

The project will generate employment potential for 71,100 mandays of skilled workers and 6,30,000 mandays of unskilled workers directly.

1.9 When the above litmus test is rigidly applied, the potential of the Island for sometime to come is much less than what is commonly assumed. But even then, it is certain that the present level of working in the Islands is far below the optimum.

1.10 There is urgent need to attain optimum level of exploitation of these forests for the following reasons:

i) The natural stand consists mostly of mature and over-mature trees and therefore, the gross volume is registering a negative increment due to death and decay of trees.

ii) Although various constraints have chuded the marketability of Andaman timbers, it is well known that the country and the world at large is short of timber. By over coming these constraints it should be possible for these markets to absorb Andaman timbers.

1.11 The National Commission on Agriculture, in its Interim Report on Production Forestry - Man-made Forest (1972) has carried out projections of