

the National Forestry Action Programme, which provides for effective protection of forest areas. Moreover, a separate Plan scheme for Forest Protection has been included in the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). Therefore preparation of a fresh plan, as suggested by the Commission, may not be necessary. As already stated, 70% of the forest area is under the Protected Area Network. However, the Administration is open to the suggestion for enhancing the Protected Areas subject to establishing its necessity by a duly constituted expert body. The recommendation of the Commission for declaring the unworked forests of Diglipur, Mayabunder, Middle Andaman and Baratang as National Parks needs examination by the same expert body.

25. That the recommendation (29) regarding regulating felling of trees in non-forest areas is accepted and suitable draft regulations shall be formulated, and the Government of India shall be approached for notification,

F. POACHING

26. That the recommendation (30) for strengthening of Forest Department is already under consideration of the Administration, and suitable action has been taken making provisions for the same in the Tenth Five Year Plan,

27. That the recommendation (31) for empowering forest officials under Indian Forest Act, 1927, conferring on them the power of confiscation and increasing the limit fixed for compensation, is required to be carried out by an amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927 by the Parliament, and