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land instead of 500 sq. mtrs. as proposed by the Administration. Minister of State for Home Affairs pointed out that there was no specific mention on the problems of the rehabilitation in the Supreme Court order and it was on humanitarian grounds that the proposal was framed. The major difficulty in allotting more land is the restriction on utilization of the 34,000 hectares of revenue land that was 'deemed forest'. Minister for Environment & Forests indicated reservations on regularization of post-1978 encroachers. Member, Planning Commission felt that as per the Forest Conservation Act, it should be possible to go up to 1980.

23. On a query by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission on what relief was possible, given the Supreme Court order, it was mentioned by Minister for Environment & Forests that the Administration would need to go before the Supreme Court and seek to get 'deemed forest' denotified, in case availability of land was the main bottleneck. Member of Parliament, A & N Islands also suggested a Green Army be set up from the displaced people to protect the forests. Minister of Tribal Affairs suggested that a representative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs should be included in the Central Empowered Committee set up by the Supreme Court in this regard, keeping in view the interests of the tribal population. It was decided that Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Law Ministry would form a group, along with the A&N Administration, to decide in what manner the case may be presented before Supreme Court to seek to get 'deemed forest' land available for resettlement. The group should go deep into the matter and examine all implications of the Supreme Court Judgement. Minister for Environment & Forests urged that such a committee should not be a precedent in other matters.

(Action: Chief Secretary, A & N Administration)

Agenda Item No. 5

Employment Generation and Sustainable Growth: Development of Thrust Sectors - Tourism & Civil Aviation and Fisheries:

24. Regarding the agenda on Tourism, Administrator, Lakshadweep requested for the creation of proper tourism infrastructure and inclusion of Lakshadweep in the proposed High Powered Task Force on Tourism. Minister of State for Tourism pointed out that CRZ regulations presently tended to discourage expansion of tourism activity, and provided a disincentive for private sector investors. These needed to be looked into. He felt that innovative approaches such as making Port Blair a cricketing destination and creating infrastructure for a Flying Club may be worth considering. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission suggested that the feasibility of operating sea planes may be considered. Commander-in-Chief, A & N Command felt that it should be possible to earmark specific islands for eco-friendly development to attract high value