boats as to create interest in the local population for going in for fishing on a larger scale and thus improve their economic condition.

Reply of Government

The recommendation has been accepted. Establishment of a mechanised fishing training centre in Port Blair has already been sanctioned.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 72, Para No. 8.18)

The Committee note that Andaman and Nicobar Islands have vast potentialities for tourism in view of their scenic beauty, historical importance and socio-economic peculiarities. However, the tourist traffic at present is small. About 400 to 500 tourists visit the Islands annually from the mainland. The Islands have also recently been opened up to foreign tourists on a selective basis.

The Committee further note that the absence of necessary infrastructure facilities is the main impediment in the way of increasing the tourist traffic in larger number to the Islands. Although some officials of the Department of Tourism who had visited the Islands have reported about the tremendous potential Andamans and Nicobar Islands hold for tourism, no concerted efforts have so far been made to promote tourism in the Islands in a big way and only a small sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the Fifth Five Year Plan for providing facilities to tourists who would be visiting these Islands. The Committee recommend that in view of the vast potentialities of development of these Islands as a Tourist Centre, a master plan with indicative priorities for the development of tourism in the Islands and for development of infrastructure may be prepared with the expert help of Union Department of Tourism and concrete measures taken to implement it as per a time bound programme.

Reply of Government

Keeping in view the potentialities to develop these Islands as tourist resorts, a decision was taken to permit foreign tourists to visit some areas in the northern group of Islands, viz., the North, Middle and South Andamans except however, the areas which are inhabited by tribals. Individual foreign tourists as well as conducted groups are being permitted to visit these areas. The permits are issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs under the provisions of the Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963.

There are, however, certain limiting factors which inhibit opening up of more areas for purposes of tourism. Some of these are, their distance from the mainland; paucity of financial resources for providing additional accommodation and operation of direct air-service from the mainland utilising an aircraft of sufficient large capacity. A sub-group consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Defence, External Affairs and Tourism and the Chief Commissioner Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been set up to study the problems in depth.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state when the sub-Group was set up to study the problems inhibiting tourism in the islands and whether the Group had already finalised its deliberations and if so, what are the findings of the sub-Group and if not, when the sub-Group is likely to submit its Report.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

The meeting of the sub-group was held in September, 1976. The points arising out of the discussion in the sub-group were placed before the Team of Secretaries which visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands in December, 1976 to enable them to make an on-the-spot study. Recommendations of the Secretaries' Team are awaited.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee may be informed of the recommendations of the Secretaries Team and follow-up action taken by Government in implementation thereof.

Recommendation (Serial No. 73, Para No. 8.19)

The Committee recommend that concerted efforts should be made to attract tourists from the mainland particularly students and youth etc., to visit these islands by organising educational tours and trekking parties as this can go a long way in promoting national integration and acquainting the people in the mainland about the conditions and way of life in this remote part of our country. The Committee would like that every possible inducement like concessional rate of fares, boarding and lodging facilities at cheap rates should be provided for this purpose.

Reply of Government

Adequate publicity is made for attracting mainlanders to visit this territory. Parties of students visiting this territory are being allowed sea passages at concessional rate of fares.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 74, Para 8.20)

The beauty and splendour of these Islands should be widely publicised and the success achieved in attracting tourists reviewed every year with a view to improving the facilities.

Reply of Government

Adequate publicity is being given about these Islands to attract tourists.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 75, Para No. 9.11)

The Committee are glad to note that Government have taken concrete measures for the sustenance and medical care of the Onge tribals by setting up a coconut plantation as also a dispensary for them. They are, however, concerned to note that the Great Andamanese which is a vanishing tribe and whose number is only 24 at present, are exposed to opium addiction. The Committee appreciate that the present plight of the tribe of Great Andamanese is a direct legacy of the erstwhile colonial administration and that a great responsibility devolves on the present Administration for promoting by all possible means the preservation and development of this tribe with its distinct individuality as healthy and esteemed members of the fraternity of Indian citizens. The Committee urge that every effort should be made to preserve this vanishing tribe by taking the help of socio-medical experts to wean them from opium addiction.

Reply of Government

There are 23 Andamanese in the Strait Island of South Andaman group. Among them, there are 14 males and 9 females. Their general health is average. Common diseases among them are skin disease (mostly ring worm) and pulmonary tuberculosis. Six of them were treated for pulmonary tuberculosis, out of which one is still receiving treatment. Of the total 23, twelve are opium addicts. Only four women are of child-bearing age (18—40 years). Below 18 years, there are only three girls aged 13, 9 and 2. Of them again, one girl aged 9 years is the patient of patent ductus arteriosus.

Medical history sheet in respect of each Andamanese has been prepared and is kept with the TB Officer of the Medical Deptt. of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration. Steps have been taken by the Director of Medical & Health Services for weaning the opium addicts away by subjecting them to Lacitine tablet treatment. While a regular Dispensary has been running for the Andamanese at Strait Island, arrangements have also been made to send a Doctor there once in a month to keep a close watch on their health.

In the Strait Island where the Andamanese have been settled, works of construction of RCC Ring Well, raising barbed wire fencing around the kitchen gardens of six Andamanese huts, construction of a Community Hall and Pig pens have been taken up for execution. The total estimated cost of these schemes comes to Rupees 93,320/-. The Andamanese are provided with items of food, clothing and other necessities. They have also been granted monthly cash amounts in order to enable them to meet their needs. A Balwadi for imparting informal education to their children has been opened.

A similar settlement plan for Onges at Dugong Creek will be implemented during the next dry season. The Administration have constituted a society with the name of Andaman Adim Jan Jyati Samiti with the clear objective of preventing their extinction and promoting their health. Rs. 20,000 lakhs have been sanctioned during 1975-76 for purchase of boats etc. and for providing various services in respect of primitive tribes. These steps will go a long way to ameliorate the conditions of these tribes.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 76, Para No. 9.12)

The Committee further note that there have not been many contacts with Jarawas and Sentinelese tribals and that according to the Administration these tribals should be left alone for the next 8 to 10 years. The Committee feel that this period of 8 to 10 years is very long and that efforts should be made to gather anthropological knowledge about these tribals so as to establish closer contacts with them with a view to ensure their survival. The Committee would like to stress that the preservation of the tribals is the foremost duty of Government and every effort should be made to save these tribals from extinction.

Reply of Government

While the general approach has been not to interfere with the way of life of the Jarawas the Administration has been making efforts to befriend this tribe by dropping gifts in the areas inhabited by them. During the last

two years, the Administration intensified gift dropping operations in these areas which paid rich dividends, so much so that on 1st February 1974 and again on the 5th April, 1974, the Jarawas in Middle Andaman not only picked up the gifts, but also came to the boat of Andaman and Nicobar Administration and by gestures indicated that they liked the gifts and would like to have more. The friendly contact established with this group is being kept up.

Recently a Jarawa Cell has been set up for this purpose and serious efforts are being made to learn Jarawa dialect and formulate Jarawa vocabulary. The local Unit of the Anthropological Survey is closely associated with all these programmes.

The Sentinalese of the North Sentinel Island are shy of contact and they do not like any outsider to land on their island. To establish friendly contact with this tribe trips to North Sentinel Island were made on two occasions. Administration's efforts to befriend this tribe would continue.

In the case of both above tribes viz., the Jarawas and the Sentinalese, a policy has been evolved not to be in a hurry to impose our way of thinking on them. They have their own style of life. That style is not necessarily bad merely because it does not conform to our ideas and notions. Friendly contacts will be made through people who understand them, but there will be no hurry to change their attitudes. Greater stress is being laid now to learn their dialects.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 77, Para No. 9.13)

The Committee regret to note that although in their 43rd Report they had urged the Government to solicit the cooperation of social service organisations like Rama Krishna Mission, for the welfare of the tribals and the Council of Medical Research and All India Institute of Medical Sciences to set up extension centres in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for providing expert medical care to the inhabitants, no concrete action has so far been taken by Government in spite of their having sent earlier intimation of acceptance of this recommendation of the Committee. The Committee would urge that expeditious action should be taken to approach these organisations to work among the tribals.

Reply of Government

At present, a social service organisation namely Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh is working among the tribals in this territory. They have deputed one of their Social Workers to these Islands who is living and working

among the Andamanese settled in Strait Island to look after their welfare and provide necessary guidance and assistance to them to take to a settled way of life. Grant-in-aid is being given to the Sangh to meet the establishment charges of the Social Worker.

2. Very recently the Andaman Adim Jan Jayati Samiti has been formed and registered for economic and social development of the primitive tribes inhabiting Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

3. Lately Ramakrishna Mission has been also running short of qualified monks to take up works and their services are very difficult to obtain. They are however welcome.

4. A representative of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences is a member of the Advisory Committee for Primitive Groups in Andamans which was constituted in January 1976 and visited the Islands in February, 1976. The Committee have since submitted their report.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the recommendations made in the report of the Advisory Committee for Primitive Groups in Andamans and action taken by Government thereon.

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Reply of Government

Two statements, one giving the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Primitive Tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the other indicating action taken on these recommendations are attached as Appendices IV & V.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL dated 14-6-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 78, Para No. 9.14)

It was reported to the Members of the Committee during their tour of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands that in opening up these places to outsiders special care should be taken to see that the way of life which very much suited the genius of the people was not disturbed. The Committee are glad that the Government at all levels are aware of this widespread sentiment amongst the people. They have no doubt that the development schemes and other administrative machinery would be so regulated

as to leave the life and culture of the Islanders undisturbed so that they can develop their potentialities according to their genius with, of course, all the assistance that the Central Government can extend to them in this laudable objective.

Reply of Government

The recommendation is noted. Care is being taken to ensure that the ways of life and culture of the tribals are not disturbed by others.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 80, Para No. 9.19)

Some of the repatriates from Sri Lanka have represented to the Committee that the employment opportunities provided to them were less than those promised at the time of their resettlement. The Committee have been assured during evidence that two members of each family of the repatriates would be provided with employment as promised. The Committee need hardly stress that the assurances given to the repatriates to the Islands should be made after careful consideration and once made should be implemented fully to sustain their faith in the Administration.

The Committee would further like Government to keep in close touch with the repatriates regularly so as to remove the genuine grievances of the repatriates at the earliest as otherwise even the minor grievances, if left unattended to for long, tend to generate tensions later on.

Reply of Government

The repatriates from Sri Lanka were assured provision of employment at the rate of 2 persons per family in Katchal Rubber Plantation. The assurance given has been duly fulfilled. Except for two repatriate families (out of the total 30) where there was no second adult, male or female, to offer employment, all the other 28 repatriate families in position have been provided employment at the rate of two persons per family.

2. The recommendations of the Committee have been duly communicated to the Chief Development-cum-Rehabilitation Commissioner, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Rubber Board for guidance and necessary action and they are keeping constant touch with the repatriates.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 81, Para No. 9.25)

The Committee note that some Islands like Little Andaman and Katchal which are isolated and where the boat service is very infrequent are facing difficulties with regard to postal communication. It needs hardly to be pointed out that provision of communication facilities is a basic infrastructure required for the development of any area. Such facilities also provide an important medium for emotional integration with the mainland and this holds special significance for the settlers who have their relatives and friends in far-flung areas in the mainland. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that Government should take conferred measures on a priority basis to improve the communication facilities not only within the Islands but also with the mainland. The Committee also recommend that arrangements should be made on an urgent basis for providing telegraph facilities on all important settlements in the Islands, particularly in the Southern Group, on a regular basis.

Reply of Government

In the whole of A & N Islands, including Hut Bay in Little Andaman and Kapanga in Katchal, there are 47 post offices (1 Head Office at Port Blair, 19 sub-Post Offices and 27 Branch Post Offices) transacting the postal business. While mails are transported within the islands by inter-island ferry services and through bus services, mail between mainland and islands are transported through bi-weekly air service between Calcutta and Port Blair (first class mails only) and by the scheduled shipping services (other types of postal articles). Mails are also transported between Calcutta and Car Nicobar through the unscheduled services of IAF Planes. Almost all the settlement areas are now provided with the postal services.

There are civil wireless stations functioning at Car Nicobar, Mayabunder and Campbell Bay apart from the one at Port Blair. Telegraph facilities are extended to other important places also through Police Wireless Grids. These facilities are available *inter alia* at Kapanga in Katchal and Hut Bay in Little Andaman also.

With a view to reviewing the postal and tele-communication facilities in these islands, and to make recommendations for augmentation wherever necessary, the P & T Department has recently constituted a P & T Advisory Committee exclusively for A & N Islands. The Committee will look into the questions of extension or improvement of postal facilities and Tele-communications (both urban and rural) and opening or extending of post offices, combined P & T offices and new projects and extensions wherever necessary.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 82, Para No. 9.26)

The Committee are concerned to note that although sanction for extension of telegraph facilities to Kapanga in East Bay Katchal, through police wireless grid, was accorded by the Government of India as far back as 1973, the facility could not be made available to Kapanga so far, for want of creation of posts of additional staff to handle the additional workload in the police Radio Station there. The Committee understand that necessary proposal for creation of additional posts of radio operators has already been sent by the Andaman Administration to Government of India and is under their consideration. The Committee strongly urge that the matter should be expedited and all formalities completed without further delay so that telegraph facilities are made available to Kapanga and other places concerned through the police wireless grid.

Reply of Government

Telegraph facilities at Kapanga through Police Wireless Grid started with effect from 15-8-1974. Similar facilities at Teressa, Kalighat and Neil Island were started with effect from 1-4-1975.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 83, Para No. 9.27)

The Committee hope that the arrangements for carrying mail through aircraft/helicopters etc. will also be made as soon as helicopters are made available to the Islands for civil administration.

Reply of Government

Noted.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 84, Para No. 9.36)

The Committee regret to note that although the need for a fresh programme for cattle and dairy development was emphasised as early as in 1969, the shortage of milch and work cattle in the Islands still persists. As against the requirements of milch and work cattle of 18,000 and 12,000, the estimated availability thereof at present is only 12,719 and 9,190 respectively. The Committee also note that the targets envisaged under the schemes of supply of 300 animals for distribution to farmers at one-third of landed cost of animals in cash and 100 animals at 75 per cent of cost under the wild animal catching scheme, could not be achieved due to poor response from the farmers. Only 16 animals under the former scheme could be distributed.

The Committee cannot but record their grave sense of concern and disappointment at this unsatisfactory performance of the Administration to meet the genuine needs for cattle of the settlers. The Committee have a feeling that the real reason for lack of response from the farmers may be the unsatisfactory quality of the animals offered or the exorbitant prices sought to be charged for them or the involved bureaucratic practices and paucity of information. The Committee would like this matter to be got studied in depth without delay by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Committee further suggest that the assistance and guidance of the Indian Dairy Corporation—a public undertaking under the Ministry of Agriculture who have expertise in the field may be obtained so that cattle which are well suited to agricultural and dairy farming requirements of the Islands are procured and supplied to the settlers at prices which are within their reach. The Committee would like to be informed of the concrete measures taken in pursuance of this recommendation within three months.

Reply of Government

In order to improve the cattle wealth in the Andamans and Nicobar Islands, the following provisions have been made in the Draft Annual Plan of the A & N Islands :

Scheme	Plan Provisions	
	1975-76	1976-77
	(Rs. in lakhs) ₹	
(1) Key Village Scheme	1.020	1.407
(2) Composite Livestock Farm	3.273	6.946
(3) Supply of Milch Cattle	0.900	0.900

2. Under the key village scheme, two key village blocks—one for South Andamans and the other for middle and north Andamans—have been set up. Under both these blocks six Artificial Insemination units have already been set up. The Administration has been directed to expand the programme under this scheme and intensify the breeding operations both by artificial insemination as well as by natural service to cover a larger breedable population under intensive breeding so as to ensure a greater availability of more productive animals.

3. The composite livestock farm is in the initial stage of establishment and the Administration has been directed to complete the establishment of this farm. Necessary assistance will be extended in the procurement of good quality stock for the establishment of the foundation herd for this farm.

4. The Administration has made a provision of Rs. 0.90 lakhs for the supply of milch cattle and since this amount may procure only a very limited number of animals, the Administration has been directed to submit revised proposals for procurement of adequate number of animals to begin with.

5. Since the A&N Islands have at present a population of about 12,000 milch cattle, it is proposed to intensify the provision of breeding facilities by location of superior breeding bulls for progressive genetic improvement in the productivity. The Administration has been directed to indicate its requirements of both purebred indigenous good quality bulls as well as exotic and crossbred bulls so that their supply could be immediately arranged.

6. An officer from the Ministry of Agriculture has been deputed to A&N Islands to make on the spot detailed study of the cattle development programmes and to suggest the programmes for intensifying cattle development as suggested by the Estimates Committee. The officer will also examine in detail the position relating to quality and price of animals supplied to the farmers and also whether procedures relating to supply can be simplified and streamlined. To ensure adequate flow of information on better management practices the extension service and package of services provided by the Administration to the farmers will be examined in detail. The Indian Dairy Corporation is also being consulted in this regard.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL dated 30-4-1976]

Further information been called for by the Committee

Please state the latest position in regard to the various measures taken towards cattle development in the Islands and provisions made for development and supply thereof.

Please state when the officer concerned from the Ministry of Agriculture was deputed to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to make an on-the-spot study of Cattle development programmes in the Islands and when he is likely to submit his report on the subject.

[LSS O.M. No. 5/11/EC, 76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further Reply of Government

As desired by Estimates Committee an officer (Dr. Kaushal) visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands during May, 1976. Animal Husbandry Commissioner (Dr. M. N. Menon) also visited the Islands during May-June, 1976. In pursuance of the recommendations made in their reports,

the Director of Animal Husbandry Andaman and Nicobar Islands has proposed projects for cattle development in the Islands.

These Schemes have been included under the "Central Sector" for the year 1977-78 and action is being taken to implement the same.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 85, Para No. 9.41)

As already recommended in para 4.85 in respect of M/s. Akooji Jadwet & Co., the Committee urge that suitable measures should be taken at a high level to overcome the difficulties arising from the monopoly rights for trading of M/s. Nancowrie Trading Co. and effective steps taken to make essential commodities available to the local people at reasonable prices through fair price shops.

The committee would urge that cooperative stores may be encouraged among the settlers/inhabitants so that they have a sense of involvement and learn to so organise their business activities at the grass root level as to command fair price for their produce and get their requirements of every day use at most competitive prices.

Reply of Government

Please see reply to recommendation No. 34.

2. It may be added that the Nicobarese Commercial Company, a Company formed exclusively by the tribals is already functioning at Car Nicobar. With the withdrawal of Akoojees another similar company would start functioning at Naneowrie.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 86, Para No. 9.45)

The Committee note that the only college in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is affiliated to Punjab University at Chandigarh. This arrangement involves practical difficulties relating to examinations etc. and is proving expensive for the University. The committee further note that three alternative arrangements have been proposed by the Andamans Administration in this regard viz., (1) Affiliation with Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, (2) Affiliation with the Central University for the North East which is being set up at Shillong, and (3) recognising the college as one of the autonomous colleges of the University Grants Commission. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the

question of affiliation of the college is very important and needs urgent decision. They urge that the matter should be examined in all its aspects expeditiously and decision taken to solve this problem at an early date.

Reply of Government

The matter has been examined by the Ministry of Education and it has not been found possible to affiliate any College with Jawaharlal Nehru University, as there is no provision in that University's Act for affiliating colleges. The North Eastern Hill University was established by an Act of Parliament on 19th July 1973. As its jurisdiction extends only to the states of Meghalaya and Nagaland and the Union Territories of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, the college in Andaman and Nicobar Islands cannot, be affiliated to the North Eastern Hill University also. This college cannot also be considered for grant of an autonomous status because only colleges engaged in High degree of teaching and/or research at post-graduate or post-doctorate level come under that category.

However, the Ministry of Education have noted the request received from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration for affiliation of Government college at Port Blair to the proposed Central University at Pondicherry. Necessary action will be taken while finalising the legislative proposals for the proposed University.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the latest position in regard to affiliation of the College in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[LSS O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-76]

Further Reply of Government

As stated in the earlier reply the request to affiliate the college to the proposed Central University at Pondicherry is being kept in view while finalising the legislative proposals for the proposed University.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-dated 10-5-1977]

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT REPLY

Recommendation (Serial No. 5, Para No. 2.51)

The Committee note that the expenditure on Medical care/hospitals in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been Rs. 28.628 lakhs during the Fourth Plan period. During the Fifth Plan an outlay of Rs. 55 lakhs which is approximately twice the expenditure incurred during the Fourth Plan period has been envisaged. The population-bed ratio in the Islands is also better than the All India and Delhi averages.

The Committee, however, note that there are no hospitals/dispensaries of primary health centres in some islands in this Union Territory and these are only visited periodically by doctors from the hospitals and dispensaries.

In this connection the Committee note that the proposals for a hospital ship for the Islands proposed for the Fifth Plan has been turned down by the Planning Commission in view of paucity of resources. The Committee consider it important that medical care should be provided to the inhabitants of these far-flung Islands, particularly the aboriginal tribals in the interest of their health and to prevent their extinction. The Committee, therefore, commend the proposal for hospital ship which may regularly visit the uncatered for Islands and would urge Government to reconsider the matter. To make the project of hospital ship less expensive, Government may examine the feasibility of providing passenger/cargo transportation facilities on the hospital ship.

Reply of Government

The proposal for hospital ship for the Islands was recently reconsidered by the Planning Commission and again in the Central Coordination Committee for Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It was felt that the acquisition and maintenance of the ship will be a costly proposition and will need detailed examination by the representatives of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration; Planning Commission and Ministry of Shipping

and Transport. The conclusion was that it may not be possible to agree to the same immediately and it would be better to augment and improve the existing medical facilities in the Islands including provision of medical facilities in the inter-island vessels.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 15, Para No. 2.73)

The Committee are of the opinion that since the personnel posted to these Islands feel isolated as they are cut off from the Mainland, they should be allowed more liberal leave travel concessions so that they can visit their home towns. The Committee note that officers recruited from the Mainland for service in the Andamans are entitled to free sea passage for themselves and their family members once a year during leave. The Chief Commissioner has the authority to permit gazetted officers to travel by air on leave along with their families. The Committee consider that gazetted officers travelling between Calcutta/Madras and Port Blair on duty, on transfer and on leave may generally be allowed to travel by air. Apart from providing relief to the officers, they feel that this will not result in excessive financial burden as the officers concerned will be availing of less joining time and less travelling and daily allowances etc., due to elimination of enforced halts entailed in steamer journeys. Moreover, there would be fuller utilisation of capacity of the aircraft plying between the Mainland and the Islands. The Committee recommend that this matter should be examined sympathetically and decision taken expeditiously.

Reply of Government

Under the provisions of the Supplementary Rules, the Chief Commissioner is empowered to permit Grade I and Grade II Officers to travel by air while on tour and transfer in cases of absolute urgency and necessity. In July this year the Chief Commissioner has also been empowered to sanction air travel on duty to grade III Officers who are in receipt of pay Rs. 500/- or more.

The Chief Commissioner is already empowered (since 1963) to permit gazetted officers recruited or deputed from the mainland and their families to travel by air while proceeding on or returning from leave between Port Blair and Calcutta and *vice-versa* in lieu of free sea-passage. This power is being used liberally in view of the fact that the absence of officers from Headquarters on tour/transfer/leave will be shortened if they are permitted to travel by air.

Further liberalisation of rules in this regard is not practicable having regard to the availability of air travel facilities.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 18, Para No. 3.13)

The Committee note that there is a proposal to establish a Library-cum-Museum in the Entrance Block of the Cellular Jail. They are surprised that the team of technical experts from the National Archives of India which was to have visited the Islands for as on the spot study in regard to the scope of additions and alterations that might be necessary for the conversion of the existing Entrance Block into Library-cum- Museum, has not yet visited the Islands. The Committee would like the Government to expedite the visit of the team as also the preparation of the estimates for this work so that this work could be taken up soon after the vacation of the Entrance Block. The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken within three months.

Reply of Government

The proposal to establish a library-cum-museum in the entrance block of Cellular Jail has been considered further and it has been decided not to proceed with this scheme on the following considerations :—

- (a) The existing museum is quite good.
- (b) Construction of new buildings should be avoided as this would detract from the gaunt severity which we seek to preserve.
- (c) Due to scarcity of resources the funds required for such a project will be difficult to obtain.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016-/2/76-ANL dated 30-4-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 26, Para No. 4.42)

The Committee are constrained to observe that no tangible progress has been made in regard to export of timber from the Islands. The whole matter is still at discussion stage at various levels. It is unfortunate that Government's earlier expectation that it would be possible to commence exports by the end of 1974 has not yet been realised. The Committee, however, find that several preliminary obstacles in making a beginning in the matter have been overcome. The proposal to set up a Forest Development Corporation to exploit the forest resources is at an advanced stage of consideration. Further an Export Promotion Council has been formed which has been entrusted with the task of locating the markets for the export of timber and working out the economics thereof. The Committee desire that Government should locate without further delay the markets for timber and work out the economics thereof with particular reference to the area, cost of exploitation and transportation in consultation with

all concerned. The Committee would like to be informed of the concrete proposals drawn up and implemented in that behalf and the foreign exchange earned.

Reply of Government

At the present stage of exploitation, a very small quantity of mainly decorative timber is available for direct export from these islands after meeting the local demand and the demand of the Railways. No Andaman timber or timber products have in the recent past been exported directly to foreign countries from the Islands. However the private wood-based industries established in these Islands have exported timber products (Plywood) to foreign countries from out of the produce of their factories in the islands.

During 1974-75, export policy was liberalised with regard to export of Andaman timbers direct export from islands. Despite this, there was no direct export as there were no orders. During 1976-77 it is proposed to further liberalise the policy by removing even existing restrictions on export of Andaman timber. Substantial export market may be developed when the corporation starts functioning.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 70, Para No. 7.47)

The Committee regret to point out that although they have been pursuing the question of providing guidance and training to fishermen Co-operatives in the Islands since May, 1970, no training has been extended to them so far. They note that arrangements have been made only now to impart training and education to fishermen co-operatives in the Islands during the Fifth Five Year Plan period with a view to stimulating and organising fishermen co-operative on the Islands. The Committee stress that the training programme should be implemented without further delay so that fisherman's co-operatives could be organised effectively in the interest of increased fish landing and greater participation by these Islands in the economic activities. The Committee have no doubt that the result of training programme would be kept under review so as to effect necessary improvements without loss of time.

Reply of Government

An officer of the Department of Civil Supplies and Cooperation visited the Islands in October, 1975 to make an on the spot study of the training requirements of the members of the Fisheries Cooperative Societies. It

was noted that the members of these Societies were not educated and hence not capable of receiving any institutional training. The Cooperative Department and Fisheries Department personnel connected with the working of the Fisheries Cooperatives are, however, providing necessary technical advice and assistance in running of the Cooperative Societies.

The Committee for Cooperative Training (the National Cooperative Union of India) in a recent communication to the Chief-Commissioner, has informed of the forthcoming training courses on fishery co-operatives, which could be availed of by departmental personnel and office bearers of the fishermen Cooperative Societies in these Islands. The Committee on Cooperative Training has further offered to conduct special courses in Port Blair, if sufficient number of candidates are available.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the steps taken to avail of the training programmes for fishery cooperatives in the Islands offered by the Committee on Cooperative Training of the National Cooperative Union of India and the progress made in this regard.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Further reply of Government

There are only two fisheries cooperative societies and they have no full-time paid Secretaries. Hence the scope of deputation for attending training courses is very limited.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 71, Para No. 7.48)

The Committee feel that with a view to make up for the lack of a fishing tradition in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands it will be appropriate from the long term perspective if the training in fisheries is initiated at the school level itself. The Committee would, therefore, recommend that necessary steps should be taken to introduce fisheries accompanied by practical training as a compulsory subject in the schools in the Islands.

Reply of Government

Government are of the opinion that training in fisheries at school level as a compulsory subject would not be beneficial. Moreover, to provide the theoretical and practical training special staff would have to be provided in all the schools in the Island which would not be easy.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state whether there are any other training programmes with Government to inculcate and develop a fishing tradition in the Islands.

[LSS O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976]

Further reply of Government

The extension training centre sanctioned at Car-Nicobar is intended to inculcate a fishing tradition in these Islands.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-dated 10-5-1977]

Recommendation (Serial No. 79, Para No. 9.15)

The Committee are surprised to note that so far no separate Tribal Welfare Directorate has been set up in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the work is being looked after by the Deputy Commissioner in addition to his other duties. The Committee feel that the requirements of tribals need to be studied continuously in depth by persons who are well versed in anthropology and sociology and have first hand experience of actual living conditions obtaining among the tribals. It should be possible for the Government to find the requisite expert personnel for providing guidance at the level of the Chief Commissioner and in the field within the current financial year.

The Committee have no doubt that in giving effect to the above recommendations Government would ensure that no avoidable additional expenditure is incurred as it should be possible to effect corresponding economy in administrative staff by rationalisation.

Reply of Government

It is considered that a full-fledged Directorate of Tribal Welfare is not necessary, as the number of tribals and the work involved is not large. An Assistant Commissioner (Tribal Welfare) in the scale of Rs. 650—1200 has since been appointed and has been made responsible for implementing the various schemes of Welfare of Scheduled Tribes under the direct control of the Development Commissioner.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation (Serial No. 1, Para No. 2.22)

The Committee are concerned to note that although the matter regarding the filling up of vacancies of doctors in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands was being pursued by them since May, 1970, the position in this regard is far from satisfactory even after five years of the presentation of that Report. It is still more surprising that in spite of the Committee's specific recommendations made in their 43rd Report (Fifth Lok Sabha) over two years ago, urging the Government to take effective measures to fill up the posts of medical officers in these Islands, there has been no worthwhile improvement in the position. Posts of doctors in the Islands still remain unfilled for long period which include the posts of Surgical Specialist, Medical Specialist, Assistant Surgeon Grade-I, Junior Ophthalmic Surgeon and Junior Radiologist. The posts of Medical Specialist, Junior Radiologist and Jr. Ophthalmic Surgeon have not been filled since May, 1970, March 1971 and October, 1972 respectively. Obviously the action taken to fill up these posts has not proved effective which indicates the casual manner in which this matter has been dealt with by the concerned Administrative Ministry.

The Committee attach great importance to the provision of proper medical facilities to the inhabitants of these far-flung Islands which are cut off from the Mainland. They would like the Government to investigate the circumstances in which the posts of medical officers in the Islands have remained vacant for long periods and fix responsibility therefor. The Committee would further urge that immediate effective action should be taken to fill up all the posts of medical officers in the Islands without delay. They would like to be informed of the action taken in this matter within three months.

Reply of Government

The post of Medical specialist was filled from 15-12-75 and that of Junior Ophthalmologist from 12th April 76.

The following posts of medical officers are at present (28-4-1976) vacant under the A&N Admn. :—

(1) Junior Radiologist	1
(2) Junior Anaesthetist (Car Nicobar Hospital)	1
(3) Junior Medical Officer	5
(4) Assistant Surgeon Gr. I (N.M.E.P.)	1

Junior Radiologist (S. No. 1)

The Ministry of Health have selected Major S. C. Khetrpal for appointment to the post of Junior Radiologist A&N Islands on deputation basis. Passage for him has already been booked and he is expected to join the post by middle of May, 1976.

Junior Anaesthetist (S. No. 2)

The Ministry of Health have issued offers of *ad hoc* appointment against the post, but so far, no one has joined duty. The question of transferring an officer from the mainland to this post is under consideration.

Junior Medical Officer (Five posts) and Assistant Surgeon Grade I (NMEP) (S. Nos. 3 & 4)

Out of the five posts of Junior Medical Officers, four posts are in the Central Health Service. Offers of *ad hoc*/regular appointment against these posts were issued from time to time, but no one joined. The question of filling some of these posts by transfer and others by fresh appointment is under consideration. In the meanwhile, the A&N Administration were authorised to advertise the vacant posts of Junior Medical Officers on the mainland newspapers for *ad hoc* appointment. The Administration has reported that the response has been very good. Action to screen the applicants and select suitable persons has been taken in hand. As a result of continuous efforts made there has been an increase in the number of doctors in position in the islands as will be seen from the following table :—

Year	Total No. of posts of doctors	No. of doctors in position	Vacant posts
1974	54	44	10
1975	55	46	9
1976	58	50	8

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the latest position in regard to the filling up of the posts of medical officers in the Islands. Please also state whether any steps have been taken in implementation of the recommendation of the Committee to investigate the circumstances under which posts of doctors remained vacant for long periods and to fix the responsibility therefor. If so, with what results ?

[L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 Dated 30-12-1976]

Further reply of Government

The position regarding filling up of posts of medical officers in Andaman and Nicobar Islands as reported by the Ministry of Health is briefly given below :—

1. *Surgical Specialist*

There are two posts of Surgical Specialists in the Specialists Grade of the C.H.S. required to be filled on regular basis under the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. Both these posts were held on *ad hoc* basis, one by Dr. B. G. Matapurkar and other by Dr. B. H. Pandeya. However, one of these posts is vacant since 29th October, 1976 due to termination of the services of Dr. B. H. Pandeya.

2. Efforts to fill up this post by transfer of a doctor from Delhi Administrations have failed. The question of filling up the post on *ad hoc* basis by advertising it locally did not arise as there are no private practitioners in the Islands. Major Hazarika a Surgeon from the Army Medical Corps was however considered for appointment on deputation basis. The matter was taken up with the Ministry of Defence as well as the Border Roads Development Board under whose charge Major Hazarika is working at present. They have informed that Major Hazarika who has completed his tenure of 2 years is being posted out on compassionate grounds. A proposal regarding appointment of Dr. B. N. Gogi an *ad hoc* Surgeon on C.H.S. working in Coal Mines Welfare Organisation, Dhanbad is under consideration.

2. *Junior Anaesthetist*

Dr. Surya Narayana Murthy was selected for appointment as Junior Anaesthetist on *ad hoc* basis and the offer was sent to him on 27th September, 1976. Dr. Murthy has, however, not conveyed his acceptance so far. In the meantime a fresh requisition was also sent to U.P.S.C. by

the Ministry of Health on 3-12-1976 for recruitment of a candidate for this post on regular basis. The U.P.S.C. advertised this post on 15-1-1977 under their Advertisement No. 3 and selection of a candidate is likely to be made by the Commission shortly .

3. Junior Pathologist

Dr. Suchitra Chattopadhyay was offered appointment for the post of Junior Pathologist under the A&N Administration on *ad hoc* basis for a period of one year from the date of her joining the post or till the post was filled on a regular basis. As no acceptance from her was received, the Ministry of Health reminded her to join the post immediately failing which action would be taken against her since she was a bonded candidate. Efforts are also being made to obtain the services of Dr. Bharati Govindram Nagrani, M.D. (Pathology), another bonded candidate from Chandigarh. Simultaneously steps have also been taken to fill up this post on regular basis through the U.P.S.C.

4. Junior Paediatrician

The post of Medical Officer in G. B. Pant Hospital, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, held by Dr. B. Shanmugam, has been redesignated as Junior Paediatrician since 17-11-1976. Ministry of Health have issued orders on 4-4-1977 appointing Dr. Shanmugam as Junior Paediatrician.

5. Junior Radiologist : 1 Post

6. Junior Ophthalmologist : 1 Post

Lt. Col. S. K. Chakravorty was posted as Junior Radiologist and Major S. C. Khetrapal as Junior Ophthalmologist. They are both on deputation from the Army. Their deputation has been extended for another year. Orders were issued on 4-4-1977.

7. Medical Officer

Dr. Hirendra Chandra Kar, who had earlier opted for C.H.S., was posted to the Islands in June, 1976. He did not join duty. On the other hand Government of Tripura have recently informed the Ministry of Health that Dr. Kar has now opted for Tripura Health Service and has since been absorbed by that Government. Consequently action is being taken by the Ministry of Health to post another C.H.S. Doctor in place of Dr. Kar.

8. Junior Medical Officers

The position with regard to the filling up the posts of G.D.O. Grade II/Junior Medical Officers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is as under :—

1975—Offers of appointment were issued to five regular nominees of the U.P.S.C. for Andaman and Nicobar Islands *vide* statement at 'A'. Out of five, three Doctors were not interested to go to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Hence, their offers were cancelled. Remaining 2 doctors viz. Dr. D. K. Banerjee and Dr. J. R. Das requested for change of allocation to the Ministry of Labour and Municipal Corporation of Delhi respectively. Their allocation was changed.

1976—Offers of appointment to 8 candidates for appointment as J.M.Os. On an *ad hoc* basis for Andaman and Nicobar Islands were issued *vide* statement at 'B'. Out of 8, only 2 doctors namely Dr. V. M. Aggarwal and Dr. A. K. Nigam have joined there. Four offers have been cancelled and the information from 2 doctors is still awaited.

2. The A&N Administration had intimated to Department of Health in September, 1976 that there were 9 posts of J.M.Os vacant as on 16-8-1976, *i.e.* two posts in C.H.S. and 7 posts non-C.H.S. The two C.H.S. posts have since been filled in. As regards filling up of 7 non-C.H.S. posts, action has already been taken by the A&N Administration for filling up of these posts on *ad hoc* basis. Offers to 7 Doctors have been issued by A&N Administration.* Details of C.H.S. and non-C.H.S.

*Indication the latest position in this regard it has been stated by the Ministry of Home Affairs at the time of factual verification of the report *vide* their O. M. No. U-16016/3/(S-61) 77-ANL dated 6 December, 1977 that :

Following post of medical officers (CHS posts) are vacant at present in the islands :

1. One post of surgeon (Specialist Grade II) is lying vacant at present since November, 1976.
2. Two post of junior anaesthetists (GDO Grade I); one post is lying vacant since June, 1975 and the other since April, 1977.
3. One post of Junior Pathologist (GDO Grade I) is lying vacant since February, 1976.
4. One post of medical officer (GDO Grade I) is lying vacant since March, 1976.
5. Two posts of junior medical officers (Junior Class I) are lying vacant since April, 1977.

posts of J.M.Os may be seen in the statementt 'C'.

1975 Statement 'A'

Name of the Dr. 1	F.No. 2	Remarks 3
1. Dr. Ashok Kumar Jain	A.12025/487/75-CHS.II.	Offer cancelled and dossier returned to UPSC.
2. Dr. B. Nagathushanam	A.12025/500/75-CHS.II	Do.
3. Dr. D.K. Banerjee	A.12025/496/75-CHS.II.	Allocation changed to Labour Ministry.
4. Dr. J.R. Das	A.12025/495/75-CHS.II	Allocation changed to M.C.D.
5. Dr. A.S. Mathur	A.12025/488/75-CHS II —	Offer cancelled and dossier returned to UPSC.

1976 Statement 'B'

1. Dr. V.M. Aggarwal	A.12026/28/76-CHS II.	Joined on 29-3-76.
2. Dr. A. K. Nigam	A.12026/264/76-CHS II.	Joined on 13-9-76.
3. Dr. Misri Lal	A.12026/298/76-CHS II.	Dr. Lal has accepted the offer.
4. Dr. C.S. Murthy	A.12026/314/76-CHS II.	Reminder sent to A and N.
5. Dr. Raghavachary	A.12026/167/76-CHS II.	Offer Cancelled.
6. Dr. S.N. Jha	A.12026/311/76-CHS II.	Do.
7. Dr. G.V. Kumar	A.12026/211/76-CHS II.	Do.
8. Dr. Subhash Jain	A.12026/190/76-CHS II.	Do.

Statement 'C'

1. No. of posts included in GDO Gr. II of CHS.	19 posts (excluding 18 posts to be included in CHS).
2. No. of posts filled on regular basis	10 Posts.
3. No. of posts unfilled i.e. 1-2.	9 posts (excluding 18 posts to be included in CHS).
4. No. of posts filled in on adhoc basis	13 posts (excluding 6 posts recently filled in on adhoc basis for which proposal for continued adhoc appointment will be submitted separately).

It will be observed from the facts mentioned above, that there has been no undue delay on the part of this Ministry in filling up vacant posts in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Therefore the question of fixing of responsibility for the posts remaining vacant does not arise.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77 ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 19 of the Report—Chapter I

Recommendation (Serial No. 2, Para No. 2.23)

In paragraph 2.37 of their 43rd Report, the Committee had recommended the following measures to attract the doctors to the Islands :

- (i) Recalling of officers to the mainland positively after the completion of their fixed tenure in the Islands;
- (ii) Giving preference for sending on advanced training course/Post-Graduate training/Fellowship to the doctors on return from Andamans; and
- (iii) Posting to a station of choice on return from Andamans.

The Committee are surprised that these measures which do not entail any additional financial burden and are only administrative in nature, are still under consideration of Government. They would like Government to take expeditious decision on these measures and implement them immediately after publicising them suitably. The Committee hope that these measures would help in filling up the posts of doctors in the Islands.

Reply of Government

The above recommendation has already been accepted by the Government. Orders were issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning on 16-3-1974 that CHS Officers on completion of 3/2 Years in Cat. 'C'/'D' stations will be given preference in the selection for--

- (i) Post graduate education;
- (ii) Fellowship for study abroad; and
- (iii) Posting to urban areas.

Dr. Gurcharan Singh who was earlier working as Junior ENT Surgeon was allowed to avail of Colombo Plan Fellowship in U. K. On return from fellowship, he has been given posting in the CGHS, Delhi. Dr. Shanmugam, a GDO Gr. II Officer working in the Islands has been given facilities on two occasions for doing post-graduation in Paediatrics. Dr. (Smt.) Dotty Jacob who was earlier working as J. M. O in the Islands on completion of her term was given posting under the Delhi Admn. Similarly, Dr. (Smt.) Usha Paul, another J. M. O. who was earlier working in the Islands on completion of her term was given posting in the CGHS, Allahabad, and later on in the CGHS, Calcutta. Dr. A. K. Banerjee who was earlier working as Surgeon in the Port Blair served in the Islands for about four years whereafter he was given posting as Surgeon in the Irwin Hospital, Delhi. It will, therefore, be observed that the orders are being implemented as far as possible.

It has further been laid down that no CHS Officer would be required to serve in outlying/difficult stations beyond the prescribed tenure unless they are themselves willing to stay on. Some of the Medical Officers in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have completed or are on the point of completing

their tenure in the Islands. Steps are being taken for their withdrawal from the A & N Islands and posting in the urban areas. Steps are also being taken simultaneously to post fresh batch of doctors to the A & N Islands.

[M.H.A.O.M. No. 4-16016/2/76-ANL Vol II dated, 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the number of doctors serving in the Islands at present beyond their prescribed tenure and the number out of them who have volunteered to stay on beyond their tenure.

[LSS OM. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-76]

Further reply of Government

At present 14 CHS Doctors are serving in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands beyond their prescribed tenure of three years. Out of these, 12 have volunteered so far to serve in the Islands and the remaining two are unwilling to stay beyond normal tenure.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U. 16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 26 of the Report—Chapter I

Recommendation (Serial No. 3, Para, 2.24)

The Committee note that a special medical allowance of Rs. 100-150 per month which was allowed the doctors in this Islands, has been withdrawn recently and that orders have been issued to effect recoveries of the payments already made. During their tour to the Islands in January, 1975, the hardship which would be caused to the doctors by recovery of the allowance which was paid to them in good faith, was represented to the Committee more than once. The Committee would urge Government to consider this matter sympathetically in view of the special conditions prevailing in the Islands and the difficulty being faced by Administration in attracting the services of doctors there.

Reply of Government

It was decided *vide* Ministry of Health and Family Planning (Department of Health) letter No. A. 27020/3/71-CHSII (Pt.) dated 13-3-1974 that special medical allowance of Rs. 100-150 p.m. will not be admissible to CHS Officers posted in Category 'C' and 'D' station in A & N Islands in addition to the Andaman special allowance. The question of restoration of the special medical allowance to CHS doctors working in the A & N Islands was thereafter taken up but it was not found possible to restore the allowance. This was conveyed to the Chief Commissioner, A&N Islands *vide* Ministry of Health and FP, Department of Health, letter No. A27020/3/74-CHS III dated

16-12-1975. It was at the same time clarified that the special medical allowance of Rs. 100/150 already paid to the CHS Officers for the period prior to the issue of the orders on 13-3-1974 need not be refunded.

By way of providing special incentive to doctors posted in A & N Islands, it has been decided that a special pay of Rs. 250/- shall be attached to the following Specialist Grade posts :—

(i) Physician	1
(ii) Surgeons	2
(iii) Gynaecologist	1

The question of attaching similar special pay of Rs. 250/- to some of the GDO Grade I posts the incumbents of which are required to possess post-graduate qualifications has also been agreed to in principle. Formal orders would be issued as soon as detailed proposals in this regard are finalised.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II), dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state the latest position in regard to the proposals for providing a special incentive by way of a special pay of Rs. 250/- attached to various categories of posts of doctors posted in the Islands.

[LSS OM. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated, 30-12-76]

Further reply of Government

The Department of Health have reported as below :—

Government orders for the attachment of special pay of Rs. 250/- p.m. to each of the following seven General Duty Officer Grade I posts of the Central Health Services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, when held by officers holding the requisite Specialist's qualifications were issued on 10-2-1976.

Posts	No. of Posts
Junior Ophthalmologist	One
Junior Paediatrician	One
Junior Pathologist	One
Junior Radiologist	One
Junior Anaesthetist	Two
Junior E.N.T. Surgeon	One

Government orders for the attachment of Special Pay of Rs. 250/- p.m. to the following categories of posts in the A&N Islands, which are in General Duty Officer Grade I of the Central Health Service requiring Specialist's qualifications have also been issued on 15-1-1977.

T.B. Officer	One
Lady Medical Officer (VD)	One

The grant of the above Special Pay is subject to the condition that the incumbents of the above-mentioned posts possess either a post-graduate Diploma or a post-graduate Degree related to the nature of duties attached to the

respective posts. If officers with general qualifications like MBBS are appointed against these posts, the Special Pay will not be admissible to those officers.

The Special Pay as Sanctioned will be admissible to officers concerned from the date of issue of Government orders or from the date of joining the posts in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, whichever is later.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL, dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 33 of the Report—Chapter I

Recommendation (Serial No. 8, Para No. 2.54)

The Committee note that venereal diseases are also prevalent on the Islands. They further note that V.D. drugs worth Rs. 4,000 only were supplied to the Islands in 1974-75 and V.D. drugs worth Rs. 6,000 were proposed to be supplied during 1975-76. The Committee consider this amount to be too meagre to meet the requirements of the Islands. They would like to emphasise that these Islands are a virgin area and therefore there is an urgent need to take comprehensive measures to eradicate venereal diseases from the Islands. The Committee recommend that a time-bound programme for V. D. Survey on the Islands should be undertaken urgently and comprehensive measures including the supply of V. D. drugs in sufficient quantities should be initiated to provide adequate medical care to the afflicted persons as also to prevent the spread of these diseases in the Islands.

Reply of Government

V.D. is more common in the local population of Southern Group of Islands and one V. D. Clinic has been established at Car Nicobar for survey and treatment of V. D. Cases. One Senior Male Nurse trained in V. D. is posted there. Two more staff from the existing strength are being deputed for V. D. Training.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II), dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state :

- (a) Whether a time-bound programme for V. D. Survey has been initiated.
- (b) Whether measures have been taken to supply drugs in adequate quantities.
- (c) Whether adequate allocations have been made for the purpose.

[LSS O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76 dated 30-12-76]

Further Reply of Government

The Department of Health have reported as under :—

(a) It is proposed that a S.T.D. Clinic with Laboratory facility may be established at Port Blair and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration be requested to provide the necessary funds in the State Health Plan.

The Medical Officer in-charge of the clinic will do the case-tracing survey and treatment. It is not possible to lay down any time limit for this as detection depends on patients seeking treatment at the clinic.

(b) Adequate quantities of drugs are available and are supplied to the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the basis of requirement.

(c) Adequate allocation has been made in the Central Plan budget.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL, dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 40 of the Report—Chapter I

Recommendation (Serial No. 14, Para No. 2.72)

The Committee in paragraphs Nos. 2.22 to 2.24 have already observed that posts of doctors have remained vacant for long periods due to reluctance on the part of doctors to go to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. During their visit to the Islands, they gathered the impression that other officers also have a feeling of frustration on being posted to the Islands and that generally such postings are considered as a penal measure. An impression prevails that officers use every trick at their command to avoid postings to these Islands. Apparently the policies and procedures followed in regard to the posting of officers and doctors from the Mainland and the incentives available to them, have not been adequate to attract doctors and other officers to the Islands. The Committee consider that in the interest of speedy development of these Islands, Government should reorient their personnel policies and procedures in such a way as to attract the best and most efficient officers to these areas. Persons who evince real interest in the development of these Islands and are prepared to work there and show results, should be allowed special incentives such as higher pay and allowances, weightage of service in Islands for promotion, nomination for training courses, better housing and more liberal leave rules etc. Work in these Islands should be given special recognition and should be considered as a badge of merit and not as a penal posting. The officers selected should normally belong to younger age groups and should be posted for a reasonably long period and on specific assignments so that they can show results by way of achievement during their tenure. The Committee urge that action to reorient the personnel policies as suggested above, should be taken by Government expeditiously and implemented in the field.

Reply of Government

The recommendations have been considered. The Pay Commission while considering the structure of pay and allowances for the employees of the Islands did take into account the factors mentioned in the recommendation. In the light of this recommendation the mainland recruits/deputationists/cadre officers of Dani Services and All India Services have been provided special allowance ranging between 20 per cent (subject to a maximum of Rs. 300/-) to 30 per cent (subject to a maximum of Rs. 400) of their basic pay depending on the area of their posting in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Further they are entitled to compensatory allowance which is admissible to all employees of the Administration, at the rate of 12½ per cent of basic pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150/- per month. In the circumstances it has not been possible to recommend further increase in remuneration as the level of pay and allowances has been settled in the light of the pay Commission's report.

Weightage for service in the Islands for promotion is difficult to provide as this is likely to trigger similar demands from other territories and may in the process conflict with the interests of other Government servants. Mainland recruits working in the territory are already enjoying certain extra facilities in the matter of sea passages and leave inasmuch as a Government servant and his family are entitled to a free sea passage once a year and to extra leave to the extent of time he spends on journey to and fro, including enforced halts and waiting, if any. Steps are being taken to provide suitable accommodation to all categories of Government employees in the Islands and to ensure this construction programmes are in hand.

Through it is not possible to prefer, as a rule, officers who have worked in the territories in the matter of training abroad, in a way they tend to gain by such experience in the islands because in many of the courses sponsoring Universities like to have those officers who have worked in backward and tribal areas. Care is taken to select persons with proper aptitudes and interests at the time of their posting in the Islands.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 45 of the Report—Chapter I

Recommendation (Serial No. 16, Para No. 2.74)

The Committee note that the officers travelling between the Mainland and the Islands have sometimes to wait for long periods at Calcutta to get the shipping service and have to incur heavy expenditure on their board and lodging during the enforced halts. The Committee note that there are two Guest Houses at Calcutta—one at Auckland and another at Bondel

Road but the accommodation provided there does not meet fully the requirements. Moreover, there are no facilities for board and lodging at Madras. The Committee recommend that the position may be examined urgently and adequate arrangements for board and lodging for the officials and staff in transit to and from the Islands made at Calcutta and Madras at reasonable rates keeping in view the daily allowance that they are entitled to.

Reply of Government

At present there are two guest houses at Calcutta— one at Auckland Place and the other at Bondel Road. Auckland Place guest house is having one double bedded room and Bondel Road guest house is having 3 double-bedded rooms.

A plot of land has been purchased at Ekbalpore Road, at Calcutta for the construction of a 4-storeyed building to augment the existing facilities. In this building there will be no guest house accommodation. However, provision for a sarai for accommodating 100 deck/bunk passengers will be provided.

It has not been possible to find a vacant site near the harbour area at Madras where a guest house could be constructed for the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. However, the Mercantile Marine Department at Madras have a proposal to construct a rest house in George Town at Madras which would also accommodate deck passengers going to or coming from Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II), dated 9-9-1976]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 50 and 51 of the Report—Chapter 1

Recommendation (Serial No. 25, Para No. 4.30)

The Committee regret to note that although Government originally accepted the recommendation made by the Committee in their 43rd Report (1972-73) that Government should prepare and implement a long-term Master Plan for the development of forests in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and stated that steps would be initiated to prepare a long-term plan for development of forests of these Islands, the representative of the Ministry has now stated during evidence that no separate Master Plan was necessary as there were working plans for forest areas under the management of the Forest Department which were revised from time to time. The Committee would in this connection like to draw attention to the recommendation made in the Techno-Economic Survey of Andaman and Nicobar Islands by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (1972) wherein it has *inter alia* been urged that the present favourable climate of planned

industrial expansion in the country should be taken advantage of and transport and other bottlenecks should be overcome and the forests should be exploited and developed according to a master plan. While recognising the necessity for working plans as brought out in paragraphs 4.38 and 4.39 of their 43rd Report, the Committee had in paragraph 4.40 of that Report emphasised the need for a long-term Master Plan also for development of forests in the Islands. The Committee would again like to emphasise the necessity for preparation of a Master Plan which should spell out the strategy for an overall and long-term development and exploitation of the forest resources of the Islands economically, efficiently and in the best interest of the Islands and the country.

Reply of Government

It is reiterated that for areas in South and Middle Andamans where forestry management has already been extended, there are scientific working Plans which are revised at an interval of 10 to 15 years. These working Plans serve the purpose of a short-term Master Plan. The project report prepared for the establishment of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Development Corporation embodies development plans for the next 15 years in the matter of exploitation of forests which hitherto remained unexploited due to remoteness and inaccessibility. In addition, a project report is also being prepared for establishment of wood based complexes under joint sector venture with the participation of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Forest Development Corporation. These project reports serve the objectives of a Master Plan as envisaged in the Estimates Committee's Report.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II), dated 9-9-1976]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 54 of the Report—Chapter I

Recommendation (Serial No. 37, Para No. 5.32)

The Committee are distressed to note that the Small Scale Industries Service Institute recommended by them in their 43rd Report, has not yet been set up and is not likely to be set up before 1976-77. There is no Technical Institute in the Islands to provide training to the local population. The Committee need hardly emphasise that strong educational and training base is an important requisite to build up infrastructure for industrial development and to sustain its growth. This is all the more important in the case of these Islands as there is acute shortage of skilled labour and technical know-how among the local people which is hampering the industrial progress of these islands. The Committee, therefore, recommend that urgent attention should be given to the setting up of a compact Small Industries Service Institute and a Technical Institute in the Islands at the earliest.

Reply of Government

According to the phased programme drawn up by the Small Industries Development Organisation for opening branches of the Small Industries Service Institutes during the Fifth Five Year Plan period, one such institute was to be established in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the year 1977-78. In view of the recommendation of the Estimates Committee this has been reconsidered by the Government and it has now been decided to advance the establishment of the Branch Institute in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 1977-78 to 1976-77. Necessary instructions have been issued to the authorities concerned to prepare estimates for establishment of the Branch Institute during the current year.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II), dated 9-9-1976]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state whether there is any proposal to establish a technical institute in the Islands, as recommended by the Estimates Committee, to provide technical training to the local population with a view to strengthening the educations and training base in Islands.

[LSS O.M. No. 5/11/EC/76, dated 30-12-1976]

Further reply of Government

It has not been possible to establish the institute during the year 1976-77. The Department of Industrial Development is, however busy finalising the details of this scheme and the institute is expected to come up soon.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL, dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 58 of the Report—Chapter I

Recommendation (Serial No. 61, Para No. 7.12)

The Committee note that in the draft Fifth Five Year Plan, the target of attaining a level of 6500 tons of fish production was originally fixed with a Plan outlay of Rs. 4.5 crores which has since been scaled down to Rs. 0.94 crores and a revised target of attaining a level of 1600 tons of fish production has been fixed. The Committee are given to understand that this revised target of fish production will largely meet the domestic requirements of the inhabitants of Andaman and Nicobar Islands only. They are surprised that the allocations for the Fifth Plan have been reduced by about 75 per cent on the ground of constraint of resources even in the case of a highly productive field as fisheries and in a territory like Andaman and Nicobar Islands which have vast economic potentialities in

this field. The Committee would like to emphasise that in the present circumstances when there is an urgent need to attain self-sufficiency in the matter of food and when there is great demand for fish in the country, concerted efforts should be made by Government for development of fisheries and increasing the production of fish in these islands so that not only the demands of the local population may be met in full but fish could be exported to mainland also to meet the requirements of people there, particularly those residing in West Bengal where fish constitutes part of the staple food. This would also help the economic development of the Islands and would improve the economic conditions of local population.

Reply of Government

The administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands originally proposed an outlay of Rs. 309.59 lakhs, comprising of Rs. 77.94 lakhs in the Union Territory sector and Rs. 231.65 lakhs in the Central sector. The Working Group on Fisheries in the Planning Commission considered the total cost of provision of these facilities as Rs. 4.5 crores and that these schemes on full development could raise fish production to a level of 6,500 tonnes per annum. However, in view of the constraint on resources, it was felt that Plan provision for extensive infrastructural facilities, large deep sea fishing vessels, etc. should be made only after the successful conclusion of the investigations on sustainable fish yield, location of fishing grounds, craft and gear best suited for their exploitation, type of processing and storage, facilities for marketing, etc. The outlay required on schemes that could be implemented before the conclusion of the survey was worked out as Rs. 0.94 crores, which could take fish production to a level of 1600 tonnes per annum. As soon as the surveys are completed and schemes worked out for large scale development of fisheries, provision of necessary funds could be examined and provided if necessary.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II), dated 9-9-1976]

Recommendation (Serial No. 65, Para No. 7.24)

The Committee note that basic data regarding the potential of fish in and around the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is not available and it was only in pursuance of the recommendation of the Estimates Committee, made in May 1970 that a deep sea fishing station had been set up at Port Blair in 1972, with two vessels which have been doing survey for nearly two and a half years. It is regrettable that the data is still in the process of being collected. The Committee need hardly emphasise that basic data regarding the availability of fish in and around the Islands is a pre-requisite for undertaking development of fisheries and for the maximum utilisation of the fishing potential in that area. The Committee would, therefore, urge that a time-bound programme for the collection of basic data regarding fisheries should be prepared and the work completed most expeditiously.

The Committee need hardly point out that the very fact that fishing boats from far off places like Japan, China, Taiwan and Thailand come around these Islands for fishing, is a clear indication of the vast potentialities of fishing in the area.

Reply of Government

A complete survey of the fishery resources of the waters around these islands is a stupendous task, requiring a large organisation with adequate number of fishing vessels. With the limited organisation and vessels available with the Exploratory Fisheries Project, only 2 vessels could be stationed at Port Blair, where they have been working for the last 4 years. The survey so far conducted has revealed the possibility of commercial fishing with long-line fishing gear, while the possibility of fishing with trawl nets and purse-seining nets seems remote from the 3500 sq. km. surveyed. The 57 ft. vessels now available with the Exploratory Fisheries Project are found to be in-adequate for operation in these waters, although in the absence of larger sized vessels, the survey is being continued with these vessels. It is, however, hoped that with the acquisition of larger sized vessels towards the end of the Vth Plan, the survey fleet in these islands could be suitably strengthened.

As a detailed survey of the resources would take a large number of years to complete, the industry is being encouraged to enter fishing with the available data.

[*M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II), dated 9-9-1976*]

Further information called for by the Committee

Please state whether a time-bound programme has taken drawn up for completion of the surveys/investigations of the fisheries resources in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) Please state the number and sizes of the vessels available with the Exploratory Fisheries Project and the number and sizes of vessels that are required for the expeditious completion of the survey and programmes drawn up to acquire the same.

[*L.S.S. O.M. No. 5/II/EC/76 dated 30-12-1976*]

Further reply of Government

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Deptt. of Agriculture have reported as follows :—

- (a) Exploratory survey is a continuing programme. Survey has to be carried out using different types of fishing methods over a period of years to obtain even a general picture of the resources. This picture is reviewed in the light of repeat surveys carried out in the area. Even on the mainland, surveys are being carried out on a continuing basis.

- (b) The Exploratory Fisheries Project has at present 2 vessels of 57 ft. length, one longliner, the other purse-seiner. For a reasonably intensive survey of the economic Zone (200 miles) around Andaman and Nicobar Islands about 10 vessels (about 23 metres) would be required, of which 2 may be trawlers, 2 purse seiners, 4 long-liners and 2 pole and line fishing vessels. Negotiations are being held with aid-giving countries for obtaining assistance in the supply of vessels etc. for the survey programme along the East Coast, including the sea around Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Besides the operation of the Fisheries Project at Campbell Bay, as recommended by the Technical team, would also provide additional information on the fishable resources of the area.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/1/77-ANL dated 10-5-1977]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 68 of the Report—Chapter I

Recommendation (Serial No. 67, Para No. 7.37)

The Committee are constrained to observe that although twenty mechanised boats were expected to be received by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration by the end of 1971, not a single boat had been received even upto April, 1975. In respect of 7 boats, the construction was stated to be in an advanced state. The Committee are not convinced with the reasons advanced by the Government for delay in acquiring these boats. The Committee deplore the casual manner in which the matter of acquisition of mechanised fishing boats has been dealt with by the Government which has greatly hampered the development of fishing in the Island. The Committee recommend that Government should give top priority to the acquisition of these mechanised fishing boats and ensure that they are put into operation without delay. The Committee would also like Government to fix responsibility for effect necessary improvements, without loss of the action taken.

Reply of Government

According to accelerated development programme in 1965 drawn up by the Department of Rehabilitation it was proposed among other items to introduce 160 mechanised boats and to begin with, it was planned to have only 20 boats—8 of 36' length and 12 of 30' length. Engines for the purpose were also ordered to be imported. However, there being no favourable response to the hire purchase offer, 12 engines meant for 30' boats were sold to the Lakshadweep Administration and West Bengal Government. While repacking the engines it was noticed that only 7 engines of the type suitable for mounting on 36' boats were available. In the circumstances there were

only 7, 36' boats to be constructed and brought to the territories. Four of these boats have since been completed and have already been transported to Port Blair where they have started fishing. The remaining three boats are nearing completion and will be transported to Andamans as soon as these are ready.*

Though there has no doubt been delay in providing the Andaman & Nicobar Administration with the mechanised boats yet any individual or organisation can hardly be blamed and held responsible for the same. The scheme was initiated by the Department of Rehabilitation and the orders were placed by the Chief Commissioner of Andamans with commendable intentions but both of them had no technical staff to assist in this work and hence had to depend on other agencies. As it could not be possible to entrust the boat construction to a contractor or any other agency the orders were placed with the DGS&D with the designs and specifications supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture. At one stage after accepting the tenders submitted by M/s. Rubi Engineering and Boat Building Corporation, Cochin, the DG (Shipping) felt that the designs of the boat were perhaps deficient in stability and characteristics. It created some uncertainty and the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) was brought into the picture. While designs were being scrutinised by the MMD a communication was received from the Ministry of Defence (Navy) who desired that the designs should also be cleared through them before the order was executed. These factors led to delay in the approval of design which was finally cleared by the Ministry of Defence (Navy) only on 7-4-1974.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 72 of the Report—Chapter I

*Indicating the latest position in this regard it has been stated by the Ministry of Home-Affairs at the time of factual verification of the report vide their O. M. No. U-16016/3(S-61)/77-ANL dated 6 December, 1977 that :—

“Seven mechanised boats were procured by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration out of which four were put into operation and the remaining three would be put into operation as soon as staff is available. Suitable staff is not available locally and the question of recruiting the staff from the mainland is being examined.

As regards the futur programme, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration propose to procure 66 mechanised boats during the coming five years. However this is subject to approval by the Planning Commission. In addition to the above 19 mechanised boats are proposed to be procured under the schemes falling under the Central Sector.”

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation (Serial No. 29, Para No. 4.63)

The Committee are distressed to note that even though there is great scope for rubber plantation in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, very little progress has been made in this direction so far. During the Fourth Plan period, an area of 1255 acres only has been developed for rubber plantation and there is a proposal to develop another 2,500 acres during the Fifth Plan.

The Committee note that there have been certain problems in this regard due to unwillingness on the part of the Sri Lanka repatriates at Katchal to take up employment in rubber plantations and this has resulted in retarding the progress in the development of rubber plantations. The Committee see no reason why these problems cannot be overcome and considerable progress cannot be achieved in development of rubber plantations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands considering the headway made in this sphere by Malaysia and Sri Lanka which are situated almost at the same latitude.

The Committee would like to be informed of the concrete measures taken to achieve the target of developing rubber plantation over an additional area of 2,500 acres.

Reply of Government

Government are examining whether future plans for development of rubber plantations in these Islands should be entrusted to the proposed Forest-cum-Plantation Corporation or to the Rubber Board.

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-1976]

December, 1977.

Agrahayana, 1899 (Saka)

SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX I

(Vide Recommendation, Serial No. 47)

STATEMENT SHOWING CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS OF DESHMUKH COMMITTEE REPORT AND ACTION TAKEN/POSITION THEREON

Conclusions and recommendations in the Report of the Shipping Services in Andaman and Nicobar Islands by Shri D.L. Deshmukh	Present position/action taken
1	2
1. Chapter VI— <i>Mainland-Island Shipping Services</i>	
<p>(i) * * *</p> <p>(ii) * * *</p> <p>(iii) Similarly the ships to and from Madras can touch Little Andaman island and it is to be considered whether it is worth keeping the halt at the Car Nicobar.</p>	<p>The Shipping Corporation of India has already resumed the calls at Car Nicobar in alternate voyages.</p>
2. Chapter VIII— <i>Cargo Shipping Service between Mainland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.</i>	
<p>(i) m.v. Nicobar is to be replaced by a cargo ship at an early date.</p> <p>(ii) With the help of the 2 passenger vessels, and two cargo vessels, the cargo traffic between Mainland and Islands can be handled.</p> <p>(iii) * * *</p> <p>(iv) Additional mobile equipment at a total cost of Rs. 65 lakhs are to be provided at Chatham & Commercial Wharf at Haddo at Port Blair for handling the cargo traffic efficiently.</p>	<p>(i) & (ii): Shipping Corporation of India re-introduced MV VISHVA ANAND in the main land-Andaman service in February 1976 and have also made arrangements for a more suitable vessel to replace VISHVA ANAND. Two passenger-cum-cargo vessels (MV ANDAMAN & KARANJA) and 3 cargo vessels (MV SHOMPEN and two newly acquired vessels of 6,000 cum. capacity (each) will now be in operation in this sector.</p> <p>One mobile crane of 6 Tonne capacity has already been installed over the wharf during the Fourth Five Year Plan. Regarding the remaining items, the provision of Rs. 12 lakhs only could be included in the Fifth Five Year Plan due to paucity of funds. Out of these funds, action for the procurement of one mobile crane of 10 T. capacity, 2 Nos. forklifts of 3 T capacity, 12 Nos. Hand push trollies, 6 Nos. Hand carriages etc. has been initiated.</p>

As regards commercial wharf at Haddo one wharf crane of 6 T capacity has been received and will be erected on the wharf shortly. One weigh-bridge has also been erected at site. For the remaining items, provision of Rs. 10 lakhs has been included in the Fifth Plan. Out of this provision, necessary procurement action in respect of one mobile crane 10 T capacity, 2 Nos. forklifts of 3 T capacity, 5 Nos. hand push trollies, 2 Nos. Tractors and 6 Nos. trailers has been taken.

In order to provide repair facilities to crafts, it is proposed to construct an additional Dry Dock at Port Blair for which suitable provision has been included in the Fifth Plan. The project estimate for this work is under preparation.

3. Chapter IX—*Inter-island passenger service*

- (i) Faster ship of 17 knots speed for inter-islands services is required immediately as a replacement of s.s. Cholunga. If not available readily, possibility of chartering a vessel should be explored. SCI has been on the look out for a suitable replacement for s.s. Cholunga, but no suitable vessel has so far been spotted in the international market. In the meantime, s.s. Cholunga has been providing satisfactory service in spite of its old age.
- (ii) * * *
- (iii) * * *
- (iv) Two trips per week will have to be made from Port Blair to Little Andaman and back, in addition to touching Little Andaman during the Southern group of Islands service. (iv, v and vi) : SCI has been asked to prepare an economic appraisal report on the inter-islands service in consultation with the Andaman Administration on receipt of which a final decision on the inter-island service, will be taken. In the meantime, it has been ensured that the service would continue to be operated by the Andaman Administration with the assistance of SCI to meet the traffic demands adequately.
- (v) An additional vessel of 'Yerewa' type is to be planned immediately to that it will be available as early as possible.
- (vi) An additional faster vessel will have to be procured after 5 years considering the development of traffic at that time.

4. Chapter XIII—*General Facilities*

- (i) Stevedoring work at Port Blair is to be arranged by the SCI instead of using the Andaman Labour Force by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration. The Shipping Corporation wanted to entrust the stevedoring work to competent and independent stevedoring contractor in order to ensure the quickest possible turn-round of the vessels. However, since this would have resulted in unemployment problems for the

1	2
(ii) Specified quota for Andaman and Nicobar Administration to be reserved on passenger and cargo booking by the SCI.	<p>Andaman Labour force which is at present attending to the stevedoring work, it has been decided to continue the existing stevedoring arrangements and various measures undertaken to improve its efficiency.</p> <p>There are no specified quotas fixed for Andaman and Nicobar Administration. However both passenger and cargo booking are done in consultation with Andaman & Nicobar Administration.</p>

[M.H.A. O.M. No. U-16016/2/76-ANL (Vol. II) dated 9-9-76].

APPENDIX II

(Vide reply to Recommendation, Serial No. 49)

STATEMENT INDICATING THE MAIN RECOMMENDATION MADE IN THE 1ST MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD AT PORT BLAIR FROM 18TH TO 20TH MAY, 1976 AND ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

Item	Recommendation made by the Review Committee	Action taken thereon
1	2	3
B.	Replacement of existing Mainland/Island passenger vessels and acquisition of additional vessels.	<p>The SCI have pressed into service M.V. Harshavardhana in place of "State of Haryana" with effect from 25-11-76. M.V. Harshavardhana is a fully air-conditioned vessel built in 1974 with a capacity of 153 cabins and 596 bunks. She can perform 28 round voyages in a year and would be able to carry a total of 41944 passengers in a year. The other vessel "MV Andamans" has been providing reasonably satisfactory service. She will be completing 20 years in 1977-78; when steps will be taken by the SCI for its replacement.</p> <p>The SCI are of the opinion that it will be possible to cater to the passenger traffic with the 2 vessels now under operation supplemented by S.S. 'Nancowry', particularly during the busy holiday period between May and June.</p>
C.	Acquisition of 2 more Shompen type cargo vessels in addition to the existing one Shompen type vessel so that there may be 3 cargo vessels on these services.	<p>At present M.V. Shompen and M.V. Vishva Anand, are operating on the Mainland/Andamans cargo services. These vessels have a cargo capacity of 3500 tons each. The SCI provides additional timber carriers on these services as and when there is accumulation of cargo. In addition, the 2 passenger-cum-cargo vessels M.V. Andamans and M.V. Harshavardhana can also carry 1150/1500 tons of cargo respectively. The cargo available at each port are being cleared within a reasonable period.</p> <p>The SCI proposes to replace M.V. Vishva Anand by a new "Nishi" type timber carrier, which can annually carry upto 47,500 tons of timber, as against 32,525 tons which could be carried by new Shompen type vessel, in addition to 10,500 tons of general cargo. The study team has assessed that the general cargo movement in this sector may increase to 60,000 tons in 1979-80 and that timber movement in that year would be in the region of 1,08,000 tons. M.V. Shompen and the new 'Nishi' type vessel would be able to take care of the general cargo and timber movement. The SCI will, however, provide additional vessels as and when the need arises.</p>

1	2	3
D. Taking over of the inter-Islands service by the SCI.	The inter-islands service is being operated by the SCI on behalf of the Andaman Administration on the basis of an agreement entered into between them. The SCI maintains that the inter-islands service is of a local nature and should be operated by the Andaman Administration. The Review Committee has also recommended that the SCI should be gradually relieved of their jurisdiction and Andaman Administration to should take over the responsibility for Mainland/inter-island shipping services.	
E. Replacement of inter-islands Ferry vessel Cholunga and acquisition of an additional vessel for inter-islands service.		
F. Acquisition of one more cargo vessel for inter-islands services.		
G. Review of working of existing Mainland/Island Passenger & Cargo services.	<p>The SCI has taken the following actions :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The scheduled of the vessels plying on the drawn out in consultation with the Andaman Administration and every effort is being made to maintain these schedules. (2) The SCI has taken necessary measures to avoid pilferages of cargoes including personal effects of passengers. (3) Instructions have been issued by the SCI to catering contractors on board the vessel for improving the quality of food and catering arrangements. The SCI has suggested food charges collected from the passengers have also to be revised suitably in view of the general rise in the price line after the last revision effected in 1974. 	

STATEMENT INDICATING THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE 2ND MEETING OF THE REVIEW COMMITTEE HELD AT NEW DELHI, ON 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1976 AND ACTION TAKEN THEREON.

S.No. Recommendation made by the Review Committee	Action taken or proposed to be taken thereon
1. Keeping in view the need and economy of the islands it was time to consider introduction of right types of ships for operation in the area. While doing so, the age, capacity of the ship, its manoeuvrability and fare/freight structure of the ship has to be borne in mind.	As decided in the meeting, of the Coordination Committee of Secretaries held on 6th July, 1976 a study group was set up to make a realistic study of the traffic potential in the A & N Islands. The study Group has submitted its report on traffic potential and tonnage assessment for the Mainland/Andaman Service.
2. M/O Shipping and Transport should issue instructions to the D.G. Shipping not to issue licences to the Private vessels to operate in this sector without obtaining clearance from the Chief Commissioner A & N Islands.	Necessary instructions in this regard are being issued by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport.
3. Periodicity of the meeting of the Review Committee may be increased from 3 to 6 months.	Order is under issue.
4. A tug may be provided at Port Blair, in the light of failure of the manufacturer to keep to the construction schedule.	The Ministry of Transport and Shipping have now agreed to provide a Tug to be used at Port Blair. The offer was received only in the beginning of this month. Details are under examination.

APPENDIX III

(Recommendation, Serial No. 49)

REPORT ON THE TRAFFIC POTENTIAL AND TONNAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE MAINLAND/ANDAMAN SERVICE

Introductory

The Mainland/Andaman Service has so far been operated with help of passenger-cum-cargo vessels and two cargo vessels which were available from time to time. Additional tonnage by chartering a vessel or by diverting SCI's vessels from overseas employment on *ad-hoc* basis was also employed as and when it was necessary to supplement the regular vessels. This arrangement has so far worked reasonably satisfactorily and the traffic, both passenger and cargo available on this service, is being catered to without any difficulty except during holiday rush period.

The Andaman Administration envisages that the existing traffic would increase substantially in the coming five years and therefore the vessels presently plying (broad particulars placed at Annexure 'I') would neither be adequate nor suitable for meeting the future traffic requirements. This view has been expressed by the Andaman Administration from time to time through various communications as well as in the meetings and therefore the Central Co-ordination Committee Meeting held on 16th July, 1976 at New Delhi desired that the Ministry of Shipping and Transport should take into this matter and furnish a report on the traffic potential. SCI has carefully studied the data provided by the Andaman Administration in the light of the passenger and cargo movement in the last few years and has estimated future traffic potential and suitable tonnage for catering to the same, at economical cost.

2.1. The passenger movement in the last two years i.e. 1974-75 (54,855) and 1975-76 (54,719) has been more or less constant. However, on the liberal side annual growth rate of 10 per cent in passenger traffic, based on the 1975-76 figure i.e. 55,000 (rounded figure) would be reasonable and accordingly, passenger traffic in 1979-80 is not likely to exceed 80,400 passengers as against 95,100 projected by the Andaman Administration at the time of the first Review Committee Meeting held at Port Blair in May, 1976.

2.2. The projected passenger movement indicated in Para 2.1. above is from Port Blair/Car Nicobar to Calcutta, Madras and Vizag and vice-versa, as the port-wise projection have so far not been received from the Andaman Administration. Normally passenger traffic would have been more

or less equally distributed between Calcutta and Madras; however, if Vizag port is to be served regularly, then the traffic available to and from Madras would be partly diverted to Vizag. Whereas some passengers from certain ports of Andhra Pradesh may prefer Visakhapatnam as a port of call on the Mainland. Passenger residing in Tamil Nadu and Kerala State would await Madras sailing. It will be noted that by arranging a call of a passenger ship at Visakhapatnam no additional traffic is likely to generate but only some passengers who would have otherwise travelled to Madras would go to Visakhapatnam.

2.3 Further come, unlike Madras and Calcutta where regular facilities for handling passengers exist, Visakhapatnam will also have to develop such facilities besides creating infrastructure for handling 1,500/2,000 passengers, with their friends and relations who are required to be catered to at one time (equal number for embarkation and disembarkation).

2.4. Apart from passenger traffic, our experience shows that call at Visakhapatnam increase the loss per voyage because there is limited quantity of cargo moving between Visakhapatnam and Port Blair. During the 5 calls provided so far for Visakhapatnam, on an average 306 tons of cargo has moved as against 938 tons moved between Madras and Port Blair in 1975-76. Therefore, average freight revenue in Vizag voyage is Rs. 0.76 lakhs as compared to Madras call where the average revenue will be approximately Rs. 1.88 lakhs per Voyage.

2.5. Therefore, rather than providing regular calls for Visakhapatnam, it would be desirable to continue to serve passenger traffic at Madras and Calcutta as hitherto till the traffic develops to such an extent that it would be necessary to operate three ships on this route.

2.6. Likewise no projections are available in respect of Car Nicobar Calls. However, it is noticed that in 7 calls performed during 1975 only 54 passengers embarked and 87 disembarked at Car Nicobar. This 50 tons of cargo was loaded and 83 tons unloaded at Car Nicobar. This traffic is not likely to increase by more than 10 per cent per annum. Since calls at Car Nicobar means covering additional distance of about 200 miles in either direction, which increase the turnround time of ships by 2 days in a round voyage, without any corresponding benefit, the Car Nicobar calls would continue to result in losses even in future. Additional cost for the diversion and time would amount to about Rs. 37,000/-. It is, therefore, felt that the needs of Car Nicobar could better be served by the Inter-Island ships by connecting Port Blair with Car Nicobar. The passengers intending to travel to and from Mainland could be transferred at Port Blair to Inter Island ships.

2.7. Presently, Mayabunder and Diglipur are being catered to from Port Blair by the Inter. Island are also not available. Projections for

these two Islands are also not available. Pending development of road from Port Blair to Diglipur, the present pattern of servicing these ports by Inter-Island ships could continue instead of arranging direct calls at Mayabunder or Diglipur by Mainland route vessels till the traffic really justifies direct calls. If direct calls at these ports by the Mainland vessels are to be considered, ports would need to develop facilities including Navigational aids for receiving such large vessels and passenger traffic. Calls at these ports will, no doubt, add to turn round time and thus reduce the number of calls of to mainland and increase expenditure without any corresponding benefit. Therefore, it is advisable to continue to handle traffic to these areas by Inter-Island shipping service.

Tonnage assessment for passenger cum-cargo vessels

3.1. The Andaman Administration had recommended to the Review Committee as well as the Central Co-ordination Committee the acquisition of three passenger-cum-cargo ships for operation between the Mainland and the Islands. They had also indicated that each ship should have a capacity of 100 cabin class and 700 bunk class passengers together with a cargo capacity of 800 tons. The ships, according to the Administration, should be 16 knotters.

Based on the projections made in Part 2.1 above, three ships of the kind required by the Administration would be under-utilised. As decided recently, SCI will now place the M.V. "Harsha Vardhana" on the Mainland/Andaman run on a regular basis. Apart from this ship, the M.V. "Andamans" is already on the run. We would also be entering the market for the replacement of M. V. "Andamans" which would complete 20 years of its life in 1977-78. As and when a suitable ship is available the same would replace the M.V. "Andamans".

3.2. The traffic on the Mainland/Andaman Sector could be reasonably catered to by M.V. "Andamans" and the M.V. "Harsha Vardhana" which is replacing "Nancowry" in that sector. Depending on traffic requirements the "Nancowry" would also be available to supplement the number of ships available on the Mainland/Andaman Sector during busy holiday period between May and July. On the basis of this arrangement, it would be possible to lift 91864 passengers during any particular year. (Annexure II). It would be seen that this would be more than adequate for the requirements of that sector.

Cargo projections

4.1. The Andaman Administration has projected that the General cargo movement and timber movement would increase to 60,000 tons and 2,32,200 tons respectively by 1979-80. Whereas the general cargo movement may increase to 60,000 tons in 1979-80 on the basis of 10 per cent increase per annum over 1975-76 movement, the timber movement viz.

2,32,00 tons estimated in 1979-80 is on the higher side and the same could be estimated at 1,08,000 tons in 1979-80 on the basis of 15 per cent increase per annum over the movement in 1975-76. Like passenger projection, portwise projection for cargo traffic is also not available however, it could be assumed that the cargo traffic would continue to move to Calcutta, Madras and Vizag and *vice versa* in the same proportion.

Tonnage assessment for proposed requirements

5.1 In the Review Committee and the Central Co-Ordination Committee meetings the Andaman Administration recommended three "Shompen" type cargo vessels in addition to three smaller and faster passenger-cum-cargo ships referred to above. The proposal of employment of "Shompen" type vessel was studied earlier after the first Review Committee Meeting and as desired by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport estimated operational results were submitted vide letter No. 233/AN-564 dated 3rd June, 1976.

5.2. Presently, M.V. "Shompen" and M.V. "Vishva Anand" are catering to the timber traffic in addition to small parcels being carried on the passenger-cum cargo vessels. This arrangement has been working satisfactorily and there has not been any back-log of timber. Moreover, SCI has been facing considerable difficulties on its overseas services, because of the diversion of M.V. "Vishva Anand" from the overseas services to the Andaman Service and in fact, at times vessels have to be chartered at a much higher rate for fulfilling the commitments to the international trade. Moreover, M.V. "Vishva Anand" although utilised for the carriage of timber is essentially a general cargo vessel and could be utilised more profitably on the overseas trade. SCI has therefore after exploring the market thoroughly, located a timber carrier under construction which is available for resale at a lower price for meeting the projected traffic at an economical cost.

The new timber carrier under reference can annually carry upto 47,250 tons timber as against 32,525 tons which could be carried by new "Shompen" type vessel in addition to 10,500 tons General Cargo, which is expected to be available for either one of these vessels. Estimated results for both these vessels are indicated in Annexure 'III'. It would be observed that annual loss on "Nishi" type vessel would work out to Rs. 47.96 lakhs as against Rs. 45.23 lakhs on "Shompen" type new vessel which means that per ton transport cost would be Rs. 190.30 for Nishi-type whereas it will be Rs. 224.92 for new "Shompen" type vessel. The difference in per ton cost is because of the lesser quantity of timber which could be carried by "Shompen" type vessel because of her limited cargo carrying capacity. Therefore, the employment of "Nishi" type vessel is much economical as compared to "Shompen" type vessel.

Impact of acquisition of Tonnage on fares/freight rates

6.1. SCI has been urging the Government of India for periodical revision of the fares and freight rates, since the same are basically low and are not revised periodically despite the steep rise in the operational costs. For instance, freight rates on timber and timber products, which is a major commodity presently moving from the Islands and expected to move in much large quantities in the future as compared to general cargo (viz. in 1979-80 1,08,000 tons timber as against 60,000 tons general cargo) necessitating additional tonnage, have not been revised after 1967. However, the freight rates the other commodities have been increased thereafter by 20 per cent in April, 1970, 15 per cent in December, 1972 and 25 per cent in November, 1975.

Present Bunk Class fare is so low that per mile fare works out to 7/7½ Paise as against 23 paise per mile fare charged on the other coastal passenger service operated between Bombay and Goa and 36 paise per mile on the Haj Service both of which are heavily losing services. It may not be out of place to mention here that the per mile bunk fare for the overseas services operated by SCI varies between 60 and 69 Paise per mile. Because of the above uneconomic fare and freight structure and tremendous rise in operational costs, annual loss on operating the Andaman Service has exceeded Rs. 3.00 crores and would increase further substantially after the acquisition of new tonnage. It is, therefore, imperative that while planning the additional tonnage, the need for further revision in fares and freight rates over and above yearly revision in the same for meeting the increase in the operational costs. should always be kept in view. If a revision on break even basis is not practicable, the Government of India should consider reimbursement of the losses in full, which might be incurred by SCI for operating the services at the fares/freight rates approved by Government :—

Summary

- (a) Passenger movement is expected to increase at 10 per cent per annum over 1975-76, traffic and, accordingly in 1979-80, 80,400 passengers are expected to travel on this sector (The Administration has projected a movement of 95,100 passengers in 1979-80).
- (b) In order to cater to the passenger traffic as mentioned in (a) above SCI would be placing the M.V. "Andaman" (which is already operating in that sector) and diverting the M.V. "Harsha Vardhana". Depending on requirements or traffic SCI would also be putting S.S. "Nancowry" on that

run during the busy holiday period. On the basis of this arrangement it would be possible to lift 1,02,954 passengers per annum. This would adequately meet the traffic requirements.

- (c) SCI would be entering the market to look for a suitable vessel to replace the M.V. "Aandamans" which completes 20 years in 1977-78.
- (d) General cargo movement is expected to increase at 10 per cent per annum and the timber movement is expected to increase by 15 per cent per annum over 1975-76 traffic. On this basis 60,000 tons general cargo and 1,08,000 tons timber is expected to move in 1979-80 as against 60,316 tons general cargo and 2,32,200 tons timber projected by Andaman Administration in 1979-80.
- (e) In order to undertake the transportation the general cargo and timber projected in (d) above, in addition to existing M.V. "Shompen", a slightly larger timber carrier of about 7,000 tons recommended by SCI should be acquired immediately to replace M.V. "Vishva Anand" temporarily diverted to Andaman Service despite operational and financial difficulties experienced on our overseas services.
- (f) Since expansion of tonnage would result in addition to the losses (which as it is, are quite substantial), while acquiring the above tonnage, steps should be taken to revise the fares/freight rates suitably over and above the yearly revision necessary to offset the continuous steep rise in cost of operation.
- (g) Due to a number of adverse factors as enumerated above, losses are unavoidable but since the acquisition of additional tonnage would be necessary for catering to the growth in traffic, Government of India should reimburse the losses which are being incurred on operating this service, in full.
- (h) The requirements of this sector would be kept under constant review after the introduction of the new arrangements/ships and the necessary action as may be required from time to time would be taken. As and when necessary, SCI would look out for additional ships and make suitable recommendations.

ANNEXURE I

THE SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

Broad Particulars of the Vessels Plying on the Mainland/Andaman Service

Name of the Vessel	When Introduced in Service	Capacity			Cargo Tons
		Passengers			
		Saloon	Bunk	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
M.V. "Andamans"	December, 1957	66	552	618	1,150
M.V. "Harsha Vardhana"	November (end) 1976	153	596	749	1,500
M.V. "Shompen"	1967	..	..	..	3,500
M.V. "Vishva Anand"	February 1976	..	..	..	3,500

NOTE :—Prior to M.V. "Harsha Vardhana", S.S. "Nancowry" (Capacity Saloon 292+ Bunk 608 Total 900 Passengers and 2,000 tons cargo) was operating from September 1976 to mid November 1976.

ANNEXURE II

Statement showing the Passengers which could be carried by M.V. "Andamans" and M.V. "Harsha Vardhana" on regular Employment and S.S. "Nancowry" on ad hoc Employment

Sr. No.	Vessel	Round Voyage Capacity			Actual period of operation	Survey period	No. of round voyage expected to be performed	Passengers expected to be carried (basis 100% utilisation)		
		Saloon	Bunk	Total				Saloon	Bunk	Total
1.	M.V. 'Andaman'	132	1104	1236	300 days	65 days	20	2640	22080	24720
2.	M.V. 'H. Vardhana'	306	1192	1493	335 days	30 days	28	8568	33376	41944
3.	S.S. 'Nancowry'	584	1216	1800	185 days	—	14*	8176	17024	25200
					820 days	95 days	62	19384	72480	91864**

*7 Voyages during vacation period, i.e. May, June & July plus 7 voyages during APS if Andaman and Harsha Vardhana.

**By arranging few fast passenger voyages it would be possible to carry 95000 passengers as projected by the Andaman Administration.

ANNEXURE III

THE SHIPPING CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.

Estimated Operational Results for 1976-77

	"Nishi" type timber Carrier	"Shompen" type new Vessel
Steaming Days	8	8
Port Days	25	20
Total Voyage Days	33	28
Cargo-Timber : Logs	3,000 CHM	1,700 CHM
Sawn Timber	750 CHM	500 CHM
General	1,000 Tons	850 Tons
<i>Freight Earnings</i>	<i>(Rs. in Lakhs)</i>	<i>(Rs. in Lakhs)</i>
Timber	3.83	2.43
General Cargo	2.06	1.75
Total	5.89	4.18
Agency Fees, Commission etc.	0.09	0.06
Cargo Handling Expenses	2.00	1.26
Marine Dues	0.50	0.30
Bunkers	1.80	1.02
Sundry Steamer Charges	0.02	0.02
Total Direct Operating Exp.	4.41	2.66
Gross Operating Profit per Voyage	1.48	1.52
No. of Voyage per Year	10.50	12.32
Gross Operating Profit per Year	15.54	18.73
Standing Charges per Year	63.50	63.94
Net Result per Year	-47.96	-45.21
Total Cargo Carried (Tons)		
Timber	47,250	32,525
General	10,500	10,472
Total Expenses per Year	109.80	96.71
∴ Cost per Ton of Cargo	Rs. 190.13	224.72

APPENDIX IV

(Vide Reply to Recommendation, Serial No. 77)

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
PRIMITIVE TRIBES IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS****I. General**

1. A conscious and clear cut policy frame should be evolved and adopted with reference to each primitive tribe in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

2. The All India Institute of Medical Sciences should be firmly associated on a long term basis for the special health problems of diminishing primitive communities.

3. A team of three to four persons comprising a Sociologist, Social Worker, Medical-Man and Psychologist should be selected for continuous work with each primitive tribe. This team of multi-disciplinary constitution should be selected for different tribes according to the exact requirements.

4. Incentives like suitable academic recognition should be built into the programme so that the best possible personnel can be attracted to take up the challenging task.

5. Selected personnel should not be placed within normal organisational hierarchies but should report directly to the Chief Commissioner who may have complete administrative control over the different teams.

6. Fixation of pay should also not fall under the usual pay rules of the cadres to which personnel belong. Lucrative special pay arrangements may be made on *ad-hoc* basis so as to attract the best possible personnel.

7. Arrangements for positioning of adequate staff at the headquarters in Port Blair, directly responsible to the Chief Commissioner, may be made so as to ensure a continuity with the problems of different primitive tribes.

8. The Adim Janjati Vikas Sangh should be responsible for guiding the implementation of policies formulated by them in consultation with the Administration and the Advisory Committee for primitive groups in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

II. Andamanese

1. Any policy decision for the Andamanese will have to ensure that the will to live and survive should be encouraged and instilled amongst the handful of Andamanese.

2. The decision to keep the Andamanese isolated from all contact at Strait Island should be reviewed. A team consisting of a Psychologist, A Medical-man and Sociologist, Administrator and Social Worker should be appointed immediately to reconsider this decision.

3. Urgent and continued attention to the health problem of each individual Andamanese should be assured.

4. Economic programmes should be drawn up for the Andamanese based upon the traditional skill of the tribe.

5. The basic requirements of the tribe should be met continuously but not on administrative dole basis. Efforts should be made to ensure that a barter between traditional skill activity and basic requirement is balanced according to the value placed by the tribe on the traditional skill involved. The dependence on the State for the basic requirements should not be made obvious.

III. Onges

1. The area and forest requirement of the Onges at current hunting and food gathering stage should be clearly assessed and thereafter the habitat should be clearly demarcated and made inviolable for the next two decades.

2. Replacement of wild life, specifically pigs, should be taken up in the forests on Little Andaman to ensure a continuous supply of nutritious food till such time the Onges are weaned away from forest based economy.

3. The economic developmental programmes should be based upon the pattern on Car Nicobar. The developmental plan should be telescoped so that the Onges can achieve with a planned effort, a settled economy in a shorter time. The progression should be from domestication of animals, in the first step, to plantation, agriculture, or sea-fairing economy. A phased programme may thus be chalked out.

4. The current tradition of carrying gifts to the Island should be stopped forthwith. The new demand for tea, tobacco and other such items which has already been created due to the practice of gift carrying must now be made on exchange basis with reference to the Onges money and work value. Exchange may be arranged for these new demand items by accepting the labour and collection of different forest items undertaken by the Onges. The value of goods exchanged may be determined according to the time spent by the Onges rather than the price prevailing according to the modern economy.

5. The basic requirements of the Onges may also be met, if required, on the same exchange basis as in 4 above.

6. Medical screening of each visitor, irrespective of status and position of the visitor, should be made a must to ensure that the tribe is not wiped out due to indiscriminate carrying of disease and infection. The detailed screening requirement may be adopted on the basis of the recommendations in the report of Dr. I. C. Verma of the A.I.I.M.S.

7. Visitors not connected with any developmental programmes should be banned on the Island.

8. Settlement schemes drawn up by administration for the Onges may be dropped for the time being.

IV. Jarwas

1. The boundaries of the Reserve meant for Jarwas should be clearly demarcated and made inviolable indefinitely.

2. Establishment of the Bush Police should be reviewed.

3. The Bush Police Force, impending review, should be withdrawn from the deep Reserve and positioned only near the habitation and used only for protection of the habitations. A Base Expedition group, consisting of a Medical-man, Psychologist, Sociologist and Social worker, a Security man and a Senior Civilian, should be set up so that the present contact point of gift dropping is built upon as a second step so that a more positive and meaningful contact can be built. On the firm establishment of the second contact point, future policy may be drawn up.

V. Sentineles

The Sentineles may be left alone till the second positive contact with the Jarwas is firmly established.

VI. Shompens

1. Urgent medical attention may be provided for the declining numbers.

2. The present state of ecological balance may be reviewed and after ensuring the restoration of balance the habitat may be clearly demarcated and protected.

3. Long term programmes for the Shompens may be drawn up on similar basis as for the Onges.

APPENDIX V

(*Vide Reply to Recommendation, Serial No. 77*)

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS (ACTION POINTS) OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PRIMITIVE TRIBES IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

General

In respect of the Primitive Tribes in all States the approach being followed is to evolve a definite policy for each tribe taking into consideration the conditions of the tribe concerned.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been closely associated with the work relating to the health problems of the primitive tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Dr. I. C. Verma, the genetics expert of the Institute also visited Andaman and Nicobar Islands in January, 1976 in this connection. Dr. Verma, who is in-charge of this work has been transferred to the Jawahar Lal Nehru Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry. The Health Ministry is making arrangements to transfer the funds to Pondicherry. For the year 1977-78 a budget provision of Rs. 3.00 lakhs has been made for this purpose by the Ministry of Health. The funds available with the Ministry of Home Affairs for programmes for Primitive Tribes are Rs. 2.00 crores for the current year.

Steps have also been initiated to select special teams for work among the tribes as recommended by the Advisory Committees. Other recommendations pertaining to this aspect are being kept in view. The Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti which has been constituted specially for Primitive Tribes in Andamans is actively associated with the implementation of the policy as formulated for the primitive tribes.

Great Andamanese

The Great Andamanese, who had lost all hope of racial survival, have begun to respond favourably to various welfare measures being taken by the Administration and the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti in close co-operation with each other. No death has taken place among them during the past 6 months. No case of abortion has also come to notice. The Medical and Health Department of the Andamans Administration has prepared health charts/sheets in respect of each of them and de-addiction efforts have borne positive results.

Of the two Andamanese sent to Government General Hospital at Madras for medical treatment, one has returned after necessary treatment while the other tribal is still receiving medical treatment for suspected lung abscess. One Andamanese girl, Lecho who was last year operated at Vellore Hospital, Madras for congenital heart disease is now maintaining good health.

The facilities for the stay of the Andamanese in a transit home known as 'Adibasera' constructed by the Government under the Fifth Five Year Plan at Port Blair has provided to them a shelter and prevented their women-folk from being exploited by others. The tribal children are learning 3Rs in the Balwadi set up at Strait Island, and listen to news and views broadcast by radio stations through the Community listening set provided to them in the Community Hall at Strait Island.

The piggery unit established at the Andamanese Settlement in Strait Island is flourishing and this is becoming another source of livelihood for the tribe. Plantation and orchard raised in the settlement have begun to bear fruit. They have also started making canoes for sale.

17 Andamanese are in receipt of cash allowance. Shri Loka, who is the head of the Andamanese tribe, is in receipt of 150 rupees as monthly cash allowance and Shri Beya, who is next to Shri Loka in his tribe, is in receipt of cash allowance of Rs. 100 monthly. Others are being paid Rs. 50 each. Cash allowance is sanctioned to the tribals to enable them to meet their small expenses. It is in addition to the free rations supplied to the Andamanese.

Older members as well as younger folk of this tribal community now appear satisfied and are full of hope and vigour.

Onges

Model huts are being constructed for the Onges at their settlement in Dugong Creek in such design that would suit their life style as well as provide clean and sanitary housing in a settled location.

The Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti has selected a team of Social Workers consisting of a Senior Social Executive, a lady doctor and a Social Worker-cum-Teacher to be posted to the Onges' Settlement at Dugong Creek for imparting training to the Onges in gardening and planting, rearing livestock and in organised social life and hygienic way of living, as also extending medical care to them in the Settlement. The team is likely to join soon. A Pig-pen at the Onges' Settlement, at Dugong Creek has since been constructed by the Samiti at a cost of over Rs. 50,000. Two boars and 5 sows have been sent to the pig-pen for rearing. As for plantations, about 500 coconut seedlings were planted during November-December, 876 in another area near the existing Onges' Settlement at Dugong Creek at a cost of Rs. 1680. The existing coconut plantation spread over an area of about 200 acres is being renovated and improved at a cost of Rs. 9,000 by the Samiti. The Samiti has also decided to raise another coconut plantation over an area of 25 acres not very far from the existing Onges' Settlement at Dugong Creek at an approximate cost of

Rs. 25,000. It is also proposed to take up cultivation of spices as also growing of other fruit trees in this plot of land for the benefit of Onges.

The Onges deposit a portion of the sale proceeds of coconut and other forest products with their Onges' Welfare fund to pay for rations.

The Onges sell coconut, jungle produce like honey, dhoop and sea products to the consumers' cooperative store at Hut Bay in Little Andaman and purchase food articles out of the sale proceeds. The Tehsildar, Little Andaman helps them in sale and purchase process. This eliminates exploitation of the Onges by middlemen.

Jarawas

There are reportedly two groups of Jarawas living in the western coast of South and Middle Andamans. These Groups are further divided into a number of smaller groups. These sub-groups are always on the move from one part to the other part of their territory in search of food and water. Only one group which is found roaming about Chotaling Bang in Middle Andaman has so far come in contact with the Jarawas Cell of this Administration.

Efforts are being made to learn the language of the Jarawas. Some words have been noted. These words are being used by the Jarawas Cell to express themselves to the Jarawas when they meet them. Like-wise, the Jarawas have also picked up a few 'Hindustani' words like *Khana, Pani, Kela, Nariyal*.

Two male members of the Chotaling Bang Jarawa group came to Port Blair willingly with Jarawa Cell Party on 31st January, 1977 when the party headed by Shri Bhaktawar Singh, Executive Secretary of Andamans Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti had been there to contact the Jarawas. These two people had stayed in Port Blair (Government House Annexe) for about a week where they were treated affectionately and efforts were made to give necessary medical treatment to one of them who was having a wound on one of his thighs without causing any annoyance in his mind. During their stay at Port Blair, the Jarawas were taken round to Port Blair town. They appeared to be much impressed and happy in their new surroundings. They were taken back to their area on the 8th February, 1977 on their explicit desire by signs. Presents were given to them.

It was for the first time that the Jarawas came to Port Blair willingly. It was a major break-through in our relation with the tribe.

A Tribal Reserves Demarcation Committee has been constituted with Chief Conservator of Forests as Chairman to delineate the Jarawas

reserves on the ground along natural features and by erecting boundary pillars wherever necessary.

A Sub-Committee under the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti has been constituted with the I.G.P. as Chairman and a new role, as given below, has been prescribed for the Bush Police of the Administration.

- (i) Protection of Jarawa tribals not, of course, to the exclusion of others (non-tribals) as also to prevent un-toward incidents involving the tribals and the non-tribals ensuring at the same time that no annoyance whatsoever is caused to the Jarawas Tribals by any act on their (Bush Police) part.
- (ii) The Bush Police would assist and protect also official parties/workers visiting or working around reserved areas ;
- (iii) The Bush Police would also make all-out efforts to develop a better and friendly relation with the Jarawas and endeavour to learn their language.
- (iv) Prevent violation of laws in all the tribal areas of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- (v) Prevent unauthorised persons from entering, shooting, fishing, killing wild life and poaching in the tribal areas and the areas adjoining the tribal areas of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by land and sea.
- (vi) Prevent unauthorised contact with the Jarawas and with other tribal people who are still to react favourably to modern civilisation in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- (vii) Prevent entry or intrusion of unauthorised people into Jarawa and other tribal areas in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- (viii) Prevent removal of any jungle produce by unauthorised people from any tribal area of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Sentinalese

They are left undisturbed in their Island.

Shompens

It has been decided by the Andaman Administration to issue ration articles like rice, sugar, etc. of more value than the forest produce like honey, lemon, etc. which the Shompens can barter with the Government Supply Store at Campbell Bay lest they may have to face starvation or be forced into exploitation. Sufficient funds are placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar for this purpose. Because of the lack of

communication facilities nothing substantial could be achieved so far for the welfare of Shompens.

A Sub-Committee under the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti is being organised afresh at Campbell Bay, for looking after the tribe and suggesting ways and means for their welfare.

APPENDIX VI

(Vide Introduction)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE 87TH
REPORT OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE (5TH LOK SABHA)

I. Total number of recommendations	86
II. Recommendations which have been accepted by Government (Nos. 4, 6, 7, 9-13, 17, 19-24, 27, 28, 30-36, 38-60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 69, 72-78 and 80-86.)	
Number	67
Percentage to total	78%
III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (Nos. 5, 15, 18, 26, 70, 71 and 79)	
Number	7
Percentage to total	8%
IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 8, 14, 16, 25, 37, 61, 65 and 67)	
Number	11
Percentage to total	13%
V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited (No. 29)	
Number	1
Percentage to total	1%