

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes
and Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman and
Nicobar Islands.**

(Presented on the 10th August, 1973)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

(1971—73)

Sardar Buta Singh—*Chairman*

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*Elected w.e.f. 19-12-1972 vice Swami Ramani and Shastri died.

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*Elected w.e.f. 16-3-1973 *vice* Shri Sukhdev Prasad ceased to be member of the Committee on his appointment as Deputy Minister.

**Elected w.e.f. 1-6-1972 *vice* Shri Golap Barbora resigned.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-third Report on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

2. The Committee took the evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Home Affairs and of the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, on the 26th April, 1973. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the Officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration for placing before the Committee material and information they wanted in connection with the examination of the subject.

3. The Committee also wish to place on record their deep appreciation of the assistance rendered by the Chief Commissioner and other Officers of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration when Swami Ramanand Shastri, M.P., a member of the Committee and a member of a Study Group of the Committee visiting these Islands, died suddenly in September, 1972, on board *M V ONGE* off Port Blair. The Chief Commissioner and his team of Officers spared no effort to give every possible help to the Study Group in the unfortunate situation that had arisen from the sad and sudden death of a member of the Committee on tour.

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on the 31st July, 1973.

5. A summary of conclusions/recommendations contained in the Report is appended (See Appendix VI).

BUTA SINGH,

Chairman,

NEW DELHI;
August 9, 1973

*Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.*

Sravana 18, 1895 (S)

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

A. Introduction

The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprises two separate Groups of Islands, viz. the Andaman Group and the Nicobar Group. A map of the Islands may be seen at Appendix I. These Islands lie North South between 6° and 14° of North latitude and 92° to 94° East longitude and form the most isolated part of the Indian Union. Port Blair is the headquarters of these Islands and is 1255 Kms. from Calcutta and 1191 Kms. from Madras.

1.2. The Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is composed of 319 Islands, some of which are large Islands, such as North Andaman, Middle Andaman, South Andaman, Baratang, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Katchal, Nancowrie Camorta and Great Nicobar. The Northern-most point of this Group is Landfall Island, which is 901 Kms. away from the mouth of the Hooghly River and about 190 Kms. from Burma. The Southern-most Island of the Andaman and Nicobar Group is Great Nicobar, the Southern-most tip of which is only about 150 Kms. away from Sumatra (Indonesia). Besides these Islands, there are a number of named and unnamed rocks.

1.3. These Islands generally have low ranges of hills enclosing narrow valleys and leaving narrow coastal stretches. In Middle Andaman and Great Nicobar there are steep ridges and valleys with perennial streams and rivers. The climate of the Islands is tropical. The rains are received from both monsoons; the average annual rainfall is 318 cms. Extremes of summer and winter do not, therefore, exist. The average temperature ranges between 23°C and 30°C. The relative humidity is high, the average being 80 per cent. The rainfall during 1971 was 296 cms.

1.4. The population of the Islands which was only 63, 548 in 1961, rose to 1,15,131 by 1971. The increase is due primarily to induction of people from the mainland of India for purpose of colonisation of new areas, providing labour for various developmental activities, etc.

The population of tribal people according to 1971 Census has been stated to be as follows:—

(a) Nicobarese	17,374
(b) Andamanese	24
(c) Onges	112
(d) Shompens	92
TOTAL :	<hr/> 18,102

The population figures of Jarawas and Sentinalese could not be assessed during the 1971 Census owing to these tribes remaining shy of contacts with the outsiders and the Administration's policy of least interference with their way of life. However, the 1961 Census estimated the Jarawas population as 500 and the Sentinalese as 50.

1.5. The population of *Scheduled Tribes (Island-wise) according to 1971 Census may be seen at Appendix II.

B. Recognition of certain castes as Scheduled Castes

1.6. It has been stated that in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands no castes have so far been declared as Scheduled Castes under Article 341 of the Constitution. The Committee on Untouchability and Economic and Educational Development of Scheduled Castes (Elayaperumal Committee) visited these Islands during September, 1968 and made a study of the conditions of members of the Scheduled Castes in these Islands. That Committee recommended that members of the Scheduled Castes who had migrated from West Bengal, Madras, U. P. and other States and were living in these Islands be recognised as Scheduled Castes. However, the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands was of the view that there was no case for recognising some castes as Scheduled Castes in these Islands as full facilities in the matter of education, housing, services etc. were being extended to the people of these Islands and no discrimination was practised against anybody. The Administration was of the view that the backwardness of any caste or community had to be determined with reference to its social, educational and economic condition and not on the basis of the caste to which a person might belong. There were no castes or groups or sections in these Islands, which were comparatively more backward than others and, therefore, the Administration could not find any justification

*Vide The Constitution (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1959.

for giving any additional benefits to a particular group or class on the ground that such people were recognised as Scheduled Castes in the main land.

1.7. The recommendation of the Elayaperumal Committee and the views of the Administration thereon were placed before the Home Minister's Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 22--2-1969 and the members were informed that the matter was under consideration of the then Ministry of Law and Social Welfare. That Ministry, after examining the question of recognising certain communities of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Scheduled Castes, arrived at the conclusion that the criteria for scheduling were not satisfied by groups which demanded recognition as Scheduled Castes.

1.8. It has been further stated that it is not considered necessary to recognise any caste as Scheduled Caste in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the following reasons:

- “(a) The population of this territory (excluding tribal people) can be divided into the following three categories:
- (i) convicts and their descendants;
 - (ii) persons who have been brought from the mainland and settled there under various rehabilitation schemes; and
 - (iii) persons who have come on their own in search of jobs or for other reasons.

There has been so much inter-mingling and so many inter-marriages amongst different castes and communities in this territory that it will be difficult to determine who belongs to which caste. So far as persons brought under the rehabilitation schemes are concerned, all of them are given equal facilities without any discrimination on the basis of their caste or creed. Though some of these persons might have belonged to Scheduled Castes while on the mainland, all those who are brought for settlement are treated alike in the territory and one person cannot be said to be more backward than another. To categorise some of them as Scheduled Castes and give additional concessions to them may not be just or proper. Nor is it warranted under the circumstances mentioned above.

The third category came to these Islands of their own accord in search of better opportunities. It would be impracti-

cable to categorise them as members of Scheduled Castes apart from other reasons because of the diversity of communities from which they are drawn in the mainland.

- (b) The declaration of Scheduled Castes is made by each State against the special background of that State. Since this territory has people from almost all the States, if people coming on their own or brought for settlement here from the mainland are to be declared Scheduled Castes for the reason that they were Scheduled Castes while on the mainland, the list of Scheduled Castes so far as this territory is concerned would contain many of the categories from almost all the States.
- (c) This territory is a backward territory and all inhabitants get certain advantages available to a backward territory in the shape of educational, medical and other facilities. It may not be proper or feasible to further categorise some of them as Scheduled Castes.
- (d) Only indigenous tribal people (and not tribal people from the mainland and who have migrated to these Islands) need extra facilities and extra privileges and these are being extended to them as members of Scheduled Tribes."

1.9. The Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has stated during evidence that the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands are backward areas and the Government have accepted them as such. The safeguards, therefore, should be given to the people of the entire Islands without further sub-dividing them. Safeguards that are normally available to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the rest of India, should be given to the entire population of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, as the overwhelming majority of the people of these Islands is backward. At present certain safeguards are available to Scheduled Tribes only.

1.10. Asked whether there are any tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands which have not been listed as Scheduled Tribes, the Chief Commissioner has stated during evidence that all the indigenous tribes have been listed as Scheduled Tribes. The position of migrants is at par with the other migrants, for example, a large number of migrants from Bihar have come but they have not been scheduled.

1.11. The Committee agree that the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands are backward areas and concerted efforts have therefore to be made for improving the socio-economic conditions of all the inhabitants.

The Committee would, however, like the Government to recognise the Scheduled Caste/Tribe migrants in these Islands as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, as the case may be, for the purposes of articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India.

C. Administrative set-up

1.12. It has been stated that the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands consists of a single district. In terms of Article 239(1) of the Constitution, the Territory is administered by the President through an Administrator, designated as Chief Commissioner. Port Blair is the capital of the Territory.

1.13. It has been further stated that there is no separate and independent administrative set-up to look after the welfare of Scheduled Tribes. The Development Commissioner-cum-Development Secretary has been nominated as Liaison Officer to look after the interests of Scheduled Tribes. Asked whether an independent administrative set-up to look after the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is necessary in the Islands, the Committee have been informed during evidence that at present the programmes under the Tribal Welfare sector are being implemented through various Departments. Volunteers from the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh are also employed for the welfare of Onges and Andamanese. However, it is felt necessary to coordinate the efforts of all Government Departments. Therefore, there should be a Director of Tribal Welfare to control the tribal welfare funds.

1.14. The Committee feel that an independent administrative set-up is necessary to deal with the varied and complex problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes effectively. They, therefore, suggest that a separate Department, under the charge of a Director, Social and Tribal Welfare, be created and all programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes be dealt with in that Department.

D. Advisory Committees

1.15. The Committee have been informed that there are following Advisory Committees functioning in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands:—

- (1) Home Minister's Advisory Committee;
- (2) Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee;
- (3) State Planning Committee.

1.16. The composition and functions of these Advisory Committees have been stated to be as under:—

Home Minister's Advisory Committee

The Home Minister's Advisory Committee for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands consists of the Home Minister, who is the Chairman of the Committee, three *ex-officio* members viz. the Chief Commissioner of the Territory, the Member of Parliament representing the Territory and the Senior Vice-Chairman of Port Blair Municipal Board and seven non-official members, totalling eleven members. The non-official members are elected from among the members of the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee, but at least two of them shall be persons representing the tribals in the Nicobar group of Islands. The Home Minister's Advisory Committee advises the Home Minister in regard to:—

- (i) general question of policy relating to the Administration of the Territory in the State field;
- (ii) legislative proposals concerning the territory in regard to matters in the State list;
- (iii) such matters relating to the annual financial statement of the Union in so far as it concerns the Territory and such other financial questions as may be specified in the rules prescribed by the President; and
- (iv) any other matter on which it may be considered necessary or desirable by the Minister of Home Affairs that the Advisory Committee should be consulted.

It has been further stated that the Home Minister's Advisory Committee met once in the year 1971-72 on the 12th March, 1972.

Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee

The Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, of which the Chief Commissioner is the Chairman, consists of 19 members. Two of them are *ex officio* members, namely the Member of Parliament representing the Union Territory and the Senior Vice-Chairman of the Municipal Board, Port Blair. Of the remaining 16 non-official members, 15 are elected by the Panchayat Pradhans, the Municipal Board and the Captains of the tribals in the Nicobar Group, from among themselves and one member, from Great Nicobar, is nominated by the Government of India. The Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee advises the Chief Commissioner on matters relating to:—

- (i) administration involving general questions of policy; and
- (ii) economic, social, cultural and educational development of the Islands and welfare of the people in general.

The chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee met during 1971-72 on the 3rd and 4th November, 1971.

State Planning Committee

The State Planning Committee for 1972 was not constituted as there were several other committees, e.g. Home Minister's Advisory Committee, Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee, District Development Committee and Block Development Committees in addition to Task Forces to ensure public representation including Scheduled Tribes in the formulation and implementation of Plan schemes in this Territory. It is proposed to declare the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee as the State Planning Committee also for 1973.

1.17. Asked whether Scheduled Tribes are represented in each of these Committees, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that three Nicobarese from the Nicobar group of Islands are members of the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee and two Nicobarese of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee. Besides, 16 Nicobarese are on the Block Development Committee, Car Nicobar and 12 Nicobarese on the Block Development Committee, Nancowrie.

1.18. The Committee suggest that the composition of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee and the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee should be made more broad-based by giving adequate representation to Andamanese, Onges and Shompens. They further suggest that the meetings of both of these committees should be held more frequently in order to create a sense of involvement among the tribals in improving the socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants of the Islands.

E. Voluntary Organisations

1.19. It has been stated that no Voluntary Organisation other than the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh has been working in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands among tribals. The grants-in-aid given to Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh and their representatives during each of the last three years have been stated to be as follows:—

Year	Grant-in-aid disbursed	Actual expenditure
	Rs.	
1970-71	24,362.28	19,483.59
1971-72	20,721.31	14,988.13
1972-73	14,140.92	Not yet known.

1.20. Asked about the criteria on which grants-in-aid are given to the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that the grant-in-aid to Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh is being given with the specific sanction of the Government of India under the usual terms and conditions laid down in the General Financial Rules 1963. The grant-in-aid is utilised by the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh to meet the pay and allowances, leave Travel Concessions and contingency expenses of two social workers, one lady social worker and one gardener-cum-mazdoor. It has been further stated that detailed audited accounts are being submitted by the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh for the grants-in-aid being given to them. In the audited accounts, specific mention is made of the purpose for which the money has been utilised. Whenever any unspent amount is noticed, it is adjusted against the grant-in-aid to be given for the subsequent year.

1.21. Asked whether any assessment of the work done by the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh has been made, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that expert anthropological

assessment has not been made. Only a physical non-technical assessment has been made from time to time by the District Office. Two achievements are the Andamanese settlement at Strait Island and Onges settlement at Dugong Creek. Some Onges, however, are still nomadic.

1.22. The Committee visualise that Voluntary Organisations can play a vital role in the settlement of Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee, therefore, are of the opinion that dedicated Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to work among the tribals in the Islands. In the opinion of the Committee it would be better if the social workers are drawn from amongst the various tribes themselves as the tribals are more likely to listen to their own compeers.

1.23. The Committee also suggest that the work of the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh should be reviewed periodically so as to ensure that the achievements made are commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

CHAPTER II

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF SCHEDULED TRIBES

A. Plan Allocations and Expenditure

2.1. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the District authorities formulated plan schemes keeping in view the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission from time to time. The guidelines as laid down by Planning Commission and approved by the National Development Council in respect of formulation of schemes for the Fifth Five Year Plan may be seen in Appendix III. These schemes were further discussed at the meeting of the Working Group/Steering Group comprising of official and non-official members. In the Working Group/Steering Group meetings, members are drawn from the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee, the Home Minister's Advisory Committee and other walks of life.

2.2. Asked in what way the Union Territory Administration is involved in the Plan Schemes formulated by the other Ministries of the Government of India to ensure regular flow of funds from such schemes to the Islands, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that "Chief Commissioner and the representatives of the major Departments concerned participate in the Working Group discussions held in Planning Commission where representatives of other Ministries also participate. Therefore, there would be no difficulty in the regular flow of funds."

2.3. The Committee desired to have a statement showing the *per capita* allocation and expenditure in all the Plans for the Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee have been furnished with the following figures:

	Total Population of A&N Islands	Population of Scheduled Tribes	Total Plan allocation (Rs. in Lakhs)	Plan allocation under the sector welfare of Backward Classes (Rs. in Lakhs)	Per capita allocation (Rs.)	Per capita outlay under welfare of Scheduled Tribes (Rs.)	Total Plan expenditure (Rs. in lakhs)	Expenditure under the sector welfare of Backward Classes (Rs. in lakhs)	Per capita expenditure under welfare of Scheduled Tribes (Rs.)	Per capita expenditure under welfare of Scheduled Tribes (Rs.)
I Plan	63548	14122	603.135	1.000	949	7	364.867	0.464	574	3
I Plan (1956-61)	90000	16000	979.320	6.500	1088	41	636.202	4.296	707	27
III Plan (1961-66)	130000	19500	1400.00	8.728	1077	45	1400.000	8.728	1077	45
IV Plan (1969-74)							(anticipated)	(Revised outlay)	(Outlay)	

(There was no integrated Ist Five Year Plan in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.)

Shortfalls

2.4. From the above statement it may be noticed that during the Second Five Year Plan and the Third Five Year Plan, there have been huge shortfalls in expenditure. The Committee desired to know the reasons therefor. In a note furnished to the Committee, it has been stated that the progress of tribal welfare schemes could not keep pace with the anticipations because of the difficult conditions prevailing in the tribal areas under which the work had to be done. Moreover, schemes were not taken up for implementation during the first two years of the Second Plan. During the Third Plan, the position under this sector greatly improved and the expenditure during the Third Plan worked out to about 66 per cent as against 47 per cent during the Second Plan.

2.5. The shortfall during the Third Plan was mainly due to the fact that the scheme relating to permanent settlement of 50 families from Car Nicobar in Katchal could not be implemented as the people of Katchal did not agree to accept the people from Car Nicobar. Further, due to non-availability of poultry birds, the same could not be supplied to the tribal families and subsequently it was decided that the supply of poultry birds of improved breed to the Nicobarese would be made under the Block Schemes. For want of a suitable instructress, the setting up of Women's Training Centre in tailoring and garment making at Car Nicobar was also delayed. Similarly, the achievement under the scheme relating to promotion of sports and games was not upto the mark due to non-availability of a suitable candidate for the post of instructor.

2.6. The Committee also noticed that there have been shortfalls in expenditure in the Annual Plans from 1966 to 1969. Asked about the reasons therefor, the Committee have been informed in a note that during the three Annual Plans from 1966 to 1969 also, the scheme relating to the permanent settlement of Nicobarese in other Islands was not implemented due to the unwillingness of the Nicobarese to be shifted from their native place. Due to transport bottleneck, the requisite quantity of building materials could not be supplied to the Nicobarese under the scheme "Improvement of Housing conditions of Nicobarese". Due to financial stringency, the implementation of the scheme 'Welfare of Onges and Shompens' under which 100 acres of coconut plantation and 50 acres of root and other horticultural crops was to be raised at Little Andaman and Great Nicobar, was held in abeyance.

2.7. Asked what steps should be taken to ensure that the short-falls do not recur in future, it has been stated that the Nicobarese have since been persuaded to shift to Little Andaman. Fifty families have already been shifted. 250 more families will be shifted to Little Andaman during the Fifth Plan. Each family will be provided ten acres of land—five acres hilly and five acres flat land. Transportation facilities will be improved with the acquisition of more ships proposed under the sector 'Transport and Communication' during Fifth Plan.

2.8. It is also proposed to create the post of Director of Tribal Welfare for coordinating the tribal welfare activities of the various Departments.

2.9. The Committee noticed that out of the total outlay of Rs. 6.090 lakhs provided for the welfare schemes for Scheduled Tribes during the Fourth Plan period, a sum of Rs. 2.940 lakhs has only been spent during the first three years of the Plan. Asked to explain the reasons therefor, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that the outlays are phased proportionately for five years. But under circumstances peculiar to these Islands, variations in expenditure do occur. The yearwise allocation and expenditure are as follows:—

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	Outlay		
	Original	Revised	Expenditure
1969-70	0.665	1.750	0.665
1970-71	1.340	1.340	0.843
1971-72	1.305	1.230	1.202 (1.587 was not final)
1972-73	1.403	1.480	1.480 (Anticipated)
1973-74	1.377	4.538 (Proposed)	*4538
	6.090	10.338	8.728

(Proposed
*Includes provision of Rs. 3.00 Lakhs required for payment of royalty to Forest Deptt.)

2.10. With the proposed administrative machinery for implementation of the tribal welfare programme, the situation is expected to improve during the Fifth Plan period.

Spill-over schemes

2.11. Asked what are the schemes of the Fourth Plan likely to be spilled over to the Fifth Plan, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that schemes for befriending hostile tribes (Jarawas and Sentinalese) will have to continue since this is inevitably in slow process. After establishing friendly contacts, their nomadic nature has to be changed and ideas of settlement, cultivation etc. introduced. Similarly, the schemes for persuading Andamanese, Onges and Shompens to remain settled at Strait Island, Dugong Creek, and Laful Bay will have to be continued. The schemes for easing the density of tribal population in Islands such as Car Nicobar will also have to be continued in Fifth Plan. However, physically and financially, there is likely to be no spill-over of programmes from Fourth Plan to the Fifth Plan.

2.12. The Committee regret to note that there have been huge shortfalls in expenditure from Plan to Plan. The Committee need hardly emphasise that unless the entire Plan allocations are gainfully utilised, the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes are unlikely to improve. The Committee urge that the factors, which hampered the utilisation of Plan allocations in the previous years, should be identified and such corrective measures as may be deemed necessary, taken, with a view to ensure that the funds to be allocated in the Fifth Five Year Plan are fully utilised. The Committee hope that the creation of the post of Director, Social and Tribal Welfare will help improve the situation.

2.13. The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs/Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration to ensure that the benefits intended to flow to the Scheduled Castes/Tribes from the general sector funds do actually flow for their benefit.

B. Plan Schemes

2.14. It has been stated that approximately 3450 Sp. K.M. in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been declared tribal reserve and nine specific schemes for development of the tribal areas have been formulated for implementation in the Fourth Five Year Plan. These are over and above the facilities that are available to the tribal people under the normal development programmes. The tribal welfare schemes have been formulated for the benefit of the following

Scheduled Tribes in this Territory:—

- (1) Jarawas.
- (2) Sentinalese.
- (3) Shompens.
- (4) Andamanese.
- (5) Onges.
- (6) Nicobarese.

2.15. An outlay of Rs. 6.090 lakhs had been proposed in the Fourth Five Year Plan. This had been revised to Rs. 8.728 lakhs. The outlay proposed and expenditure incurred upto date is given below yearwise:—

	Outlay			(Rs. in lakhs)
	Original	Revised	Expenditure	
1969-70	0.665	1.750	0.665	
1970-71	1.340	1.340	0.843	
1971-72	1.305	1.230	1.202	(Not final)
1972-73	1.403	1.480	1.480	(Anticipated)
1973-74	1.377	4.538 (Proposed)	4.538	*(Proposed)
	6.090	10.338	8.728	*Includes provision of Rs. 3.00 lakhs required for payment of royalty to Forest Deptt.

2.16. A broad indication of the Schemes which have been in operation during the Fourth Five Year Plan is given below:—

Development of Coconut and Arecanut Plantation in Nicobar

This scheme is administered by the Department of Agriculture. The scheme envisages the setting up of a plant protection organisation to control growing menace of pests and diseases and to prevent further infestation in the existing coconut and arecanut plantations in Nicobars. Demonstrations on improved method of cultivation have also been undertaken in order to create interest among tribals to adopt improved way of cultivation. The Plant Protection Staff

undertake spraying and dusting of plantations and also demonstrate improved techniques on coconut and arecanut cultivation.

During the Plan period a sum of Rs. 1,200 lakhs has been provided under the Scheme and the expenditure of Rs. 0.192 lakhs has been incurred upto 1972-73.

Scheme No. 2: Settlement of 50 families of Car Nicobar in other Islands

The scheme envisages shifting of 50 families of Car Nicobar to other Islands for permanent settlement. The programme for settlement was held in abeyance during the years 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72 as the Nicobarese were reluctant to move out of Car Nicobar. The Nicobarese have now agreed to their re-settlement at Little Andaman. During the year 1972-73, 50 Nicobarese families were settled in Little Andaman and land allotted to them was handed over by the Revenue Department Officers. This is only the first phase of the programme of settling further Nicobarese families in the Fifth Five Year Plan. An outlay of Rs. 3.250 lakhs has been proposed under the Scheme and the expenditure incurred during the year 1972-73 will be round about Rs. 10,000/-. An outlay of Rs. 3.150 lakhs has been proposed for 1973-74. This includes a provision of Rs. 3 lakhs as royalty to Forest Department for timber to be cleared from the land allotted to the tribal settlers.

Scheme No. 3: Improvement of Housing Condition of the Nicobarese

This scheme is administered by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Car Nicobar and Andaman Public Works Department. Timber is scarce in the Nicobar Group of Islands. There is also no Saw Mill in the Nicobar Group. The scheme envisages supply of sawn timber and other building materials (such as GCI sheets, Cement etc.) to the Nicobarese at ex-Port Blair rates for the construction of houses. Transport and handling charges of building materials from Port Blair to Car Nicobar are met by the Government. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 0.280 lakh has been provided and an expenditure of Rs. 0.069 lakh has been incurred so far. An outlay of Rs. 0.070 lakh has been proposed for 1973-74. -

Scheme No. 4: Rehabilitation of Andamanese, Onges and Shompens

Previously Andamanese were leading a nomadic life and were

scattered in various places. During the year 1969-70 they have been settled in Strait Island. In the new settlement, they are provided with ration, clothes etc. The welfare of the Andamanese in this Island is looked after by a Social Worker of the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh. The Onge tribe is also leading a semi-nomadic life and moving about in Little Andaman. The Government have raised a large coconut plantation in Little Andaman and efforts are being made to settle them around this plantation. Fruits of this Plantation are used by this tribe. The welfare of Onge tribe in this Island is also looked after by a Social Worker of the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh. The Shompen tribe is residing in Great Nicobar and certain groups of this tribe have come into contact with the Government and they are being helped in all possible manner.

During the Fourth Plan period a sum of Rs. 1.904 lakhs has been provided for the implementation of the scheme. An expenditure of Rs. 1.092 lakhs has been incurred so far under the scheme. An outlay of Rs. 0.470 lakh has been proposed for 1973-74. The grant-in-aid part of this scheme is administered by the Revenue Department.

Scheme No. 5: Supply of Poultry birds to the Nicobarese and other tribals

The scheme envisages supply of poultry birds of improved breed free of cost to deserving progressive tribal families with a view to inducing them to take up poultry farming for supplementing their income.

During the Plan period a sum of Rs. 0.080 lakh has been provided for the implementation of the scheme. An expenditure of Rs. 0.076 lakh has been incurred under the scheme so far. An outlay of Rs. 0.020 lakh has been proposed for 1973-74.

Scheme No. 6: Additional facilities for the education of the Nicobarese

The scheme provides for grant of additional facilities for the education of the Nicobarese children by way of free supply of books and stationery, award of merit scholarships and grant of additional stipend at the rate of Rs. 10/- per month to each of the boarder staying in the hostels.

During the Plan period a sum of Rs. 2.229 lakhs has been provided for the implementation of the scheme. An expenditure of

Rs. 1.694 lakhs has been incurred under the scheme so far. An outlay of Rs. 0.535 lakh has been proposed for 1973-74.

Scheme No. 7: *Promotion of Games and Sports*

The scheme envisages improvement of play grounds in the Nicobar Group of Islands, supply of sports materials and grant-in-aid to the Central Sports Council for promoting sports and games activities among the Nicobarese.

During the Plan period, a sum of Rs. 0.284 lakh has been provided under the scheme. An expenditure of Rs. 0.180 lakh has been incurred under the scheme so far. As outlay of Rs. 0.078 lakh has been proposed for 1973-74.

Scheme No. 8: *Improvement of water supply*

The scheme envisages improvement of water supply, facilities in the tribal areas by constructing new wells and tanks and effecting improvements to the existing sources of water. During the plan period, a sum of Rs. 0.291 lakh has been provided under the scheme

An expenditure of Rs. 0.154 lakh has been incurred under the scheme so far. An outlay of Rs. 0.100 lakh has been provided for 1973-74.

Scheme No. 9: *Gifts to Tribals*

The scheme provides dropping of gifts consisting of food and other useful articles in the area inhabited by the hostile tribes such as Jarwas and Sentinalese with a view to developing friendly contacts with them. Gifts consisting of tools and implements and other essential articles of day-to-day use are also given to the other tribals.

During the Plan period, a sum of Rs. 0.164 lakh has been provided for the implementation of the scheme.

An expenditure of Rs. 0.206 lakh has been incurred under the scheme so far. An outlay of Rs. 0.040 lakh has been proposed for 1973-74.

2.17. Asked about the salient features of the Fifth Five Year Plan schemes, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that the strategy of the Fifth Five Year Plan, as far as these Islands are concerned, will basically be to develop the infra-structure and to maintain whatever was built up during the previous Plans, and then to exploit fully the potential in each sector. Naturally enough, once again considerable importance has been given to the development of 'Transport and Communications' and 'Social Services'. It is also planned simultaneously to develop other sectors with varying degrees of emphasis. A significant aspect of the Fifth Five Year Plan is the heavy investment proposed in the hitherto untouched or under exploited sectors of the economy like Fisheries, Industries, Animal Husbandry, Tourism, etc. It seeks to bring about specialisation in agricultural pursuits as warranted by regional variations in the terrain. It is also proposed to give enough scope for private enterprise to play its role for the development of these Islands. Many of these will require broad policy decisions by the Government of India. Ambitious schemes have been proposed for the development of the original inhabitants of these Islands and also to provide more and more employment opportunities to the people here. In fact all the schemes in the various sectors have been drawn up with adequate emphasis on the generation of employment potential. Proper manpower planning is also envisaged with a view to ensure optimum utilisation of the natural resources and employment.

2.18. A statement showing the outlay proposed in the Approach to the Fifth Five Year Plan under different sectors may be seen at Appendix IV.

2.19. The Committee have noted the Plan schemes started in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribes. They are also in agreement with the strategy of the Fifth Plan wherein proper emphasis will be laid on Transport and Communication and Social Services. However, taking into consideration the huge shortfalls in expenditure on implementation of each of the schemes, the Committee feel that more concerted efforts are needed for the proper and full implementation of the welfare schemes. The Committee, therefore recommend that all the welfare schemes may be evaluated objectively so as to find ways and means to improve their working. The Committee need hardly stress that to quicken the pace of upliftment of the Scheduled Castes/Tribes, all the schemes started for their welfare have to be made result-oriented.

C. Settlement of Scheduled Tribes

2.20. It has been stated that Jarawas, Sentinalese, Shompens, Andamanese, Onges and Nicobarese are the aboriginal tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Of these tribes, only the Nicobarese have taken to a settled way of life and others are still living in the nomadic stage. So far as the Onges, Nicobarese and Shompens are concerned, a scheme entitled 'Rehabilitation of Andamanese, Onges and Shompens' with an outlay of Rs. 1.5 lakhs has been formulated for implementation during the Fourth Five Year Plan. Under this scheme, provision has been made for grants-in-aid to social workers of the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh and for supply of food articles and clothes to the Andamanese. Construction and maintenance of huts and boats for the Andamanese, Onges and Shompens has also been envisaged in this scheme. They are also given selected seeds and seedlings and necessary tools and implements for plantation work. So far, an amount of Rs. 1.092 lakhs has been spent on this scheme. In reply to a question, it has been stated that 49 out of 112 Onges have given up nomadic way of life and are settled around Dugong Creek. Similarly the Andamanese have also been persuaded to live together in Strait Island. A potential settlement at Laful Bay in Great Nicobar Island has been located by Assistant Commissioner, Cambell Bay for Shompens. One group of Shompens has been befriended.

2.21. So far as Jarawas and Sentinalese are concerned, they are yet to be befriended. The following is the estimated population of each of these tribes from 1901 to 1961. The estimate of their population for 1971 has so far not been made:—

Tribes	Census Year						
	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941	1951	19
Jarawas	468	114	114	70		50	500
Sentinalese	117	117	117	50			50

2.22. A scheme for giving gifts to tribals has been formulated for implementation during the Fourth Five Year Plan. This scheme has been under implementation from 1966-67. The outlay and expen-

diture so far have been as follows:

Year	Outlay	Expenditure
Third Plan period	0.050	0.060
Annual Plan 66-67	0.020	0.028
-do- 67-68	0.020	0.044
-do- 68-69	0.050	0.025
Fourth Plan 69-70	0.020	0.047
-do- 70-71	0.050	0.019
-do- 71-72	0.050	0.028
-do- 72-73	0.030	0.112

2.23. Gifts such as clothes, sugar, tobacco, agricultural implements, fishing materials, biscuits, sweets, utensils etc. are being supplied to Jarawas, sentinalese, Shompens, Andamanese, Onges and Nicobarese. Attempts to have friendly contacts with the tribals, who are hostile, are being continued. Besides, more and more friendly contacts are maintained with the tribals who are not hostile. Though the Jarawas have been removing the gifts placed at selected spots in the areas where they live, their hostile attitude still continues. The Administration is of the opinion that the dropping of gifts should be continued for some more time with a view eventually to establish regular contacts with the Jarawas.

2.24. It has been further stated that an exploratory expedition to North Sentinel Island which is inhabited by the Sentinalese tribe was undertaken by a party consisting of Shri Har Mander Singh, the Chief Commissioner, Commodore P. C. Rajkhowa, NOIC, Lt. Col. Khurana, O.C., M|8, Gorkha Regiment, Shri R. S. Mann, Officer-in-charge, Anthropological Survey of India, Shri Choudhry, Social Worker, BASS and some other officers. A few Onges who reportedly knew the Sentinalese dialect were also included in the expedition. The object of the expedition was to establish contact with the Sentinalese. The party left on 15th March, 1973 and returned on 18th March, 1973.

2.25. The party was able to contact two groups of Sentinalese—one group numbering approximately 40 and the other group about 50 including women and children. Though, through the Onges, the friendly intentions of the party were tried to be communicated to

the Sentinalese in their own language, the Sentinalese angrily retaliated throughout whenever the party tried to move closer to the shore.

2.26. From the reaction displayed by the Sentinalese, the impression drawn by the expedition team is that they do not behave like real hostiles but that they are least receptive to non-tribals and outsiders.

2.27. Asked whether any attempts have been made to train workers from amongst the concerned tribes themselves to work among these tribes for their advancement, it has been stated that ten Nicobarese Village Level Workers have been posted to work among the Nicobarese and Shompens in Nicobar Group of Islands including Great Nicobar. The Nicobara Village Level Workers working among Shompens succeeded in establishing friendly contacts with Shompens of Laful area who are now frequently visiting Campbell Bay to sell the forest products collected by them, through the Assistant Commissioner.

2.28. The Committee are constrained to observe that even after 25 years of independence, it has not been possible to establish adequate contacts with 'Jarawas' and 'Sentinalese' and they are said to be hostile to non-tribals and others. The Committee strongly urge that a perspective plan to win over these tribes be chalked out and implemented on a priority basis. As a part of this plan, frequent expeditions should be sent to the Islands inhabited by these tribes. It would be better if social workers from amongst the tribes themselves are associated with these expeditions in an increasing number, as they may be able to make more impact on the 'Jarawas' and 'Sentinalese'.

D. Education

Literacy

2.29. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the percentage of literacy in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is as follows:—

General

Males	51.64%
Females	31.11%
TOTAL	43.59%

Nicobarese

The percentage of literacy amongst the Nicobarese has increased from 15.64 in 1961 to 24.52 in 1971.

2.30. Asked whether any special drive has been made to remove illiteracy among the tribals in the Islands, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that Social (Adult) Education Centres are functioning under the Community Development Block for the removal of illiteracy among the tribals. In Nicobar group of Islands, 14 Adult Literacy Centres are functioning with an enrolment of 296 adults. Five Balwadi Centres having an enrolment of 377 students are also functioning in villages under the Community Development Block for Education of pre-school children. The following facilities are provided to Scheduled Tribe students, both for boys and girls, to remove illiteracy among the tribals:

- (1) Free education from Primary to Higher Secondary level.
- (2) Free Books.
- (3) Free educational stationery.
- (4) Merit Scholarship @ Re. 1 to 10 from Class II to Higher Secondary.
- (5) Free travel concession by bus and ferry services.
- (6) Hostel facilities for Boys and Girls.
- (7) Hostel stipend @ Rs. 40/- p.m. to each of the Hostellers, i.e. @ Rs. 30/- p.m. under the scheme stipends to Hostellers & Rs. 10/- p.m. under the scheme of Tribal Welfare.
- (8) Free mid-day snacks.
- (9) Scholarship for higher education on the mainland and in the Government College, Port Blair.

2.31. As a result of the above steps, the enrolment of 1029 in the year 1966 has been increased to 1548 in 1972.

Introduction of Compulsory Education

2.32. It has been stated that compulsory education has been introduced in South Andamans. It is proposed to introduce compulsory primary education to other islands in a phased manner having due regard to local conditions. Primary schools have been established in tribal areas even where enough number of pupils for middle schools are not available. There are 25 Junior Basic Schools and one Higher Secondary School in the tribal areas in the Nicobar Group of Islands. However, while implementing the educational schemes among the tribal people, the following problems have been

noticed:—

- (1) Syllabus and curriculum are not according to their standard.
- (2) Lack of motivation. The tribal people are content with their mode of living and have no desire to better their prospects which is the main aim for educating oneself.
- (3) Special techniques for imparting education to the tribal people have not been laid down nor has special training been given to teachers. This is particularly necessary with a view of preserving the social values of the tribal people.
- (4) Owing to the nomadic way of life, it is not possible to make students attend one school continuously.
- (5) The tribal settlements which are scattered are uneconomical for opening schools.
- (6) Development of Nicobarese dialect.

Language

2.33. It has been stated that the principal language of the Islands is Hindi. However, Nicobarese language is the medium of instruction among the Nicobarese. A Nicobarese Primer has been brought out with the help of some tribals. Efforts are being made to bring out more advanced books. Efforts are also being made to put Nicobarese-knowing teachers to function in Nicobarese speaking areas.

Girls' Education

2.34. Asked whether any steps have been taken to improve the education of Scheduled Tribe girls in the Islands, the Committee have been informed during evidence that there is no special programme for girls' education in the Islands. However, the facilities and privileges offered to the tribal students are equally admissible to the girl students. Enrolment of the girls is low due to the conservative nature of the tribal people. Out of the total enrolment of 2094 students, 1392 are boys and 702 are girls.

Reservations in Educational Institutions

2.35. Asked whether any reservations have been made in the educational institutions for Scheduled Tribes, the Committee have been informed during evidence that there is no technical institution in the Islands. There is only one Government College where

there is no difficulty for Scheduled Tribe students in getting admission as the number of students is very limited. Therefore, it is not considered necessary to prescribe any percentage of reservation at this stage. The position could be reviewed at the appropriate time.

Affiliation of the Local College

2.36. Asked to explain the reasons for affiliating the local College to the Punjab University, the Committee have been informed during evidence that in the beginning the matter was taken up with the authorities of the Calcutta University and the Delhi University. Both these Universities informed the Administration that on account of their restricted territorial jurisdiction, they could not affiliate the college. The matter does not appear to have been taken up with the Madras University. The Chief Commissioner of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands added, that the solution probably lay in bringing this College under the scheme of independent colleges or autonomous colleges. The matter has been discussed with the Chairman of the University Grants Commission. However, no decision has been taken in the matter.

2.37. It has been stated that the rates of scholarship for different courses are as under:—

Inter Arts Pre-University course and 1st year of the 3-year degree course where such course exists	Rs. 65.00
Inter Science/Pre-University course and 1st year of 3-year degree course where such course exists	Rs. 70.00
B. A. or B. Com. courses 2nd and 3rd year studies of 3-year degree course where such course exists	Rs. 85.00
B.Sc. course 2nd & 3rd year study of 3-year degree course where such course exists	Rs 85.00
M.A., M.Com., M.Sc., LL.B., B.L., etc.	Rs. 110.00
B.T., B.Ed.	Rs. 85.00
Degree course in Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and other professional courses (First Degree)	Rs. 110.00
Ph.D.	Rs. 210.00
Professional Diploma Courses' e.g. Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary etc.	Rs. 85.00
Nursing Course	Rs. 100.00
Health Visitors Course	Rs. 75.00
Library Science	Rs. 65.00
Physical Education Dip/Degree	Rs. 85.00

In addition, scholarships are also being paid under the scheme for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes.

2.38. Asked whether this amount is sufficient to meet the lodging and boarding expenses of the Scheduled Tribe students, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that the amount of scholarship is not sufficient to meet the boarding and lodging expenses of the Scheduled Tribe students in view of the increase in cost of living and also increase in the cost of text books, etc. A reference has already been made to the Government of India for the increase of scholarship by Rs. 10/- per month per student for study in any of the courses on the mainland but the Government of India, Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, have intimated to defer the proposal for the present, i.e. the present resources position does not permit of any such commitment. The matter has again been referred to the Government of India for their consideration with the suggestion to increase the scholarship by Rs. 20/- per month per student. In addition, a reference has also been made to the Government of India for enhancement of the stipend from Rs. 30/- to Rs. 50/- per month and the Government of India have intimated that the proposal be deferred as the present resources position does not permit any such enhancement.

Hostels

2.39. It has been stated that there are 12 hostels in the Islands with 442 seats and there are 301 boys and 35 girls residing in these hostels out of which 47 boys belong to Scheduled Tribes. Asked whether there is any specific number of seats reserved for Scheduled Tribes in these hostels, it has been stated that there are three hostels in the tribal areas. These hostels are primarily meant for Scheduled Tribe students. Non-Tribal students will be given admission only when there is no demand from tribal students. However, no seats have been reserved formally for Scheduled Tribe students in these three hostels. There has not been any demand or need for reservation of hostel seats for Scheduled Tribe students. Scheduled Tribe students are always preferred to other students for hostel accommodation. No complaint from tribal people against the existing arrangements has been received by the Administration.

2.40. In reply to a question, it has been stated that there is a separate Block in the Hostel for Girls in the Higher Secondary School at Car Nicobar but no girl student has so far taken admission in the hostel. Since free bus concession is available, the girl students generally prefer to stay in their homes and avail the free bus concession for going to the schools.

Plan expenditure on education

2.41. Asked what percentage of the plan provisions has been spent on education during the Third and Fourth Five Year Plans respectively, the following figures have been furnished to the Committee :—

Third Plan	5.91%
Fourth Plan	.. 11.87%

The amount proposed for education in the Fifth Five Year Plan is Rs. 4,87,32,994.

2.42. The Committee need hardly stress that education is the most effective instrument in raising the social and economic status of the Scheduled Tribes in the Islands. The Committee suggest that more and more Scheduled Tribe students should be encouraged to take to education. They further suggest that special syllabus and curriculum of studies be laid down according to the needs of the tribal students. The Committee also feel that special techniques for imparting education to the tribals be worked out and teachers from amongst the tribals themselves encouraged to take up the teaching profession.

2.43. So far as the education of girls is concerned, the Committee would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine whether Ashram type schools could be opened in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to encourage education among the tribal girls.

2.44. The Committee urge that the question of increase in the quantum of scholarships should be settled immediately as the Scheduled Caste/Tribe students are facing financial difficulties in view of the enormous increase in the cost of living.

2.45. The Committee agree with the views of the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, that the local college, which is at present affiliated to the Punjab University, should be brought under the scheme of independent or autonomous colleges. They would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine the matter in consultation with the University Grants Commission immediately.

2.46. The Committee would like the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to find out ways and means for encouraging more and more Scheduled Caste/Tribe students to avail of the hostel facilities. As and when the situation demands, necessary reservations may be provided for the Scheduled Caste/Tribe students in the hostels run by the Administration.

E. Reservation in Services

Staff Positions

2.47. It has been stated that 22.5 per cent of Class III and Class IV posts have been reserved for Scheduled Tribes. The Committee desired to be furnished with a statement indicating the total number of employees in the various categories of posts and the number and percentage of Scheduled Tribes among them. The Government have furnished the following figures :—

Classi- fication of posts	Total number of officers	Scheduled Castes			Scheduled Tribes		
		Percent- age of reserva- tion fixed	No. of S. C. officers	Percent- age of Col. 4 to Col. 2	Percent- age of reservation fixed	No. of Scheduled Tribes officers	Percent- age of Col. 7 to Col. 2
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Class I .	41						
Class II	86						
Class III	3133				22.5%	69	2.20
Class IV (excluding sweepers & scavengers)	2164				22.5%	74	3.419

2.48. Asked why there is not a single Scheduled Tribe Class I or Class II officer in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Committee have been informed that this is due to non-availability of qualified candidates. The tribal people have very recently come up for higher education. At present, one boy is undergoing M.B.B.S. Course and one is in M.A. Course on the mainland and two are studying in Government College, Port Blair. It is hoped that as soon as they complete their studies, they will be fixed up in suitable jobs under this Administration, if they are desirous of joining Government service.

2.49. Asked about the reasons for the meagre representation of Scheduled Tribes in Class III and Class IV posts, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that the tribal people have not

yet realised the importance of education. Even after completion of their education, they prefer to work in their plantations. They are not interested in jobs. The position is however, changing gradually. Asked what specific steps would the Government suggest to improve the situation, it has been stated that education is the most important factor for the upliftment of the Scheduled Tribes. For this purpose, adequate facilities have been provided in the tribal areas keeping in view the present stage of their development. The Administration would, however, suggest that in the matter of admission to the technical courses, including medical education, Scheduled Tribe candidates from this Territory should be given a further relaxation of 5 per cent in addition to the 5 per cent relaxation already available to them in the matter of percentage of marks obtained in the qualifying examination in the Higher Secondary or other examination prescribed as the minimum qualification for admission to the Technical Institutions. It is hoped that this will go a long way to improve the situation regarding representation of tribal people in various services and posts under this Administration.

Adoption of Reservation Orders

2.50. The Committee have been informed during evidence that almost all the orders of the Government of India in regard to the carry forward of vacancies, de-reservation of posts, separate interviews in respect of Scheduled Tribe candidates, reservation in promotion, *ad hoc* appointments, maintenance of rosters etc. have been made applicable in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. All the Scheduled Tribe candidates who fulfil the minimum educational qualifications prescribed for the posts are given appointment without subjecting them to the prescribed test for appointment as Lower Grade Clerks. However, as sufficient number of Scheduled Tribe candidates are not available, the instructions could not be followed strictly by some of the Departments. Instructions are again being issued to all the Heads of Departments/Offices under this administration to observe the orders of the Government of India in this regard strictly.

Concessions

2.51. Asked what specific concessions and relaxations are given to Scheduled Tribes for joining the services of the Union Territory, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that age relaxation by 5 years as prescribed by the Government of India is being given to the Scheduled Tribe candidates. Scheduled Tribe candidates are appointed as Lower Grade Clerks without subjecting them to the prescribed test; only a formal interview is held for them. In some cases, the Scheduled Tribe candidates appeared in the Lower

Grade Clerks' Recruitment Test and all of them who were found otherwise suitable were appointed as Lower Grade Clerks irrespective of their performance in the test.

Employment Exchange

2.52 It has been stated that there is no Employment Exchange as such in this Territory. However, it has been agreed to in principle that an Employment Exchange should be set up here. Asked by what date the Employment Exchange is expected to be established in the Islands, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that sanction of the Government of India to the creation of a Class II Gazetted post of Employment Officer with other complement of staff has been received. Efforts to fill up the post of Employment Officer, which is in the scale of Rs. 350—575, on deputation basis from other State Governments/Union Territories have failed. The question of filling up of this post through other sources is under active consideration of the Administration. The Employment Exchange will start functioning as soon as the Employment Officer has been appointed.

Pre-Examination Training Centre

2.53 The Committee have been informed during evidence that at present there is no scope for a full-fledged Pre-examination Centre in the Islands, due to limited number of students studying in schools in tribal areas. The tribal students who are passing from the Higher Secondary Schools are given employment whenever they come forward for Government employment.

2.54. The Committee regret to note that there is not even a single Scheduled Tribe officer in Class I or Class II services of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. They are also unhappy to note that the representation of the Scheduled Tribes in Class III and Class IV posts is only 2.2 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively against 22.5 per cent posts reserved for them. The Committee would like the Administration to take such measures as may be necessary to ensure the filling up of the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Tribes by candidates from these communities.

2.55 The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine, in consultation with the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Directorate-General of Employment and Training and the Indian Institutes of Technology whether the percentage of marks

required for admission in the technical institutes could be further reduced by 5 per cent in case of Scheduled Tribe students from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

2.56. The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine what steps should be taken to encourage the Scheduled Tribe students for joining the Pre-examination Training Centres set up at various places so as to improve their chances of entry into the all-India Administrative and other Services.

2.57. The Committee note that there has been delay in the setting-up of the Employment Exchange in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee hope that the Employment Exchange would start functioning in the Islands soon.

F. Co-operatives

2.58 The Committee have been informed during evidence that there are at present 27 Cooperative Marketing Societies (Panam Hinengos) functioning in the tribal area in Nicobar Group of Islands. These Societies are purchasing the produce of copra and arecanut from tribal people and selling them to the Nicobarese Commercial Company and Nancowry Trading Company. The Marketing Societies hold shares to the extent of 50 per cent of the total shares in the Nancowry Trading Company. The Nicobarese Commercial Company is exclusively a tribal concern. All the Societies are viable and functioning satisfactorily.

2.59 In reply to a question about the machinery set up to check the malpractices in the running of the Co-operative Societies, the Ministry have stated in a note furnished to the Committee that under the Cooperative Societies Act of 1912, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies is empowered to hold enquiry into the constitution, working and functioning of a registered society. The field staff of the Department consisting of the auditors, accounts supervisors and inspectors constitute the supervisory machinery. The Act, however, does not empower the Registrar to take action against persons responsible for malpractices and irregularities in the Societies. Even when serious irregularities are brought to light during inspections or audit, the Registrar is unable to take direct action. To this extent, the Registrar and the field staff of the Department are handicapped in checking malpractices in the societies.

2.60 A new Regulation, viz. "The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Cooperative Societies Regulation 1973" has been promulgated by the President of India on 28th February, 1973, which empowers the Registrar, Cooperative Societies to take action against persons who have caused any deficiency in the assets of the society by breach of trust or wilful negligence or have misappropriated or fraudulently retained any money, etc. belonging to the society *vide* Section 54 *ibid.* The salient features of the Regulation may be seen at Appendix V.

2.61. The Committee note that the Cooperative Marketing Societies are functioning satisfactorily. They would, however, suggest that stringent measures should be taken to prevent the possibility of malpractices in the running of the Cooperative Societies.

G. Forests

2.62. It has been stated that the major wealth of Andaman and Nicobar Islands lies in its vast expanse of forests. The forests are the main source of the territory's revenue and also the major basis of the Island's economic development. At present, out of total land area of 8,293 sq. kms. forests occupy 7,466 Sq. Kms. Of this 2,435 Sq. Kms. in Andaman Group of Islands have been declared as Reserved Forest and remainder as Protected Forests. Like all Tropical Forests, the quantum of valuable species is small and far-spaced. The forests in Nicobar Group of Islands have not yet been tapped, except for preliminary exploitative studies and some clear felling in the Island of Katchal for raising Rubber plantation and in Great Nicobar for settling ex-servicemen families. Thus, much of the forestry activity is, at present, restricted to Andaman Group only.

2.63. Asked what specific steps have been taken for the conservation of forests, it has been stated that introduction of colonisation schemes for resettlement has, of recent, drawn attention of the Local Administration for clearance of forest areas in these Islands. Almost all the areas suitable for agriculture have by now been reclaimed in the main Andaman Islands. The Rehabilitation Department has now taken up clearance of large forest areas for settlement purposes. At present, this work is being done in Little Andaman, Katchal and Great Nicobar Islands where a large percentage of area was under forests.

2.64. It has been further stated that the exploited forests are afforested. The afforestation programme includes both Natural Re-

generation and Artificial Regeneration of suitable areas. Under the Natural Regeneration method, suitable measures are taken to increase and improve the existing timber stand of valuable commercial species and to introduce other important species also where necessary. In Artificial Regeneration method, while emphasis is laid on large scale Teak plantations in suitable areas, regeneration of indigenous species like Padauk, Didu, etc. is also taken up.

2.65. Asked whether the Scheduled Tribes are entitled to any special privileges from the forests, it has been stated that as per para 15 of the Notification No. 13/66Tim/18-A Vol. I(J) dated 29th January, 1966, the Scheduled Tribes of Andaman Islands, as specified in Government of India, Ministry of Law Notification No. G.S.R. 405 dated 31st March, 1959, shall collect all their requirements of forest produce from the forests without any restriction.

2.66. Rule 15 of the Rules for the Protected Forests in the Nicobar Group of Islands issued in the Administration's Notification No. 40/67-F. No. G/635 Vol. III dated 28th April, 1967 is reproduced below:—

“The Scheduled Tribes of Nicobar Islands as specified in Government of India, Ministry of Law Notification No. G.S.R. 405, dated 31st March, 1959, shall collect all their requirements of forest produce from the forest without any restrictions.”

2.67 In view of the above mentioned rule, the Scheduled Tribes of Nicobar Islands are not required to pay royalty for the forest produce collected by them for their use nor are they required to obtain permit for such collections.

2.68. When the Andamanese were settled in Strait Island in 1970, since Strait Island was a Reserved Forest, they were exempted from the operation of section 26(1) of the Indian Forest Act, 1926, to hunt game, clear forest areas, kindle fire, etc.

2.69. Asked whether any plan has been worked out for the development of forests in the Islands, it has been stated that the development of forests in these Islands is undertaken under the plan schemes included under the Five Year Plans for these Islands. Twenty-six forestry schemes involving a total outlay of Rs. 2193.804 lakhs have been proposed for the Fifth Five Year Plan. It is estimated that the implementation of these schemes will provide employment to 2012 as officers and officials and 9,000 to 10,000 as skilled and un-skilled workers during the Fifth Five Year Plan period.

2.70. For the development of the forests of these Islands, a proposal for forming a Corporation was made by the successive Chief Commissioners in the past. Two successive Inspectors-General of Forests have also recommended formation of a Corporation for these Islands. The National Commission on Agriculture has also recommended the formation of forest corporation in their interim report on "Production Forestry and Man-made Forests". While this forest corporation will look after the timber extraction and its market and utilisation, it is felt that a separate Plantation Corporation should be formed to look after the various regeneration works involving the raising of cash crop plantations.

2.71. The economy of these Islands is further proposed to be developed by the Forest Department by raising Red Oil Palm, Rubber, Cashewnut, spices plantation. The project reports for raising Red Oil Palm and Rubber Plantation have already been prepared and submitted to the Government of India. The salient features of these projects are reproduced below:—

Name of project	Area	Capital investment	Annual Return	Employment opportunity
1. Red Oil Palm Plantation	2400	4.32 Crores	31%	1200
2. Rubber Plantation	7400	13.03 Crores	12.2%	5700

2.72. A pilot project for Cashewnut plantation has also been prepared and submitted to the Government of India.

2.73. Asked whether the Central Forestry Wing could be of some help in this matter, it has been stated that the Central Forestry Wing can be of immense help so far as the development of forests in these Islands is concerned. This Wing can chalk out an integrated plan for the systematic development of forests in these Islands by promoting infrastructure, i.e. the improved communications, modern logging equipments and other techniques in forest operations etc. on the one hand and by introducing plantation of suitable economic and industrial species and bringing the forest areas under the scientific management after proper survey and demarcation and enumeration of the forests on the other hand. Since these Islands form a Union Territory, the affairs of the Forest Department are controlled by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Central Forestry Wing of that Ministry can ensure provision of adequate funds for the sustained development of Forests in these Islands.

2.74. The Committee note that out of the total area of 8,293 Sq. Kms. of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Forests occupy as much as 7,466 Sq. Kms. i.e. about 90 per cent of the total area. The Committee need hardly stress that these forests, possessing valuable timber of commercial importance, are vital for the economic development of the Islands and they constitute a national asset. The Committee consider that the efforts put in, and the results achieved so far, in the direction of forest extraction and utilisation are meagre as compared to the vast forest resources available in the Islands. The Committee would therefore recommend the setting up of a Forest Corporation for the proper extraction, utilisation and regeneration of the forests in the Islands.

2.75. The Committee also feel the Central Forestry Wing of the Ministry of Agriculture can be of great help in the systematic development of forests by promoting necessary infra-structure i.e. improved communications, modern logging equipments and other techniques in forest operations, etc. on the one hand and by introducing plantations of suitable economic and industrial species and bringing the forest area under scientific management after proper survey, demarcation, and enumeration of forests on the other.

2.76. The Committee have no doubt that the Scheduled Tribes will continue to have special privileges from the forests as have been conferred upon them by the various Government Notifications G.S. Rs., etc. in force at present.

H. Tribal Development Blocks

2.77. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the question of establishing a Tribal Development Block in these Islands was examined by the Government on the basis of criteria laid down in the light of the recommendations of the Elwin Committee and since the conditions in these Islands did not satisfy the criteria, the idea to start Tribal Development Blocks was dropped. However, in Nicobar, there are two Tribal Blocks, one with headquarters in Nicobar and the other with headquarters in Nancowrie. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the Government is examining the idea of starting smaller blocks with reference to the prevalent conditions in Andamans. This would be taken into consideration during the Fifth Five Year Plan period.

2.78 The Committee are of the opinion that by the very nature of the geographic position and the number of Islands comprising

the Union Territory, it is not appropriate to apply the same criteria for starting a Tribal Development Block in these Islands as on the mainland. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Tribal Development Blocks should be started in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, wherever the concentration of tribal population is more than 50 per cent.

I. Allotment of Land

2.79. Asked whether any survey has been made to find out the total land available for allotment to Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that no survey has been conducted. The Scheduled Tribes in the Islands consist of Andamanese, Jarawas, Sentinalese, Onges, Nicobarese and Shompens. The Nicobarese are the only tribe who have taken to a settled way of life and the other tribes are still in the primitive stage. The Nicobarese live in the Nicobar Group of Islands. They have sufficient land of their own to meet their requirements. The land is owned by the community and Administration has not interfered with their customary rights. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956, protects the Scheduled Tribes from exploitation by others. Under the said Regulation, no person, other than a member of a Scheduled Tribe, can acquire land in the area without the prior approval of the Chief Commissioner. The Scheduled Tribes also cannot transfer the land to any person other than a member of a Scheduled Tribe, without taking prior permission from the Chief Commissioner, under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956. According to Section 5 of that Regulation, no person, other than a member of a Scheduled Tribe, can secure any interest in land owned by a tribal in the tribal area by way of transfer by sale, exchange, mortgage, lease or otherwise without the previous sanction of the Chief Commissioner. The land owned by a tribal is also free from attachment or sale in execution of any decree or order of a Civil Court.

2.80. Asked in what manner the land reforms have been introduced in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and to what extent these land reforms have benefited the Scheduled Tribes, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that land reforms in the usual sense of abolition of inter-mediaries, bringing the cultivator in direct relationship with the State, is unknown in these Islands. There has never been any history of big land-lords, and

intermediaries in the Islands. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966 recognizes tribals in possession of coconut and arecanut plantations in Nicobar group of Islands as grantees (Section 144).

2.81. Asked how much total land has been allotted to Scheduled Tribes so far and what is its percentage to the total land, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that no difficulty is experienced in allotment of land to the Scheduled Tribes. The entire Strait Island has been reserved for Andamanese tribals. An area of 500 Sq. Kms. has been kept as a reserve for Jarawas tribals. An area of 200 acres at Dugong Creek has been brought under coconut plantation and reserved for 49 Onge tribals. Five Kms. belt around the plantation is also reserved for the Onges. Fifty Nicobarese families have been allotted ten acres land each in Little Andaman recently. The total land allotted by the Rehabilitation Department to migrants settled under the Special Areas Development Programme upto 31st March, 1973, comes to 1548 hectares. In addition, Government unoccupied land in various revenue villages of Andaman Group of Islands had been disposed of by allotment to eligible persons and the area so distributed in 1969-70 is 1853-84 hectares. None of the allottees in the Andaman Group is a tribal. Thus the total land allotted as per the above details works out to 3602 hectares out of which 200 hectares has been allotted to tribals. This works out to 1:18 or about 6 per cent of the total land allotted.

2.82. Asked whether any cases of land alienation by the tribals have been detected in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that land alienation by tribals is not possible without the prior permission of Chief Commissioner, under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956. No case of land alienation has been detected after the said Regulation came into force.

2.83. Asked whether any facilities, such as, agricultural implements, improved variety of seeds, manure, loans for purchase of bullocks etc. are given to the Scheduled Tribes after allotment of land to them, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that provision for supply of implements (50 per cent subsidy) improved seeds (50 per cent subsidy) and manures (50 per cent subsidy on Nitrogenous fertilizers and 25 per cent on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers) etc. exists for all cultivators, including Scheduled Tribes. However, the tribals of Nicobar Islands do not practise agriculture as such. Therefore, they do not ask for these facilities. Similarly, there is no demand for loans also from the Sche-

duled Tribes, It is believed that Nicobarese and the other tribals are free from indebtedness.

2.84. It has been further stated that tribals of the Nicobar Group are mainly engaged in maintaining coconut plantations. The following incentives have been provided to them for maintenance of these plantations:

- (i) Free supply of Seedlings,
- (ii) Free supply of Fertilizers, and
- (iii) Free supply of Pesticides.

2.85. During the Third Five Year Plan, the following quantities of seedlings, fertilizers and pesticides have been supplied to the Nicobarese (Scheduled Tribes) free of cost for maintaining coconut plantations :

- (i) Seedlings (Nos.) 15,226
- (ii) Fertilizers (Kgs.) 14,000
- (iii) Pesticides (Kgs.) 11,000

2.86. In addition, 355 Nos. coconut|arescanut demonstrations were also held in Nicobar.

2.87. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, there is no separate scheme for the free supply of inputs but demonstrations are being held by the Agriculture Department in which only fertilizers are supplied free to the Nicobarese on whose holdings demonstrations are held.

2.88. The Committee would like the Administration to draw up a scheme for allotment of land, especially to those Scheduled Tribes, who are leading a nomadic way of life, on a priority basis. The Committee further recommend that settlements for such Scheduled Tribes should also be established urgently. They also suggest that these Scheduled Tribes should be provided with necessary inputs for agriculture after allotment of land to them.

J. Housing

2.89. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the tribal people are very happy in the houses constructed by them

in their natural habitat and no designs or standards of lighting and ventilation other than the designs they themselves follow are considered necessary. Semi-permanent structures at Government expense have been provided to Andamanese in Strait Island. The Nicobarese, which is the only tribe which has taken to a settled way of life, are averse to take loans from any source. The facilities under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme are, therefore, not availed of by them.

2.90. It has been further stated that under the Sector "Welfare of Backward Classes" there is, however, a Scheme "Improvement of Housing conditions of Nicobarese tribe" for the supply of building materials to them at Car Nicobar at *ex-Port Blair* rates. The Nicobarese have taken to using building materials, such as cement, sawn timber, GCI sheets etc. which are supplied to them at Car Nicobar at *ex-Port Blair* rates. The transport cost from Port Blair to Car Nicobar is subsidised by Government under the Scheme.

2.91. The Committee suggest that a few model houses may be constructed by Government where there is a large concentration of tribal population and efforts should be made to induce the tribals to live in such houses.

K. Health

2.92. It has been stated in the Report of the Committee on Plan Projects that the common diseases among the tribals are T.B., V.D. Malaria, Filariasis and Trachoma. Asked whether any special measures have been taken to eradicate these diseases among the tribals, the Committee have been informed that the following steps have been taken in respect of each of these diseases.

T.B.

2.93. There is a TB Specialist stationed at Port Blair who visits Car Nicobar also and surveys, investigates, detects and advises the local Medical Officers on treatment to be given. Medical Officers stationed in tribal areas of Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Nancowrie and Campbell Bay are on the look out for cases and on detection treat the cases on the pattern laid down by the TB Officer. The B.C.G. Team visits annually to give B.C.G. vaccination to tribal children. It has been proposed to construct a 20-bedded TB ward in the hospital compound itself during the Fifth Five Year Plan, as the present 12-bedded ward is away from the Main Car Nicobar Hospital and lot of

inconveniences are experienced every day to attend to the patients in case of emergency.

V.D.

2.94. There is a VD clinic at Car Nicobar and a specially trained Senior Male Nurse runs it under the guidance of Medical Officer, Car Nicobar. The post of Lady Medical Officer for V.D. is still to be filled in for want of a doctor with requisite qualification. A male V.D. Specialist has been posted, but is yet to join. Senior Male Nurse, Car Nicobar, takes blood samples from suspected cases of V.D. and treatment is given to positive cases. An expert V.D. Team from Delhi is expected to visit Nicobar Group of Islands shortly and based on recommendations to be given by them, services may be expanded. The V.D. clinic will be further strengthened after posting of a V.D. Specialist.

Malaria and Filaria

2.95. There is a combined National Malaria-cum-Filaria eradication unit functioning for Nicobar Group of Islands with Malaria and Filaria Inspector and squads. Regular spraying and larvicidal measures and surveillance work is being done. The work is handicapped due to non-filling up of the post of Malaria-cum-Filaria Officer which is lying vacant since March, 1970. The Government of India have been requested to fill up the post early. An Assistant Unit Officer's post will also be created for effective supervision of the work under the Malaria-cum-Filaria Officer. It has been proposed to establish a N.F.C.P. Headquarter Bureau at Nancowrie. With the full complement of staff during the Fifth Five Year Plan period, to eradicate Filaria in the Nicobar Group of Islands.

Trachoma

2.90. Incidence is mild. Eye Specialist used to visit the Southern Group of Islands periodically for survey and advising Medical Officers regarding treatment. The post of Eye Specialist is lying vacant since 7th October, 1972 and no substitute has been posted by the Health Ministry in spite of the best efforts made by the Administration.

2.97. Asked whether there is any proposal to set up a mobile health unit to go from Island to Island for the benefit of the inhabitants in general and the Scheduled Tribes in particular, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that there is no proposal for a mobile health unit as such, but TB Specialist, Eye Specialist,

VD Specialist, Malaria Officer and where necessary Surgeon|Physician will be touring the tribal areas periodically. It has been proposed to have a Hover craft during the Fifth Five Year Plan period or in the alternative a speed boat to serve as water Ambulance for the transportation of patients from various Islands to the nearest hospitals for their treatment.

2.98. The Committee need hardly point out that on account of the great distances between the mainland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Islands inter se, the provision of adequate medical facilities assumes considerable importance. The Committee would like the Government to pay special attention for the provision of adequate medical facilities in the remote Islands where they do not exist at present. The Committee also recommend that mobile health units may be set up to cater to the needs of distant Islands.

2.99. The Committee regret to observe that a number of posts of medical officers in the various departments are lying vacant for quite some time now. The Committee suggest that the position may be reviewed at a high level so that all the posts of medical officers are filled without any further loss of time.

L. Drinking Water

2.100. The Committee have been informed that water supply has been one of the chronic problems in these Islands. Though, this territory has heavy rainfall extending to about eight months in a year, water scarcity is felt in many areas during the summer months. This is due to the geological strata of these Islands which have very little capacity to store subsoil water. Owing to fissures, the strata below certain depths get connected with the sea water and deep wells are, therefore, not feasible. For the same reason, it is also not possible to have deep tube wells. Water supply has, therefore, to be either from shallow wells, the supply of which during summer is undependable, or by storage of rain water through creation of artificial reservoirs. Lack of geologically suitable sites where water could be stored economically in such artificial reservoirs is also responsible for scarcity of water.

As already stated, the population of these Islands, according to 1971 census, is 1,15,133. Apart from Port Blair, which has a population of about 26,000 there are about 250 villages where the rest of the population lives. As on date, 186 of these villages are provided with water supply facilities out of Government funds. Of these, 47

have piped water supply and others are having wells. The remaining 64 villages are all minor settlements and they too have some sort of natural sources like ponds, streams of *katcha* wells constructed by the community. There is no place where there is perennial scarcity of water although scarcity is felt in many areas during the months of March and April.

2.101. The position regarding water supply at various places has been stated to be as follows:—

(i) *Water Supply of Port Blair*

Total capacity of surface reservoirs at Port Blair is 121 million gallons, which is adequate for population of 26,000. But population is increasing due to additional defence establishment. There is also large requirement of water for commercial and naval ships. Hence, Dhanikhari Dam is being constructed to impound surface water and make artificial reservoir. The scheme also envisages construction of complete treatment plant, clear water pump, etc. The cost of the project is being shared between the Ministry of Defence and the Administration in the ratio 1 : 2.

(ii) *Water Supply at other important places*

(1) *Rangat*: Though at present piped water supply is available to part of the town, it is not filtered water and the quantity is not adequate. Scheme for providing filtered water supply to a population of 2,300 has been taken up in two phases at a cost of Rs. 4,496 lakhs. This scheme will be completed before March, 1974.

(2) *Mayabunder*: A water supply scheme to supply water from a perennial source 7 Km. from the town was taken up and completed at a cost of Rs. 5.5 lakhs. A subsidiary scheme to extend water supply to a few villages nearby has been taken up and this will be completed before the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(3) *Diglipur*: Water supply system exists in the town proper and a proposal to extend it to nearby villages of Ramakrishnagram and Keralapuram has been taken up. This also will be substantially completed by the end of Fourth Five Year Plan.

(4) *Car Nicobar*: Piped water supply has been made available to the headquarters area and nearby settlements during the Fourth Five Year Plan.

(5) *Other places*: Among other works being undertaken, those relating to supply of water to settlements at Bakultala, Billiground, Nilambur and Kamorta are worth mentioning. A number of

schemes have been taken up in South Andaman to improve and extend piped water supply to the villages in South Andaman.

(6) *Wells*: As per programme, 158 wells are to be constructed during the Fourth Five Year Plan and up-to-date 40 have been completed. The procedure is that the villagers made a *kacha* well and the Public Works Department provides R.C.C. rings and makes it a permanent construction.

2.102. It is hoped that achievement at the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan will be substantially the same as the target in both financial and physical terms, except for a shortfall in the construction of wells. Owing to restricted outlay under rural water supply, construction of about 80 wells only will be completed against 158 wells proposed at the beginning of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

2.103. During the Fifth Five Year Plan, the following schemes are proposed to be taken up:—

	Rs. lakhs
(1) Water supply to villages from Ferrargunj to Ograbraj	10
(2) Improvement in water supply at Wimberlygunj	3
(3) Improvement in water supply at Mannarghat	1
(4) Providing water supply at Havelock	5
(5) Improvement in water supply at Kamorta	1
(6) Water supply at Baratang	10
(7) Piped water supply at Shantanu Kadamtala	3
(8) Water supply extension to Rangat township	5
(9) Water supply at Kalighat	1
(10) Construction of wells	5
TOTAL	44

2.104. The Committee note the steps being taken to augment the supply of drinking water in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are unhappy to learn that the target of digging of 158 pucca wells during the Fourth Five Year Plan will not be completed and only about 80 wells will be dug owing to restricted outlay under rural water supply. The Committee feel that adequate funds should have been provided automatically once the targets had been fixed for the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Committee hope that adequate funds will be provided during the Fifth Five Year Plan for the purpose.

M. Construction of Roads

2.105. It has been stated that the present road mileage in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is as follows:

	(Length in Kms.)
(1) In Port Blair Headquarters	68.00
(2) South Andaman, excluding Port Blair	215.00
(3) Havelock	12.00 (<i>Katcha road</i>)
(4) Baratang Island	4.00
(5) Middle Andaman Island	116.00
(6) North Andaman Island	14.00
(7) Car Nicobar Island	56.00
(8) Katchal	17.00
(9) Kamorta	5.00 (<i>kaicha road</i>)
TOTAL	507.00

2.106. Asked about the actual needs of the Islands in this respect and steps taken to achieve these targets, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that as per the minimum need programme approved by the Government of India, it is envisaged that villages having minimum population of 1500 will be connected during the Fifth Five Year Plan but in these Islands due to small settlements scattered at different places, it is not possible to restrict linking of villages having population upto 1500. Considering villages so far not connected, the following roads are proposed to be taken up in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

(i) *South Andaman*

- (a) Manglutan to Guptapara Nallah to connect with Trunk Road near Chidiatapu 8.00 Km.
- (b) Wrightmyo Shoal Bay connecting Shoal Bay camps 12, 14 15 & 19 7.00 Km.
- (c) Extending the village road from Herbertabad to Tirur and beyond upto settlers 5.00 Km.

(ii) *Havelock*

- Road from Camp III to Kalapathar 10.00 Km.

(iii) *Middle Andaman*

- (a) Jinganallah to Thiruvanchikulam connecting all villages 10.00 Km.
- (b) Tugapur South-Hanapur-Bajota via Pudumadurai Bajota 10.00 Km.
- (c) Pudumadurai to Chainpuri 5.00 Km.

(iv) North Andaman

(a) Trunk Road between Mayabunder and Diglipur	80.00 Km.
(b) Swarajgram to Shamnagar	12.00 Km.
(c) Kalighat Jetty to Jaganathdera	10.00 Km.
(d) Kalipur to Ramnagar .	15.00 Km.
(e) Kalara to Trunk Road	5.00 Km.
(v) Kamorta .	15.00 Km.
(vi) Roads of other southern group of Islands like Teressa	15.00 Km.
(vii) Road from Westbay Katchal to Jhansion in Katchal	6.00 Km.
(viii) Roads in Great Nicobar	101.00 Km.
(ix) Raods in Little Andaman	15.00 Km.

2.107. The progress made so far in the construction of roads has been stated to be as follows:—

Car Nicobar Islands

A ring road covering a length of 55 Kms. has been constructed in Car Nicobar Islands along the Peripheri. Since most of the vil-lages are situated along the Peripheri of the Island, this road links most of the inhabited places in the Islands.

Katchal

A road connecting East Bay Jetty to Kapanga and to West Bay Katchal has been proposed. The total length of the road is 23 Km., out of which 17 Km. upto Jhansin has been completed and work on the remaining 6 Km. is in progress. The remaining work is likely to be completed by 1974-75.

Kamorta

A proposal to lay road from Nancowrie to Pilpilo via Kakana and another road between Nancowrie and Kakana to Terring has been made. These roads are to be taken up during the Fifth Five Year Plan. The total length of these roads will be 24 Kms.

Great Nicobar

Construction of roads in Great Nicobar has been entrusted to the Border Roads Organisation. Roads in Great Nicobar are being constructed by them at two alignments namely; (i) East-West i.e., from

Campbell Bay in East to Copen Heat in West Coast—47 Kms.: and (ii) from Campbell Bay along the shore to Pigmalion Point in the South—54 Kms.

Teressa

A proposal to construct 6 Kms. road to connect village has been included in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

It has also been stated that another 9 Kms. of road in Nicobar Group of Islands has been proposed in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The exact location of the road will depend upon future pattern of development.

Little Andaman

(i) Sanction for the construction of 15 Kms. road at an estimated cost of Rs. 48.19 lakhs in Little Andaman has been issued and the work is in progress and is expected to be completed in all respects by March, 1974.

(ii) Another estimate for the construction of a further 15 Kms. road in Little Andaman has been submitted to the Government of India and the sanction for the same is awaited.

(iii) There is a proposal that there would be two roads in two alignments with a total length of 91 Kms. These are likely to come up in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

2.108. Asked about the present position regarding the construction of a trunk road linking all the Islands from the North to the South, it has been stated that there is Andaman Trunk Road which will connect Chidiatapu in South Andaman with Aerial Bay in North Andaman. The length of this road will be 334 Kms. A total length of 175 Kms. has already been constructed as per the break-up given below:—

(i) South Andaman	72 Kms.
(ii) Baratang	4 Kms.
(iii) Middle Andaman	99 Kms.
TOTAL	<hr/> 175 Kms. <hr/>

Work is in progress for 79 Kms. as per details given below:—

(i) South Andaman	38 Kms.
(ii) Baratang	18 Kms.
(iii) Middle Andaman	23 Kms.
TOTAL	79 Kms.

2.109. Asked how much more time will be taken in completing this road, it has been stated that the remaining 80 Kms. of road in North Andaman will be taken up and completed during the Fifth Five Year Plan period.

2.110. The Committee need hardly emphasise the importance of roads in the development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee note with satisfaction the various schemes taken up for the construction of roads in the Islands. They hope that by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan, all the villages in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be linked by roads. The Committee recommend that, as a special case, the Government should agree to the linking by roads even those villages whose population is less than 1500, but more than 500.

2.111. The Committee also recommend that completion of the Andaman Trunk Road should be given top priority and efforts made to complete it within one or two years.

N. Shipping and Ferry Services

Shipping services between the Islands and the mainland

2.112. It has been stated that the Shipping services between the Islands and the mainland are not adequate to cater to the needs of the Islands. At present mainland-Island Shipping services are maintained by two Passenger-cum-Cargo Ships, viz., *M. V. Andamans* and *S.S. Muzaffari*, besides two cargo ships viz., *M. V. Nicobar* and *M.V. Shompen* (timber carrier). The Passenger-cum-Cargo Ships are run according to schedule in the interest of passengers. As such, it is not always possible to utilise fully the cargo capacity of the vessels. The Administration is, therefore, of the opinion that these types of vessels are not suited for running as Passenger-cum-Cargo vessels and, therefore, they should be replaced by smaller vessels capable of carrying 500 to 600 passengers and about 500 tonnes of cargo consisting largely of personal luggage and essential perishable cargo. Such vessels should be faster and with the lower draft to enable them to

complete the journey quicker. The Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs have already been apprised of the need to have smaller but faster ships for services between these Islands and the mainland for better and economic running of the Shipping services *vide* the former Chief Commissioner's D.O. letter No. 1-1/70-TR dated 13th May, 1970 to the Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs. The need for having a faster ship has also been stressed in a letter to the Ministry of Transport and Shipping *vide* the Chief Secretary's D.O. letter No. 1-1/72-TR dated 12th February, 1973 to the Director (Projects), Ministry of Shipping and Transport. Non-availability of suitable jetties is another impediment in the improvement of Shipping services between mainland and Islands.

2.113. It has been further stated that in order to increase efficiency of mainland-Islands Shipping services, a Deep Wharf at Haddo has been constructed and a new jetty at Chatham to replace the existing old jetty is under construction. Wharf at Haddo is 1200 feet long and 13.76 metres wide, out of which 600 feet will be used for commercial purpose and remaining 600 feet by the Navy. This jetty will be used for berthing the ships as soon as dredging operations, which are already going on, are completed, and a hydrographic survey has been made. The other jetty at Chatham will be 130 metres long and 23 metres wide. This jetty is likely to be completed by March, 1974. These two jetties will greatly facilitate the loading and unloading of cargo, which will result in increased turnround of the Ship.

2.114. The Shipping Corporation of India proposed to replace *M.V. Nicobar*, which was built in the year 1949 and which is not giving satisfactory service at present on account of its long use, by a better vessel. They also propose to place a new ship at the disposal of the Administration to replace *M.V. Andaman*, which is an old ship built some time in 1957. The new Ship will have better speed than *M.V. Andaman* and, therefore, turnround of the new vessel will be quicker than the present ship.

2.115. It has been further stated that for increasing the efficiency in mainland-Islands services, the entire shipping services should be taken over by the Shipping Corporation of India. They have already established an Office at Port Blair and taken over the booking of passages and cargo bookings for mainland-Islands. They

are expected to take over the complete control of the shipping services in the near future.

2.116. On account of increase in mainland-Islands traffic, it was decided that a team should be deputed by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport for undertaking a traffic survey of these Islands. The Ministry of Shipping and Transport *vide* the Director (Projects) D.O. letter No. SYII-35(14) |69 dated 24th March, 1973 have since intimated that their Directorate is not equipped at present with the required staff to carry out the survey and that the survey may be carried out by the Administration on broad lines indicated by them in the note sent with their letter. This is being examined.

2.117. In reply to a question, the Committee have been informed during evidence that it took from Calcutta or Madras eight to ten days in reaching the Islands. That means that there are two sailings from Madras or Calcutta every month to Port Blair and back.

Inter-Island Ferry services.

2.118. The Committee have been informed that the existing ferry services are not sufficient to meet fully the increasing inter-Island traffic. The inter-Island services in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are at present maintained by the following five vessels with a total passenger carrying capacity of 780, and cargo carrying capacity of 365 metric tonnes:

	Passenger carrying capacity	Cargo carrying capacity	
	Cabin	Bunk Deck	
(i) S. S. Cholunga	4	195	55 tonnes
(ii) T.S.S. Yerewa	9	200	120 tonnes
(iii) M. V. Onge	16	188	90 tonnes
(iv) M. V. Little Andaman	4	100	50 tonnes
(v) M. V. Yamuna	4	60	50 tonnes

2.119. With the increasing developmental activities and the larger number of personnel settling in these Islands, these vessels have been found to be inadequate to meet the varied requirements of the Administration for transportation of passengers and cargo to the Northern and Southern Group of Islands. In order to improve the existing ferry services between various Islands, provision has

been made in the Fourth Five Year Plan of these Islands to procure three 60' boats four wooden hulled 40' boats and one steel hulled 40' boat. The orders for three 60' boats have already been placed by the Director General of Supplies and Disposals on M/s. Cleback Boat Company, Calcutta, and these boats are under construction. The first boat is expected to be delivered by 30th August, 1973, the second boat by 30th April, 1974 and third boat by 31st December, 1974. Of the four wooden hulled 40' boats, one has already been constructed and commissioned, two are expected to be ready by 15th August, 1973 and fourth one by the end of 1973-74. 40' steel hulled boat is also under construction with M/s Rajbagan Dockyard. These boats, after taking delivery of, will be used for replacement of the old ferry vessels and introduction of ferry services in developing areas in Southern Group of Islands such as Car Nicobar, Katchal and Nancowrie etc.

2.120 *S. S. Cholunga* is an old vessel, which is run on coal. This vessel was built in 1949 and requires frequent repairs on account of break downs due to its long use. The Shipping Corporation of India proposes to replace this vessel by a *Yerewa* type vessel. The question of procurement|construction of another inter-Island vessel besides *S. S. Cholunga*, *T.S.S. Yerewa* and *M.V. Onge* is also under consideration of the Administration.

2.121. In order to improve the inter-Island ferry services further, it is proposed to procure two Passenger Ferry Vessels similar to *M.V. Little Andaman*, 150—200 tonne Cargo-cum-Touring Vessel, two vessels of *M.V. Yamuna* type Passenger Ferry and two vessels of *M.V. Ganga* type for Harbour Ferry, two hospital red-cross ships and six self-propelled vehicle ferry for Andaman Trunk Road at an approximate cost of about Rs. 450 lakhs. These proposals are, however, yet to be discussed with, and approved by, the Planning Commission.

2.122. Asked whether any survey has been made to determine the long-term needs of inter-Island vessels, it has been stated that a Senior Officer of the Ministry of Shipping and Transport is expected to visit these Islands shortly in order to study on the spot of the actual state of affairs regarding inter-Island services and suggest measures for their improvement.

2.123. In reply to a question, the Committee have been informed during evidence that certain programmes are upset when the vessels suddenly go out of order and the supply of necessities to the Islands is affected.

2.124. The Committee would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to conduct a comprehensive survey in collaboration with the Ministry of Shipping and Transport and the Shipping Corporation of India to determine, both short-term and long-term, requirements of ships, ferries, jetties, harbours, etc. keeping in view the traffic which is likely to increase over the years so that the shipping and ferry services could be improved in a systematic and phased manner.

2.125. The Committee also suggest that complete control of the shipping and ferry services should be taken over by the Shipping Corporation of India as early as possible in order to improve the operational efficiency and to increase the capacity and frequency of transport services.

O. Air Services

Air Services between the Island and mainland

2.126. Asked whether it has been suggested to the Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation that there should be a direct air service between Calcutta and Port Blair and between Madras and Port Blair, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that the National Council of Applied Economic Research has suggested in the techno-economic survey report on Andaman and Nicobar Islands for direct air service between Calcutta and Port Blair. While offering comments on this Report, the Administration, *vide* letter No. 28—1|1(6)|72—PL dated the 30th March, 1972, expressed its doubt to the Ministry of Home Affairs as to whether the Indian Airlines Corporation would be able to start direct air service to Port Blair from Calcutta due to technical reasons. The matter has not progressed thereafter. As regards air service between Port Blair and Madras, the matter was discussed in the meeting of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee held at Delhi on 6-11-1969 and again on 12-3-1972. Representatives from the Department of Civil Aviation and the Indian Airlines Corporation had attended those meetings. In the meeting held on 12-3-1972, it was considered that air connections with Madras should be provided. This would be possible only when the airstrip at Port Blair is strengthened to receive Boeing aircraft. The question of improving the airstrip or constructing an alternative air field has been discussed in the meeting of the Central Coordination Committee held on 26-8-1972. The matter about improving the air-strip is under the consideration of the Civil Aviation Department. Once the air field becomes ready, the direct air service between mainland and Port Blair by Boeing

aircraft is expected to be introduced by the Indian Airlines Corporation, as promised.

Inter-Island Air Services

2.127. It has been stated that the question regarding the type of aircraft to be brought into service in the Islands and whether there was need for construction of additional air field has remained under consideration of the Government of India for a long time. This matter has been considered a number of times at various meetings of the Central Coordination Committee but no final decision could be taken. The Coordination Committee has felt that the entire question hinged on the apportionment of responsibility for aerial surveillance and coastal policing between the local Administration and the Armed Forces on which again, decision is still to be taken.

2.128. The Committee have noted the position regarding provision of direct air services between Calcutta/Port Blair and Madras/Port Blair. The Committee hope that a phased programme for the development of air services between the mainland and the Islands will be chalked out and implemented as early as possible.

P. Postal and Telecommunication Facilities

Postal Facilities

2.129. It has been stated that every endeavour is made to extend the Postal facilities as per local demands or at the instance of the Local Administration or on the initiative of the P & T Department as the case may be. At the present moment, the Postal Department has proposals in hand to extend Postal facilities in the shape of (i) Opening of New Post Offices; and (ii) by upgrading of the existing Post Offices. Particulars of the same are furnished below:—

(i) Opening of Post Offices

Area	Name of the proposed Post Offices	Status
1	2	3
Middle Andaman	1. Sabari	Extra Departmental Branch Office
	2. Nimbudera	Do.
	3. Shivapuram	Do.
North Andaman	1. Kishorinagar	Do.

I	2	3
South Andaman	1. Shadipur	Extra Departmental Branch Office
	2. Lambaline	Do.
	3. Manpur	Do.
	4. Dandas Point	Do.
	5. Ograbraj	Do.
Nicobar Groups of Islands	1. Katchal	Do.
<i>(ii) Upgradation of Post Offices</i>		

Area	Name of the Post Offices to be Upgraded	Present Status	Upgrading Status
Middle Andaman	Kadamtala	Extra Departmental Branch Office	Departmental Sub Office
	*Oralkatcha	Do.	Do.
South Andaman	Chouldary	Do.	Do.
	Humfriganj	Do.	Do.
	Jungleghat	Do.	Do.
	Bambooflat	Do.	Do.
Nicobar Group of Islands	Kapanga	Do.	Do.

2.130 Asked how many post offices have been opened in the various Islands during each of the last three years, the Committee have been furnished with the following figures:—

	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Post Offices opened	Nil	4	4
Post Offices upgraded	Nil	3	2

Telecommunication Facilities

2.131. It has been stated that:—

- (i) Civil Wireless Stations exist at present at Port Blair, Car Nicobar, Campbell Bay, Mayabunder.
- (ii) Civil Wireless Stations have since been sanctioned at Rangat, Diglipur and Nancowrie. These Wireless stations are likely to be opened very shortly.
- (iii) Telegrams and Telegraph money order facilities are available at the stations where Civil Wireless functions

*This Post Office stands sanctioned for being upgraded to a Departmental Sub-Office but for want of suitable rent free accommodation, upgradation is being delayed.

and they will be available at the stations for which wireless stations stand sanctioned but not yet opened.

- (iv) Telegram facilities are available through Police Wireless grid, which are functioning in most of the Islands. Extension of Telegram facilities through Police Wireless grid at Neil Island, Kapanga, Teressa, and Parangara, has since sanctioned and this will be implemented very shortly.
- (v) Telegraph Money Order facilities upto a sum of Rs. 100/- has been extended on Police Wireless system at Diglipur, Rangat, Long Island, Hut Bay, and Nancowire.
- (vi) The expansion of existing Telephone exchange at Port Blair by 100 additional lines has since been sanctioned to meet the future requirements.

2.132. The Committee stress the necessity of developing postal and telecommunication facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are far away from the mainland. The Committee are glad to note that certain schemes for the expansion of postal and telecommunication facilities have been undertaken by the Administration. They hope that it will be possible for the Administration to link all the inhabited Islands by postal and telecommunication facilities as early as possible.

Q. Small Scale and Cottage Industries

2.133. Asked whether the potentialities of developing Small Scale and Cottage Industries in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been explored, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that all the developmental schemes have been formulated on the basis of the recommendations made by the experts who visited these Islands to find out the possibilities and potentialities of developing Small Scale and Cottage Industries in these Islands. These schemes have been implemented during the Second, Third and Fourth Five Year Plans with the result that at present there are 60 wood-based small scale units and 214 other small scale units. Detailed break up of these units is as under:—

Small Scale Industries.

- | | |
|--|----|
| 1. Wood based industries including saw mill and furniture making industries etc. | 60 |
| 2. Bakery units | 20 |

3. Soap making industries	2
4. Candle making industries	4
5. Service Industries	6
6. Aluminium utensils industries	1
7. Stainless steel utensils industries	1
8. Blacksmithy units	39
9. Squash manufacturing industries	3
10. Other industries	104
TOTAL	<u>240</u>

Handicrafts Industries

1. Shell Craft Industries	3
2. Cane and bamboo work	11
3. Other agro-based industries	120
	<u>134</u>
GRAND TOTAL	<u>374</u>

However, all these units are un-registered as no registration procedure has been introduced in the Islands.

2.134. Asked what efforts have been made for the poultry development in the Islands, it has been stated that one Poultry Farm was established during the year 1959 in this territory for upgrading of the local poultry stock and propagation of exotic breed. Some upgrading and propagation work was done till 1966, thereafter this Poultry Farm was closed down, since the Farm was running at a loss.

2.135. During the Fourth Five Year Plan, a scheme was formulated "Development of Poultry Farming". Under this Scheme 1797 improved types of poultry birds|exotic cocks and 4400 hatchings of improved breed were imported from mainland and distributed to the interested Poultry keepers on subsidy basis for the development

of local poultry stock. A scheme has been sanctioned during 1972-73 for establishing a Poultry Farm in this territory and action is in hand for the establishment of a Poultry Farm at Port Blair. This Farm will produce seed material for propagation and upgradation of poultry stocks of the Islands. It has been proposed in the Approach Paper for the Fifth Five Year Plan to establish three small Poultry Farms in Middle Andaman, North Andaman and Car Nicobar for development of Poultry Farming in those areas.

2.136 In reply to a question, it has been stated that for the welfare of the tribal people of Car Nicobar, under "Tribal Welfare Scheme" during the Fourth Five Year Plan, 388 improved types of poultry birds have been imported from mainland so far and distributed free of cost to the tribal people of Car Nicobar for upgrading and propagation of exotic breed.

2.137. The Committee note the small-scale and Handicrafts industries set up in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far. The Committee visualise that there is vast scope for the development of forest-based and cottage industries in the Islands. The Committee feel that such industries can be effectively developed to provide employment, especially to the tribals, as also to improve the economic condition of the inhabitants of the Islands. They recommend that a phased programme should be drawn up, and implemented, to develop the forest based and cottage industries.

2.138. As regards poultry development in the Islands, the Committee are unhappy to be informed that instead of taking steps to avoid losses in running a poultry farm, it was closed down. They, however, note that a scheme "Development of Poultry Farming" has been initiated in the Fourth Five Year Plan. They would like the Administration to ensure proper implementation of this scheme.

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS

A. Development of Fisheries

3.1. Asked whether any specific efforts have been made for the development of (i) inshore fishing (ii) deep sea fishing (iii) fisheries industries in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that since there are no mechanised boats, development of inshore fishing is only in service stage. One 30-footer boat has started surveying the inshore water in South Andaman from December, 1972. As regards deep sea fishing, Deep Sea Fishing Organisation has set up a survey unit at Port Blair during October, 1971. Two fishing trawlers are conducting deep sea fishing survey in Andaman Group of Islands. As regards establishment of fisheries industries in the Islands, this Territory has got very limited number of professional fishermen. There are about 600 professional fishermen, scattered in the different Islands, 50 per cent of whom are like a floating population leaving their families on the mainland. To increase the number of fishermen, the Administration has got a scheme to settle professional fishermen from the mainland. So far, 65 professional fishermen families have been inducted in these Islands. Fishing equipments like Dinghy, Nylon, Floats, Salt etc. are supplied to these professional fishermen at subsidised rates. There is an Ice Plant (5 ton) and Cold Storage (15 ton) at Port Blair for the benefit of the fishermen. A fishing harbour is nearing completion. There are six fishermen co-operative societies working in these Islands.

3.2. It has been further stated that there is a programme to start a fishermen training centre at Port Blair to impart training in modern fishing methods. Selection of the building, purchase of furniture and some stores have been completed. Proposals were submitted to Government of India for the creation of the posts. The training centre will be in position during 1973-74. Twenty candidates were trained in Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives, Cochin and Madras including one Nicobarese (tribal) in modern fishing methods.

3.3. Asked whether any scheme has been introduced in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for mechanised fishing, it has been stated that under Accelerated Development Programme, schemes were formulated for construction of 20 mechanised boats (eight 36-footer boats and twelve 30-footer boats). Due to difficulty in getting proper design, the construction of 12 mechanised boats (30-footers) has been dropped for the present. However orders were placed for the construction of eight 36-footer boats.

3.4. It has been further stated that large scale introduction of mechanised boats is suggested in the Approach Paper for the Fifth Five Year Plan. Before that, survey of inshore and deep sea fishing will throw some light on the line of action to be taken for the development of Fisheries in these Islands.

3.5. Asked whether there is any proposal to start a fisheries research institute in the Island, it has been stated that there is no proposal to start a fisheries research institute in these Islands. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Station is working for the past 10 years at Port Blair. Physico-Chemical Analysis of the sea water, systematic and biological studies of the various fishes, study of the molluscan population and coral reefs, study of the offshore fishing catch etc. are being conducted in the Research Station. There is no separate Research Station other than this.

3.6. The Committee are glad to note that a Fishermen Training Centre is being set up at Port Blair to impart training to the fishermen in modern methods of fishing. They suggest that the services of a few trained teachers from the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives, Cochin/Madras may be requisitioned to train the fishermen in the proposed training centre.

3.7. The Committee also suggest that mechanised fishing, both in-shore and off-shore, should be introduced in the Islands as early as possible. Efforts should also be made to introduce deep sea fishing. The Committee would like the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute to complete the surveys being conducted by them as early as possible, so that a comprehensive programme could be chalked out and implemented for the development of fisheries in the Islands.

3.8. The Committee would also like the Administration to examine what measures could be taken to induce the tribals and other fishermen to take to mechanised fishing.

B. Development of Tourism

3.9. It has been stated that the First and Second Five Year Plans of these Islands did not contain any provision for the development of Tourism. In the Third Five Year Plan, two schemes were included with an outlay of Rs. 3.00 lakhs which envisaged:—

- (i) Construction of two Tourist Homes, one each at Haddo and Corbyn's Cove; and (ii) Provision of basic amenities for Tourists. Two Tourist Homes, one at Haddo and the other at Corbyn's Cove were constructed and necessary amenities provided as per programme. An expenditure of Rs. 3.246 lakhs was incurred against the plan provision of Rs. 3.00 lakhs under both the schemes.

3.10. In the Fourth Five Year Plan, two schemes, namely (i) Construction of a Tourist Bungalow; and (ii) Development of tourist and picnic spots were included with an outlay of Rs. 3.750 lakhs. A barrack type building, as an extension to Guest House No. II at Haddo providing accommodation for about 20 Home Tourists has already been completed. A pavilion at Corbyn's Cove and a Hawaghar at Mount Herriat have been constructed. Construction of a small Rest House at Wandoor has also been completed. It is expected that a Mini bus (9-seater) will be procured for use of the tourists before the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

3.11. In reply to a question, it has been stated that with the construction of the tourist homes etc. mentioned above, the accommodation available for tourists will consist of two tourist homes and one Circuit House (all located in the headquarters at Port Blair) with a total bed strength of 39. Rest Houses have also been put up in other Islands at places like Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur in the Northern Group of Islands and Car Nicobar and Nancowrie in the Southern Group of Islands. Catering arrangements for tourists are being made by the caretakers of the Rest Houses.

3.12. It has been further stated that since foreigners are not allowed to enter Andamans, the development of tourism to attract foreign tourists to these Islands has not been envisaged in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Programmes envisaged will, therefore, be confined to cater to the needs of the home tourists only. It is proposed to include the following schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 100 lakhs for the development of Tourism in the Fifth Five Year Plan:

- (i) Establishment of Directorate of Tourism Information and Publicity.

3.3. Asked whether any scheme has been introduced in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for mechanised fishing, it has been stated that under Accelerated Development Programme, schemes were formulated for construction of 20 mechanised boats (eight 36-footer boats and twelve 30-footer boats). Due to difficulty in getting proper design, the construction of 12 mechanised boats (30-footers) has been dropped for the present. However orders were placed for the construction of eight 36-footer boats.

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3.6. The Committee are glad to note that a Fishermen Training Centre is being set up at Port Blair to impart training to the fishermen in modern methods of fishing. They suggest that the services of a few trained teachers from the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives, Cochin/Madras may be requisitioned to train the fishermen in the proposed training centre.

3.7. The Committee also suggest that mechanised fishing, both in-shore and off-shore, should be introduced in the Islands as early as possible. Efforts should also be made to introduce deep sea fishing. The Committee would like the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute to complete the surveys being conducted by them as early as possible, so that a comprehensive programme could be chalked out and implemented for the development of fisheries in the Islands.

3.8. The Committee would also like the Administration to examine what measures could be taken to induce the tribals and other fishermen to take to mechanised fishing.

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3.11. In reply to a question, it has been stated that with the construction of the tourist homes etc. mentioned above, the accommodation available for tourists will consist of two tourist homes and one Circuit House (all located in the headquarters at Port Blair) with a total bed strength of 39. Rest Houses have also been put up in other Islands at places like Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur in the Northern Group of Islands and Car Nicobar and Nancowrie in the Southern Group of Islands. Catering arrangements for tourists are being made by the caretakers of the Rest Houses.

3.12. It has been further stated that since foreigners are not allowed to enter Andamans, the development of tourism to attract foreign tourists to these Islands has not been envisaged in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Programmes envisaged will, therefore, be confined to cater to the needs of the home tourists only. It is proposed to include the following schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 100 lakhs for the development of Tourism in the Fifth Five Year Plan:

- (i) Establishment of Directorate of Tourism Information and Publicity.

- (ii) Construction of inexpensive Tourist Lodges (Hostels) at Port Blair, Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur for Tourist Student parties belonging to low and middle income group.
- (iii) Construction of a swimming pool at Port Blair.
- (iv) Purchase of more Mini buses and a few tourist launches
- (v) Development of picnic spots.
- (vi) Reservation of Rowing|Boating areas for tourists.
- (vii) Construction of a Stadium at Gymkhana Ground.

3.13. Asked what facilities are available at present for the tourist in the Islands, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that the scenic beauty presented by hill-slopes and valleys co-existing with long beautiful sea-coasts, beaches and creeks offer tremendous potential for development of tourism. These Islands have a calm and peaceful atmosphere for the tourists coming from the din and bustle of the cities, a holiday resort where they can relax and enjoy themselves in the quiet, natural atmosphere of the place.

3.14. It has been further stated that for security reasons, these Islands have been closed to foreign Nationals, and to that extent development of tourism to attract foreign tourists has not been envisaged. Even with respect to the home tourists, it has not been possible to do much, owing to lack of an organisation that could devote itself exclusively to this task. In reply to a question, the Chief Commissioner of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, has stated during evidence that more home tourists should be encouraged to visit these Islands. For this purpose, the communication facilities should be improved immediately. It should also be ensured that the travelling expenses are not beyond the means of an average person. If possible, the Indian Airlines and the Shipping Corporation of India should be subsidised by the Government for the purpose.

3.15. The Committee note that certain schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 100 lakhs for the development of tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the Fifth Five Year Plan have been proposed. The Committee hope that necessary funds will be provided for the purpose and the schemes properly implemented.

3.16. The Committee consider that the decision to establish a Directorate of Tourism, Information and Publicity in the Islands is

a step in right direction and they hope that the Directorate will be set up as early as possible. The Committee also suggest that in order to attract tourists from the mainland, tourist literature on Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be brought out from time to time and given due publicity.

3.17. The Committee endorse the views of the Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar Islands that the travelling expenses between the mainland and the Islands as also inter-Island should be kept to the minimum, if necessary, by subsidising the Indian Airlines and the Shipping Corporation of India, so that they are within the reach of an average tourist.

C. Law and Order

3.18. It has been stated that the present state of law and order in these Islands is normal. There is, however a tendency towards increase in crime. Asked about the number of Police Stations in the Islands, it has been stated that there are ten police Stations in these Islands, viz., three in South Andaman, three in Middle and North Andaman and four in Car Nicobar Group of Islands. For visiting places at other Islands, the Police personnel have to depend on ferry services or on the boats belonging to Forest or Marine Department etc. The two Police boats *M. V. Subhas* and *M. V. Jawahar* are lying idle for major repairs. Therefore, it is difficult to reach in time in a far flung Island in cases when urgently required.

3.19. Asked how many of these Islands have been covered by wireless facilities, it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee that besides the Headquarter, 20 other Islands have been provided with wireless facilities. They are:

- (1) Car Nicobar (2) Nancowry (3) Kondul (4) Pilomilo (5) Teressa (6) Katchal (7) Campbell Bay (8) Little Andaman (9) Rangat (10) Mayabunder (11) Diglipur (12) Kallighat (13) Long Island (14) Kadamtala (15) Baratang (16) Neil Island (17) Havelock (18) Interview Island (19) Narcondum Island, and (20) East Island.

Besides these, there is a mobile wireless station at Jirkatapg in South Andaman.

3.20. The Committee are unhappy to be informed that there is a tendency towards increase in crime in the Andaman and Nico-

bar Islands. The Committee would like the Administration to take effective steps to curb this tendency. They would further like the Administration to take immediate steps to get the police boats, M. V. Subhas and M. V. Jawahar repaired so as to ensure greater mobility of the police in cases of emergency. The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs/Administration to examine the question of opening Police Stations in other important Islands and providing the Police with greater means of mobility.

D. Lighthouses

3.21. The existing Lighthouses in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been stated to be as under:—

General Lighthouses.—These are six in number and are under the control of the Director General of Lighthouses and Lightships, New Delhi.

(1) *East Island Lighthouse:*

The Lighthouse is situated on the northernmost portion of the region on the Islands of the same name, Location Lat. $13^{\circ} 37.8'N$, Long $93^{\circ} 03.5E$. The Lighthouse has a range of 24 miles in clear weather. It exhibits a character of single flash (white) every 15 seconds from the top of a tower 292 ft. above sea level. The station is manned by a staff of ten persons. It is the first landfall light while approaching the Islands from the North and is very useful for passage through the coco-channel to the Eastern coast of the Islands.

(2) *Sir Hugh Rose Islands Lighthouse:*

It is situated on the Island of same name which is the southernmost in the Ritchie's Ashipelago. Location Lat. $11^{\circ} 46.9'N$, Long $93.05.6'E$. The lighthouse has a range of 20 miles in clear weather. It exhibits a character of single flashing (white) every 7 seconds from the top of a tower, 188 ft., above sea-level. The station is unmanned and the operation of the light is automatic. It is a very useful lighthouse for general navigation from and to Port Blair.

(3) *North Point (Port Blair) Lighthouse:*

The lighthouse is situated on the hilly slope of northern shore of the entrance to Port Blair Harbour. Location is Lat. $11^{\circ} 45.4'N$ Long $11^{\circ} 42.2'E$. It has a range of 20 miles in clear weather. The

character of the light is group flashing (2) white every 12 seconds and is exhibited from an elevation of 220 ft. above sea level. The station is unmanned and the operation of the light is automatic. The light is very useful for approaching Port Blair at anytime of the day or night.

(4) *North Cinque Island Lighthouse:*

Situated on the northern end of the Island of the same name, it is located at Lat. $11^{\circ}—19.6'$ N and Long $92^{\circ}—43.9'$ E and has a range of 20 miles. The character of the light is single flashing (white) every 20 seconds and is exhibited from an elevation of 501 ft. above sea level. The station is unmanned and the operation of the light is automatic. The light is useful for navigation through the Manner's Strait as also for general navigation within its range.

(5) *Keating Point Lighthouse:*

The lighthouse is situated on the northern tip of the Island of Car Nicobar Lat. $9^{\circ}.15.4'$ N, Long $92^{\circ}.46.5'$ E. It has a range of 17 miles in clear weather and exhibits a character of single flash (white) every 10 seconds from an elevation of 115 ft. above sea-level. The station is manned by a staff of five persons. The light is useful for navigation through 10 degree channel which is very vital passage along the communications between Northern and Southern Group of Islands.

(6) *Pygmalion Point Lighthouse:*

Situated on the southernmost point of the Great Nicobar Island (which is also the southernmost Island of the territory), it has a range of 20 miles and is exhibited from an elevation of 115 ft. above sea-level. The operation of the light is automatic and the station is unmanned. The light is useful for general navigation in the area including ships passing through Malacca straits to and from Far East.

Local Lighthouses: ..

3.22. In addition to the above general navigational aids, the following local aids are also available:—

- (i) Lighted Beacon at Perseverence Point—Port Blair.
- (ii) Lighted Buoy at Blair Reef—Port Blair.
- (iii) A lighted beacon at Ross Island—Port Blair.
- (iv) Buoys at Ranger's flat.

All the above aids are under the control of the Harbour Master, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Port Blair.

3.23. Asked whether the existing Lighthouses are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Islands, it has been replied in the negative. The six general lighthouses and the five local aids at Port Blair constitute the first stage requirement of navigational aids for the safety of the shipping in the region where practically no lighthouses existed prior to Independence. The passages through Diligent Strait, ten degree channel, navigation around the Islands of Teressa and Bomboka, through Revallo-Channel and Sombrero-channel as well as the navigation in the various existing and newly opened up harbours require installation of additional aids in the form of high powered lighthouses, lighted beacons, lighted buoys and leading lights. Moreover, no radio navigational aids, required for the fast and modern shipping is available in the region. For the fast turnover of the ships and to ensure maximum utilisation of the shipping capacity, it is essential that the navigational aids are installed to such an optimum extent that the ships are able to call at, or more out of, any port at any hour of the day or night.

3.24. In reply to a question, it has been further stated that the following additional general aids have been sanctioned and are in the process of being set up:—

- (1) Lighthouse at Port Cornwallis (Diglipur) on Ross Island.
- (2) Lighted Beacon at Rutland Island.
- (3) A major lighthouse on the Southern tip of Little Andaman Island.
- (4) Lighthouse on the Middle Button Island.
- (5) Lighthouse at North Point (Middle Strait) Baratang Island.
- (6) Lighted Beacon at Strait Island.
- (7) Lighted Beacon at Katachal (East Bay).
- (8) Lighted Beacon at Pullo Millo Island (Little Nicobar).
- (9) A Radio Beacon at East Island Lighthouse.
- (10) A Radio Beacon at Keating Point Lighthouse—Car Nicobar.

3.25. In addition to above, proposals are under consideration to set up general lighthouses at the following points also:

- (1) Lighthouse at North Button Island.
- (2) Lighthouse at South Button Island.
- (3) Lighthouse at Cape Connaught (Nancowrie Island).
- (4) A lighted Beacon at Teressa or Bambooka.
- (5) A lighthouse on North Sentinel Island.

3.26. On the establishment of Local Navigational aids, which is financed by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration and executed by the Department of Lighthouses and Lightships, considerable planning and progress has been made. The following aids are sanctioned and are in the process of being set up.

Aerial Bay (DIGLIPUR)

- (1) A lighted Beacon at Brush Islet.

Stewart Sound (MAYABUNDER)

- (1) Lighted Beacon at Orchid Island.
- (2) Lighted Beacon at Squire Rock.
- (3) Lighted Buoy for the harbour.

Elphinstone Harbour

- (1) Lighted buoys.

Port Meadows

- (1) A lighted buoy for Inchkeith wreck.

Port Blair

- (1) Leading lights at Atlanta Point.

Nicobar

- (1) A lighted beacon at Malacca South.
- (2) A lighted beacon at Malacca North.
- (3) A lighted beacon at Hog Point.
- (4) A lighted beacon at Observation.
- (5) A lighted beacon at Malacca Jetty Head.

The following local aids are in the process of being sanctioned.

Aerial Bay

- (1) A lighted buoy off Rocky Point.

Rangat Bay

- (1) A lighted beacon at Coxon Point.

Havelock Island

- (1) A lighted beacon at Stove Point.

Elphinstone Harbour

- (1) Lighted Beacon at Cape Port Man.
- (2) Lighted Beacon at North-West tip of N. Passage Island.
- (3) Lighted beacon at West side of N. Passage Island.

Port Blair

- (1) Lighted beacon at Command Point.
- (2) Lighted beacon at Dundas Point.

Campbell Bay

- (1) Leading lights in the harbour.

3.27. The following additional navigational aids are being recommended for inclusion in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

- (1) Sectorised Beacon at the North-West tip of Ross Island.
- (2) 2 sets of transit marks at Chatham Jetty.
- (3) 2 sets of transit marks at Haddo Wharf.
- (4) Lighted Beacon at Bombooka.
- (5) Lighted Beacon at Campbell Bay.
- (6) Lighted beacon buoy at Sunk Rock C' Bay.
- (7) 4 Nos. unlighted buoys at East Bay Katchal.
- (8) 2 Nos. lighted beacons at Nancowrie.

3.28. The Committee note that the lighthouses, as at present available in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Islands. The Committee agree with the views of the Administration of the Islands that "for the fast turnover of the ships and to ensure maximum utilisation of the shipping capacity, it is essential that the navigational aids are installed to such an optimum extent that the ships are able to call at, or

move out of, any port at any hour of the day or night." The Committee are glad to note that certain steps are being taken to instal a few navigational devices and certain proposals have been put forward for inclusion in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Committee hope that this will improve the position to some extent.

BUTA SINGH

Chairman,

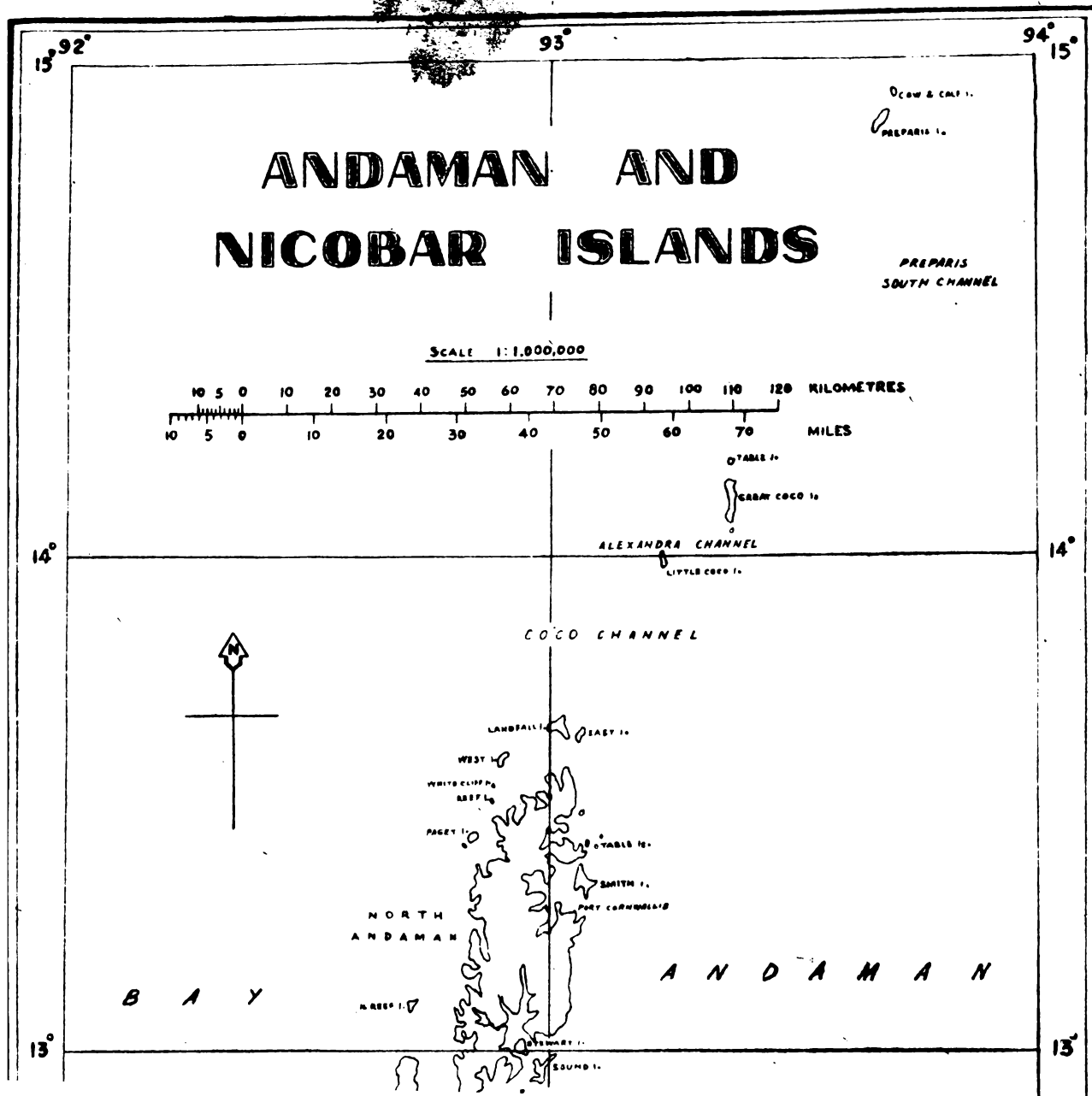
Committee on the Welfare of
Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes.

NEW DELHI;

August 9, 1973

Sravana 18, 1895 (Saka).

APPENDIX - I
(Vide Para 1.1 of the Report)



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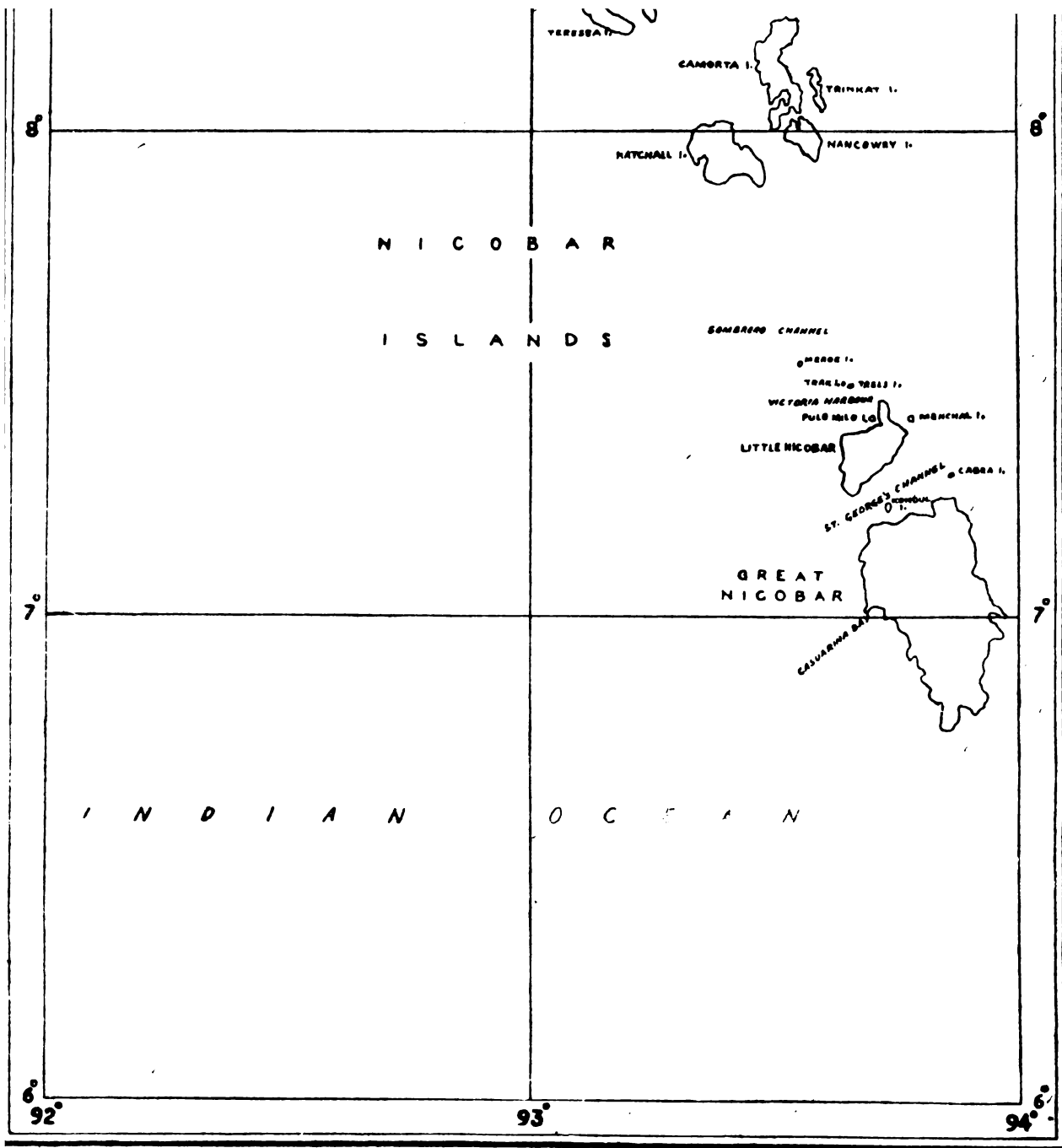
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TILANCHONG I.



SOURCE: SURVEY OF INDIA MAPS

(Taken from the Report of the Inter Departmental Team on Accelerated Development Programme for Andaman and Nicobar Islands - Ministry of Rehabilitation, Govt. of India.)

APPENDIX II

(Vide para 1.5 of the Report)

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Island-Wise Population—Scheduled Tribes according to 1971 Census

	Population	Male	Female
Total	18,102	9,320	8,782
Strait Island	19	12	7
South Andaman Island	4	3	1
Kyd Island	1		1
Little Andaman Island	112	59	53
Car Nicobar Island	12,338	6,282	6,056
Chowra Island	1,323	687	636
Teressa Island	729	396	333
Bambooka Island	59	27	32
Katchal Island	1,239	673	566
Nancowrie Island	572	324	248
Kamorta Island	915	468	447
Trinket Island	150	75	75
Pulomillow	66	35	31
Little Nicobar Island	197	99	98
Kondal Island	110	57	53
Great Nicobar Island	268	123	145

APPENDIX III

(Vide para 2.1 of the Report)

Guidelines Laid down by Planning Commission and Approved by the National Development Council in Respect of Welfare of Backward Classes.

The Directive Principles of the Constitution lay down that the State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular, of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and exploitation. In the past, the Five Year Plans have attempted some measures in this direction. So far, major programmes for development of backward classes have been in the Centrally sponsored sector. These include post-matric scholarships, girls' hostels, tribal development blocks, research and training, and improvement in living and working conditions of scavengers. In State Plans, most of the programmes are distributive in content and are in the form of grants-in-aid and subsidies to individuals. The schemes for economic improvement of backward classes are largely in the nature of aids to individuals or purchase of agricultural implements, bullocks, fertilisers, land reclamation and for taking up village industries and handicrafts.

2. Experience shows that most of these programmes, in the absence of adequate financial backing and organisational support, had little impact on the poverty, educational backwardness and social disabilities of backward classes. Allocations under welfare of backward classes which were meant to be supplementary to the outlays in the general sectors of development have, in fact, substituted the latter. Not infrequently, while programmes and policies are advocated on behalf of the poor, they are not the actual beneficiaries. The benefits often do not reach those for whom they are intended. In the case of area based programmes such as the tribal development blocks which have been taken up since the Second Plan, the impact has not been satisfactory on account of limited areas covered and the absence of substantial investment on such programmes as minor irrigation, development of communications and electrification.

3. At present development programmes in agriculture, animal husbandry, village and small scale industries are not formulated to cater to the special needs of the backward classes and the tribal areas. Nor are the resources available in the supplemental sector of backward classes development sufficient to make up for the deficiency. Besides, organisational machinery and administration are ill-equipped for the task.

4. In the Fifth Plan the strategy of development of backward classes places greater emphasis on the role of the general sector in providing major developmental programmes. The public consumption programmes, specially in regard to minimum needs, will involve eligibility conditions which will give high priority to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and nomadic tribes. Programmes of the general sector which include agriculture, land reforms, village and small scale industries, training programmes for employment in semi-skilled professions, and communications will accord high priority to development of backward classes. Education, economic development and social legislation programmes will be directed towards improvement in quality of life of these communities, enabling them over a period of time to reach reasonable levels of development.

5. In the past, the benefits of development both in the general sector and especially in the backward classes sector have not percolated to the lower section of these communities. It has become necessary to identify the more backward among the backward classes with a view to taking to them programmes covering economic development and the minimum needs.

6. The most deprived families among the backward classes will not afford the basic services required for normal growth and development of children. Accordingly, minimal integrated child care services such as supplementary nutrition and immunisation will be provided for reducing high infant mortality and thus eventually promote the adoption of the small family norm and health development of the young.

7. In addition to these promotional efforts, special programmes to encourage talented students from among the backward communities and coaching schemes to help them to increase their competitive ability will be necessary. From middle school onwards efforts will be directed towards suitable career planning and guidance with a view to promoting gainful employment.

8. In the social services sector, efforts for the improvement of working and living conditions of those engaged in unclean occupations will receive priority. Connected with this is the need to take measures for removing untouchability through proper enforcement of the Untouchability (Offences) Act and promotion of awareness for the removal of social disabilities.

9. Although the area-based tribal development block programmes have been undertaken, experience shows that the block area was for too small a unit for large investments in infrastructure. Programmes of communications, minor irrigation, marketing and higher education could not be taken up with the tribal block funds alone. In future, therefore, a larger flow of funds from various sectors of development will be directed to meet the requirements of each specific area. This will be based on a carefully drawn up area plan.

10. Apart from integrated area planning for the tribal areas, there are small pockets of tribal concentrations throughout the country which require attention. The problems of development of these pockets will have to be taken into consideration while detailed multi-level planning is done in each State. Programmes for denotified tribes would aim at their rehabilitation.

11. In the past, research programmes in the welfare of backward classes sector have laid greater stress on tribal problems. The problems of Scheduled Castes and denotified tribes have tended to be neglected. In the Fifth Plan, research would be sponsored in a systematic way concerning the problems of these communities also. Training programmes implemented so far were meant for the personnel working among tribals at district and block levels. In the Fifth Plan personnel would have to be trained to deal with specific problems of these communities such as social disabilities of Scheduled Castes and denotified tribes.

APPENDIX IV

(Vide para 2.18 of the Report)

Andaman and Nicobar Islands—Statement showing the outlay proposed in the Approach to the Fifth Plan under different sectors.

TENTATIVE OUTLAY PROPOSED FOR THE FIFTH FIVE YEAR PLAN

I. <i>Agriculture Programmes</i>	(Rs. in lakhs)
Agriculture	400·000
Minor Irrigation	50·000
Soil Conservation	200·000
Animal Husbandry Dairying and Milk Supply	100·000
Forest	1362·000
Fisheries	338·000
Agriculture Programme	2450·000
II. <i>Cooperation and Community Development</i>	
Cooperation	100·000
Community Development	30·000
Panchayat	10·000
Cooperation and Community Development	140·000
III. <i>Power</i>	60·000
IV. <i>Industries</i>	45·000
V. <i>Transport and Communications</i>	
Roads	945·000
Road Transport	80·000
Ports and Harbours	428·000
Shipping	300·000
Tourism	100·000
Transport and Communications	1853·000

VI. *Social Services*

Education	487·000
Health	130·000
Watersupply and Sanitation	96·000
Housing	40·000
Welfare of Backward Classes	18·000
Social Welfare	3·000
Labour and Labour Welfare	3·000
Social Services	<u>777·000</u>

VII. *Miscellaneous*

Statistics	2·000
Information and Publicity	10·000
Local Bodies	20·000
Government Press	8·000
Miscellaneous	<u>40·000</u>
Grand Total	<u>5365·000</u>
Centrally Sponsored Schemes	68·000
Central Schemes	611·000

APPENDIX V

(Vide para 2.60 of the Report)

Salient features of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Cooperative Societies Regulation, 1973.

1. Government liability shall be limited to the share capital contributed by Government.
2. Maximum share holding by individual members shall be restricted to 1/5 of the total share capital or Rs. 10,000/- whichever is less.
3. The Registrar on his own motion may register an amendment of byelaw after consulting the financing agency.
4. The Regulation provides for amalgamation and division of societies.
5. Specific provision has been made for admitting nominal or associate members.
6. The Registrar may supersede the managing committee which persistently makes default or is negligent in the performance of its duties imposed on it by this Regulation, the Rules and the byelaws, and appoint one or more administrators.
7. The Registrar may secure possession of the records and property of a society by applying to a Magistrate who may by a warrant, authorise a police officer to seize the records and properties.
8. Subject to prior claim of the Government any debt or outstanding demand due to a Cooperative Society shall be a first charge upon the crops and other agricultural produce, cattle etc.
9. There will be a charge on immovable property of members borrowing loans from certain societies.
10. The Chief Commissioner may exempt societies from the payment of certain taxes, fees, and duties like land revenue, taxes on agriculture income, taxes on sale or purchase of goods.

11. A member may execute an agreement in such form as may be prescribed and the employers or the disbursing officers are empowered to deduct cooperative dues from the salary and wages of members failing which the society shall be entitled to recover any such amount from such employer or disbursing officer.

12. The Registrar of the persons authorised to make inspections shall have power to take books, vouchers, securities, stock and other property of a society into custody in the event of serious irregularities discovered during inspection.

13. The Registrar may of his own motion make an order directing the winding up of a Cooperative Society.

14. Registrar or the persons empowered by him shall have the powers of civil court for certain purposes.

15. An appeal against the decision, award or order of the Registrar shall be to the Chief Commissioner and in other cases to the Registrar.

16. The Chief Commissioner may either *suo motu* or on application call for and examine the records of any proceedings in which no appeal lies to the Chief Commissioner.

17. Furnishing of false returns of information, disobeying summons or orders, withholding information lawfully required, failure to produce books, accounts, records etc. will be offences punishable with imprisonment upto 6 months or upto Rs. 500|- or both.

18. Punishment for offences not otherwise expressly provided for may extend upto a fine of Rs. 50|-.

19. No court shall have any jurisdiction in respect of registration of a society, amendment of its byelaws, supersession of a committee, arbitration and liquidation of a cooperative society.

20. The Registrar, Arbitrator, Liquidator and persons entitled to inspect, audit or hold inquiry shall have powers of a civil court in respect of summoning and enforcing the attendance of any persons and examining him on oath, requiring the discovery and production of any document, proof of facts by affidavits and issuing commissions for examination of witness.

APPENDIX VI

(Vide para 5 of Introduction)

Summary of Conclusions|Recommendations contained in the Report

Sl. No.	Reference to Para No. in the Report	Summary of Conclusions Recommendations
1	2	3
1	1.11	The Committee agree that the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands are backward areas and concerted efforts have therefore to be made for improving the socio-economic conditions of all the inhabitants. The Committee would, however, like the Government to recognise the Scheduled Caste Tribe migrants to these Islands as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, as the case may be, for the purposes of articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution of India.
2.	1.14	The Committee feel that an independent administrative set-up is necessary to deal with the varied and complex problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes effectively. They, therefore, suggest that a separate Department, under the charge of a Director, Social and Tribal Welfare, be created and all programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes be dealt with in that Department.
3.	1.18	The Committee suggest that the composition of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee and the Chief Commissioner's Advisory Committee should be made more broad-based by giving adequate representation to Andamanese, Onges and

Shompens. They further suggest that the meetings of both of these committees should be held more frequently in order to create a sense of involvement among the tribals in improving the socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants of the Islands.

- 4 1.22 The Committee visualise that Voluntary Organisations can play a vital role in the settlement of Scheduled Tribes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee, therefore, are of the opinion that dedicated Voluntary Organisations should be encouraged to work among the tribals in the Islands. In the opinion of the Committee, it would be better if the social workers are drawn from amongst the various tribes themselves as the tribals are more likely to listen to their own compeers.
- 5 1.23 The Committee also suggest that the work of the Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh should be reviewed periodically so as to ensure that the achievements made are commensurate with the expenditure incurred.
- 6 2.12 The Committee regret to note that there have been huge shortfalls in expenditure from Plan to Plan. The Committee need hardly emphasise that unless the entire Plan allocations are gainfully utilised, the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes are unlikely to improve. The Committee urge that the factors, which hampered the utilisation of Plan allocations in the previous years, should be identified and such corrective measures as may be deemed necessary, taken, with a view to ensure that the funds to be allocated in the Fifth Five Year Plan are fully utilised. The Committee hope that the creation of the post of Director, Social and Tribal Welfare will help improve the situation.
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- 7 2.13 The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs|Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration to ensure that the benefits intended to flow to the Scheduled Castes|Tribes from the general sector funds do actually flow for their benefit.
- 8 2.19 The Committee have noted the Plan schemes started in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to improve the socio-economic conditions of the Scheduled Tribes. They are also in agreement with the strategy of the Fifth Plan wherein proper emphasis will be laid on Transport and Communication and Social Services. However, taking into consideration the huge shortfalls in expenditure on implementation of each of the schemes, the Committee feel that more concerted efforts are needed for the proper and full implementation of the welfare schemes. The Committee, therefore, recommend that all the welfare schemes may be evaluated objectively so as to find ways and means to improve their working. The Committee need hardly stress that to quicken the pace of upliftment of the Scheduled Castes|Tribes, all the schemes started for their welfare have to be made result-oriented.
- 9 2.28 The Committee are constrained to observe that even after 25 years of independence, it has not been possible to establish adequate contacts with 'Jarawas' and 'Sentinalese' and they are said to be hostile to non-tribals and others. The Committee strongly urge that a perspective plan to win over these tribes be chalked out and implemented on a priority basis. As a part of this plan, frequent expeditions should be sent to the Islands inhabited by these tribes. It would be better if social workers from amongst the tribes themselves are associated with these expeditions in an increasing number, as they may be able to make more import on the 'Jarawas' and 'Sentinalese'.
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1	2	3
10	2.42	<p>The Committee need hardly stress that education is the most effective instrument in raising the social and economic status of the Scheduled Tribes in the Islands. The Committee suggest that more and more Scheduled Tribe students should be encouraged to take to education. They further suggest that special syllabus and curriculum of studies be laid down according to the needs of the tribal students. The Committee also feel that special techniques for imparting education to the tribals be worked out and teachers from amongst the tribals themselves encouraged to take up the teaching profession.</p>
11	2.43	<p>So far¹ as the education of girls is concerned, the Committee would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine whether Ashram type schools could be opened in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to encourage education among the tribal girls.</p>
12	2.44	<p>The Committee urge that the question of increase in the quantum of scholarships should be settled immediately as the Scheduled Caste/Tribe students are facing financial difficulties in view of the enormous increase in the cost of living.</p>
13	2.45	<p>The Committee agree with the views of the Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, that the local college, which is at present affiliated to the Punjab University, should be brought under the scheme of independent or autonomous colleges. They would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine the matter in consultation with the University Grants Commission immediately.</p>
14	2.46	<p>The Committee would like the Administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to find out ways and means for encouraging more and more Scheduled Caste/Tribe students to avail of</p>

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the hostel facilities. As and when the situation demands, necessary reservations may be provided for the Scheduled Caste|Tribe students in the hostels run by the Administration.

- 15 2.54 The Committee regret to note that there is not even a single Scheduled Tribe officer in Class I or Class II services of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration. They are also unhappy to note that the representation of the Scheduled Tribes in Class III and Class IV posts is only 2.2 per cent and 3.4 per cent respectively against 22.5 per cent posts reserved for them. The Committee would like the Administration to take such measures as may be necessary to ensure the filling up of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Tribes by candidates from these communities.
- 16 2.55 The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine, in consultation with the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, Directorate-General of Employment and Training and the Indian Institutes of Technology whether the percentage of marks required for admission in the technical institutes could be further reduced by 5 per cent in case of Scheduled Tribe students from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- 17 2.56 The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs to examine what steps should be taken to encourage the Scheduled Tribe students for joining the Pre-examination Training Centres set up at various places so as to improve their chances of entry into the all-India Administrative and other Services.
- 18 2.57 The Committee note that there has been delay in the setting-up of the Employment Exchange in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee hope that the Employment Exchange would start functioning in the Islands soon.

1	2	3
19	2.61	<p>The Committee note that Cooperative Marketing Societies are functioning satisfactorily. They would, however, suggest that stringent measures should be taken to prevent the possibility of malpractices in the running of the Co-operative Societies.</p>
20	2.74	<p>The Committee note that out of the total area of 8,293 Sq. Kms. of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Forests occupy as much as 7,466 Sq. Kms. i.e. about 90 per cent of the total area. The Committee need hardly stress that these forests, possessing valuable timber of commercial importance, are vital for the economic development of the Islands and they constitute a national asset. The Committee consider that the efforts put in, and the results achieved so far, in the direction of forest extraction and utilisation are meagre as compared to the vast forest resources available in the Islands. The Committee would therefore recommend the setting up of a Forest Corporation for the proper extraction utilisation and regeneration of the forests in the Islands.</p>
21	2.75	<p>The Committee also feel that the Central Forestry Wing of the Ministry of Agriculture can be of great help in the systematic development of forests by promoting necessary infra-structure i.e. improved communications, modern logging equipments and other techniques in forest operations, etc. on the one hand and by introducing plantations of suitable economic and industrial species and bringing the forest area under scientific management after proper survey, demarcation, and enumeration of forests on the other.</p>
22	2.76	<p>The Committee have no doubt that the Scheduled Tribes will continue to have special privileges from the forests as have been conferred upon them by the various Government Notifications G.S.Rs., etc. in force at present.</p>

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23	2.78	The Committee are of the opinion that by the very nature of the geographic position and the number of Islands comprising the Union Territory, it is not appropriate to apply the same criteria for starting a Tribal Development Block in these Islands as on the mainland. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Tribal Development Blocks should be started in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, wherever the concentration of tribal population is more than 50 per cent.
24	2.88	The Committee would like the Administration to draw up a scheme for allotment of land, especially to those Scheduled Tribes, who are leading a nomadic way of life, on a priority basis. The Committee further recommend that settlements for such Scheduled Tribes should also be established urgently. They also suggest that these Scheduled Tribes should be provided with necessary inputs for agriculture after allotment of land to them.
25	2.91	The Committee suggest that a few model houses may be constructed by Government where there is a large concentration of tribal population and efforts should be made to induce the tribals to live in such houses.
26	2.98	The Committee need hardly point out that on account of the great distances between the mainland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Islands <i>inter se</i> , the provision of adequate medical facilities assumes considerable importance. The Committee would like the Government to pay special attention for the provision of adequate medical facilities in the remote Islands, where they do not exist at present. The Committee also recommend that mobile health units may be set up to cater to the needs of distant Islands.

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27	2.99	The Committee regret to observe that a number of posts of medical officers in the various departments are lying vacant for quite some time now. The Committee suggest that the position may be reviewed at a high level so that all the posts of medical officers are filled without any further loss of time.
28	2.104	The Committee note the steps being taken to augment the supply of drinking water in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are unhappy to learn that the target of digging of 158 pucca wells during the Fourth Five Year Plan will not be completed and only about 80 wells will be dug owing to restricted outlay under rural water supply. The Committee feel that adequate funds should have been provided automatically once the targets had been fixed for the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Committee hope that adequate funds will be provided during the Fifth Five Year Plan for the purpose.
29	2.110	The Committee need hardly emphasise the importance of roads in the development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee note with satisfaction the various schemes taken up for the construction of roads in the Islands. They hope that by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan, all the villages in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be linked by roads. The Committee recommend that, as a special case, the Government should agree to the linking by road even those villages whose population is less than 1500 but more than 500.
30	2.111	The Committee also recommend that completion of the Andaman Trunk Road should be given top priority and efforts made to complete it within one or two years.

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31	2.124	The Committee would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to conduct a comprehensive survey in collaboration with Ministry of Shipping and Transport and the Shipping Corporation of India to determine, both short-term and long-term, requirements of ships, ferries, jetties, harbours, etc. keeping in view the traffic which is likely to increase over the years so that the shipping and ferry services could be improved in a systematic and phased manner.
32	2.125	The Committee also suggest that complete control of the shipping and ferry services should be taken over by the Shipping Corporation of India as early as possible in order to improve the operational efficiency and to increase the capacity and frequency of transport services.
33	2.128	The Committee have noted the position regarding provision of direct air services between Calcutta Port Blair and Madras Port Blair. The Committee hope that a phased programme for the development of air services between the mainland and the Islands will be chalked out and implemented as early as possible.
34	2.132	The Committee stress the necessity of developing postal and telecommunication facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which are far away from the mainland. The Committee are glad to note that certain schemes for the expansion of postal and telecommunication facilities have been undertaken by the Administration. They hope that it will be possible for the Administration to link all the inhabited Islands by postal and telecommunication facilities as early as possible.
35	2.137	The Committee note the small-scale and handicrafts industries set up in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands so far. The Committee visualise that there is vast scope for the deve-

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lopment of forest-based and cottage industries in the Islands. The Committee feel that such industries can be effectively developed to provide employment, especially to the tribals, as also to improve the economic condition of the inhabitants of the Islands. They recommend that a phased programme should be drawn up, and implemented, to develop the forest-based and cottage industries.

36 2.138 As regards poultry development in the Islands, the Committee are unhappy to be informed that instead of taking steps to avoid losses in running a poultry farm, it was closed down. They, however, note that a scheme "Development of Poultry Farming" has been initiated in the Fourth Five Year Plan. They would like the Administration to ensure proper implementation of this scheme.

37 3.6 The Committee are glad to note that a Fishermen Training Centre is being set up at Port Blair to impart training to the fishermen in modern methods of fishing. They suggest that the services of a few trained teachers from the Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives, Cochin|Madras may be requisitioned to train the fishermen in the proposed training centre.

38 3.7 The Committee also suggest that mechanised fishing, both in-shore and off-shore, should be introduced in the Islands as early as possible. Efforts should also be made to introduce deep sea fishing. The Committee would like the Deep Sea Fishing Organisation and the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute to complete the surveys being conducted by them as early as possible, so that a comprehensive programme could be chalked out and implemented for the development of fisheries in the Islands.

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39	3.8	The Committee would also like the Administration to examine what measures could be taken to induce the tribals and other fishermen to take to mechanised fishing.
40	3.15	The Committee note that certain schemes involving an outlay of Rs. 100 lakhs for the development of tourism in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the Fifth Five Year Plan have been proposed. The Committee hope that necessary funds will be provided for the purpose and the schemes properly implemented.
41	3.16	The Committee consider that the decision to establish a Directorate of Tourism, Information and Publicity in the Islands is a step in right direction and they hope that the Directorate will be set up as early as possible. The Committee also suggest that in order to attract tourists from the mainland, tourist literature on Andaman and Nicobar Islands should be brought out from time to time and given due publicity.
42	3.17	The Committee endorse the views of the Chief Commissioner of Andaman and Nicobar Islands that the travelling expenses between the mainland and the Islands as also inter-Island should be kept to the minimum if necessary, by subsidising the Indian Airlines and the Shipping Corporation of India, so that they are within the reach of an average tourist.
43	3.120	The Committee are unhappy to be informed that there is a tendency towards increase in crime in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee would like the Administration to take effective steps to curb this tendency. They would further like the Administration to take immediate steps to get the police boats, <i>M. V. Subhas</i> and <i>M. V. Jawahar</i> repaired so as to en-

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sure greater mobility of the police in cases of emergency. The Committee would also like the Ministry of Home Affairs|Administration to examine the question of opening Police Stations in other important Islands and providing the Police with greater means of mobility.

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3.28

The Committee note that the lighthouse, as at present available in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the Islands. The Committee agree with the views of the Administration of the Islands that "for the fast turnover of the ships and to ensure maximum utilisation of the shipping capacity, it is essential that the navigational aids are installed to such an optimum extent that the ships are able to call at, or move out of, any port at any hour of the day or night." The Committee are glad to note that certain steps are being taken to instal a few navigational devices and certain proposals have been put forward for inclusion in the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Committee hope that this will improve the position to some extent.
