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COMMITTEE OF ANTHROPOLOGISTS  
AND THE SHOMPEN SITUATIONS

PART ONE

During the visit of the Prime Minister to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, in March, 1980, a reference was made to resumption of construction on 23 Km. stretch between 87 Km. and 110 Km. points of the Andaman Trunk Road and construction of north-south and east-west roads in the Great Nicobar Islands (Project-Yatrik). It appears that the Prime Minister felt that in so far as the question of the 23 Km stretch of the Andaman Trunk Road in South Andaman Islands was concerned an in-depth study of its likely effects on the Jarawa tribe should be examined by a high-powered team of anthropologists and its recommendations submitted. Accordingly, the Government of India in the Home Ministry constituted the following committee of anthropologists to go into the two questions:

- (i) Professor S.C.Sina  
Professor of Social Anthropology  
Centre for studies in Social  
Science, Calcutta. .... Chairman
- ii. Shri H.K.Bakshit,  
Director,  
Anthropological Survey of India ..... Member
- iii. Dr. N.Patnaik,  
Director,  
Tribal and Harijan Research-cum-  
Training Institute,  
Bhubaneswar, Orissa. .... Member
- iv. Dr. Bhupinder Singh,  
Joint Secretary (TB,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,  
New Delhi. .... Member-Secretary

The term of reference of the Committee was in depth study of the likely effects of (a, construction and use of Andaman Trunk Road on the Jarwa Tribe and (b, taking up of roads in the Great Nicobar Islands, on the Shompen.

2. The Committee held two meetings on 18 September 1981 and 15 October 1981 at New Delhi. At these two meetings, the Committee was assisted by the following officers:-

- (1) Shri R.V.Pillai,  
Joint Secretary (Union Territory & Incharge  
of Andaman and Nicobar Administration,  
In Ministry of Home Affairs,
- (2) Shri R.C.A Jain,  
Deputy Secretary (Andaman and Nicobar and  
Lakshadweep,  
Ministry of Home Affairs,
- (3) Shri P.C.Bhasin ,  
Additional Director-General,  
Ministry of Shipping and Transport (R&W,
- (4) Shri G.M.Hegde,  
Chief Engineer,  
Ministry of Shipping and Transport (R&W,
- (5) Miss Deepa Jain,  
Deputy Secretary,  
Ministry of Defence.