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prepared for four forest divisions, two have been approved and the balance are being considered by the Supreme Court. ADG, MoEF also informed that their office in Orissa, services the A&N Islands and the number of available officers therein are inadequate to meet the requirements of the islands. MoEF was requested to look into the matter of fulfilling deficiency of officers.

(Action: MoEF)

19. Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, explained the issue on non-availability of land for taking up development activities and rehabilitating the encroachers after the Supreme Court Orders of 1996 and 2002, in which the dictionary meaning of 'Forest' was adopted and 15 % of revenue land was added as forest land. He informed that every month he is required to file an affidavit with the Supreme Court on the efforts made to remove the encroachers from forest land. Deputy Chairman, felt that views of the Administration on this issue, indicating the past problems on non-availability of land, which got complicated post tsunami, may be taken up for consideration at the IDA meeting.

(Action: Planning Commission and Andaman & Nicobar Administration)

20. Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence, highlighted that Border Roads Organization (BRO) had been asked to build 36.5 km of road in Campbell Bay, out of which only 10 km road had been built so far. 340 men of BRO have been deputed to the islands since July 2005 and are awaiting clearances to build the remaining 26.5 km road length. Chief Secretary indicated that this matter is being pursued with MoEF as this road is an essential requirement for the A&N Administration. He pointed out that Phase I clearances have been approved, Phase II have been submitted and Phase III will be submitted within 3 months. Principal Adviser, suggested that MoEF and Ministry of Defence, may settle the matter on Net Present Value Certification.

(Action: A&N Administration, MoEF, Ministry of Defence)

Agriculture

21. Member (SH) enquired about the distribution of organic manure which, contrary to recommendations of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation on A&N post Tsunami, had been obtained from the mainland and was not generic to the islands. Lt. Governor, ANI stated that, so far, no problems had been faced on utilization of manure. However at one point of time, Neem Cake had arrived in a large quantity and ideally it should have come in a phased manner. He felt that the capacity of the Agriculture Department of ANI needs to be strengthened by appointing a senior technical officer to take follow-up action on the recommendations of MSSRF report. Member (VLC) suggested that assistance of Central Agriculture Research Institute (CARI), ANI should be obtained by the A & N Administration.

(Action: A&N Administration)

22. Chief Secretary pointed out that approval of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying was awaited on the proposal to provide 100% subsidy for