

L. (b) MISCELLANEOUS (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

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<p>43.</p>	<p>Providing alternate Land to all whose land has been permanently submerged after the tsunami /suitable relief package in lieu there of:</p> <p>A&NI Admn</p>	<p>The A & N Administration has been seized of the issue regarding providing of alternate land to those farmers whose land is permanently submerged due to earthquake and Tsunami occurred on 26-12-2004. Since revenue land was not available, it was decided to identify forest land in various pockets in order to provide alternate land to the farmers affected by permanent submergence. Accordingly pockets of reserved forest land were located.</p> <p>The total submerged area is 1387 hectares and adding 10% additional land for common purpose (which comes to 139 Hectares), the total requirement of the land would be 1526 Hectares.</p> <p>The I.A. in the Apex Court (now before CEC) is to permit diversion of this much forest land (based on latest assessment) in order to provide the same as alternate land to the farmers besides keeping areas for common utility purposes such as roads etc.</p> <p>If forest land to the extent of 1526 hectares is released (<i>this includes the submerged land plus 10% extra land for common utilities</i>), the Administration will have to pay NPV @ Rs 9, 39,000/- per hectare. (Rupees 143 Crore approximately).</p> <p>(i) Alternatively, those farmers who may settle for compensation instead of alternate allotment could be offered some compensation. This would definitely reduce the requirement of forest land.</p> <p>(ii) It is suggested that instead of de-reserving the forest land, the amount of NPV i.e Rs 9,39,000/- per hectare could be offered to the affected farmers.</p> <p>(iii) Total submerged land held under agriculture classification with the farmers is 1304.60 hectares. Therefore, an amount of Rs. 122.50 crores would be required.</p> <p>(iv) The persons left out would be those whose land is submerged but is held under non-agricultural tenancy. The area in such cases is 83.20 hectares. Pockets of revenue land could be identified to allot such persons land as house sites in lieu of their allotted land having been submerged. In case sufficient revenue land is not available, 'Deemed forest land' / Forest land in small pockets could be de-reserved. Such persons could also be offered the compensation amount at the same rate as given to the farmers.</p>	<p>It was decided that in availability of land, Administration may pursue a proposal for providing cash compensation to those farmers who had lost their land due to tsunami and earthquake in 2004. A&NI Administration to send a proposal to MHA as early as possible. Department of expenditure suggested that the issue may be examined during the 12th five Year Plan exercise.</p>
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