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with more appropriate word/expression such as 'robust' used for the health of Shompens in Item No. 4(e) of the draft etc.

- (e) The title of Item No. 4 (f) of the draft Policy - 'Shompens vs. Nicobarese' may be replaced with "Shompens and the Nicobarese".
- (f) Since the relationship between Shompens and Nicobarese is symbiotic and not as each others adversary, the point 6(n) need to be re-drafted so as to convey that the Shompens have a dynamic relationship with the Nicobarese and attention has to be paid to such interactions and the interaction points. It also needs to be added that the A & N Administration will keep watch on it and if needed, will develop protocols in this regard to be designed in consultation with by AnSI, ICMR and other qualified institutions. The knowledge of Nicobarese about Shompens is of great relevance and it should be used for the benefit of Shompens. This issue also needs to be added in the draft policy suitably.
- (g) The existing paragraphs on health related issues need to be revised.
- (h) The Policy should be reviewed after every five years, instead of ten years as mentioned in the Policy.
- (i) 'A Plan of Action' is need to be articulated and added to the Policy to realize the objectives of the Policy in a time bound manner.
- (j) The Chief Secretary, A&N Islands was of the view that the Policy for Shompens and other remaining PTGs of A&N Islands should be prepared by A&N Administration and Government of India should monitor and review the Policy as was done in the case of Jarawa Policy. He also pointed out that the need of PTGs of A&N Islands to be kept out of the purview of some Laws/Acts of the country such as Right to Education Act etc. is to be suitably incorporated in the Policy. The views of Chief Secretary were supported by some of the members.

Secretary (TA) thanked the members for providing rich inputs for drafting of the policy and requested Chief Secretary to provide detail comments on the draft policy at the earliest.

Agenda No.II: Construction of East-West Road in Great Nicobar:

The Secretary recalled the discussions of the Expert Committee meeting held on 14-10-2011 on this issue and invited comments from the members on the findings of Report of Group of Experts constituted by A&N Administration on East-West Road on long term impact of the road on Shompens. The findings of the Group of Experts are :-