

1. That I am holding the post of Joint Resident Commissioner, Andaman & Nicobar Administration and I have been briefed in regard to the above matter and as directed by the Hon'ble Court, I file this affidavit,

2. That this Hon'ble Court, after hearing the learned Amicus Curiae, counsel for the parties and taking into consideration the affidavit of the Union of India- Ministry of Environment and Forests, in relation to survey of ecosystem of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, had vide order dated 7.5.2002 ordered, "There does not seem to be any objection to this Court in accepting the Report of Shri Shekhar Singh that some modifications have been suggested. We therefore, in the first instance, accept the Report of Shri Shekhar Singh". The Court was also pleased to issue directions in the matter of felling of trees, preparation of Working Plans, running of saw-mills and other wood-based industries, movement of timber outside Andaman and Nicobar Islands, regularization of pre-1978 encroachments, eviction of Post-1978 encroachments, issue of identity cards, review of approvals granted under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and extraction of sand, and further directed for filing of an affidavit on specific actions undertaken by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration on other recommendations of Prof. Shekhar Singh, which are not specifically dealt with in the above order. The relevant para is reproduced below:

"(20) Specific actions shall be undertaken by Ministry of Environment & Forests/ Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration on the other recommendations of Shri Shekhar Singh Report which are not specifically dealt