

		<p>practicable for the welfare of the local people as well as holistic and sustainable development of islands. The recommendations of the Babu Report can be accepted; however, there are certain angles that need to be enhanced.</p> <p>4. Although Ministry of Environment &amp; Forests is in agreement broadly, the recommendations given by C.R.Babu Committee Report on various issues related to ANI such as land uses for development or ecological preservation, ways and means to meet scarce drinking water supply, treatment of encroachers and influx of population, approach to the dwindling tribal groups – Jarawas, Shompens, Onges, Andaman Trunk Road, nature of tourism to be developed etc., the Ministry at this stage needs to emphasize the necessity to address the domestic requirement of NTFPs and timber of the local people especially the tribal people.</p> <p>5. The recommendations on each point from MoEF as well as views of other Ministries, A&amp;N Administration, etc. have already been given in the enclosed tabulated matrix. However, the comments on each of the five major categories of the recommendations of the C.R.Babu Committee are mentioned below:</p> <p>i) The Ministry of Environment &amp; Forests is in broad agreement with the recommendations of Shekhar Singh Commission and also C.R. Babu Committee with respect to management of Andaman forests. Out of the total geographical area of 8249 sq. km., the forest area is 7171 sq. km. Out of this, Ministry is in full agreement with both the Committees that the area under national park, sanctuaries, tribal reserves, which is 4351 sq. km, should be left as sacrosanct and no forestry operation and extraction whatsoever will be carried out by the Government. However, the Ministry of Environment &amp; Forests is of the view that if the local tribals are using minor forest produce or any other forest produce within their tribal reserve area for their own domestic consumption, there should be no embargo on it. There is also an area of 615 sq. km mangroves which has been left out of any kind of harvesting. After this area being excluded, there is only 2205 sq. km of forest area in Andaman of which 1110 sq. km has so far been worked and 1095 sq. km forest has not been worked hitherto. This 2205 sq. km area is available for scientific forest management. The Shekhar Singh Committee and the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that working of the forest should be limited to the so far worked 1110 sq. km of forest area and no harvesting of timber, etc. should be done in unworked forest areas. So far Government of Andaman &amp; Nicobar is following this prescription and Hon'ble Supreme Court direction. No Working Plan is being prepared in unworked forest area of 1095 sq. km. MoEF is of the view that as regards non timber forest produce (NTFP) are concerned, this is a big issue of livelihood for the local people, tribal or otherwise, hence the available forest area of 2205 sq km should be used for non timber forest produce extraction by the local</p>	
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