

research in these islands is being carried out as per the National Forestry Research Plan, prepared by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and many of the suggested topics are already covered in the Plan,

43. That the recommendation (11) to relocate all small-scale wood based industries within industrial estates or, where industrial estates are not feasible, in locations contiguous to forest offices or otherwise convenient for the forest department to monitor, and to frame rules and regulations for their functioning including licencing, is not being complied with in view of the order of the Hon'ble Court that henceforth for meeting the local requirements it is only the Government saw mills which shall operate, and that the dislocated wood based industries should be relocated to mainland area anywhere in India. However, the Administration humbly submits before the Hon'ble Court that the Small Scale Industries in these islands have been set up by the local entrepreneurs with financial assistance from the banks and availing various concessions extended by the Administration. These industries are providing economic benefits to about 700 people directly and about 3500 people indirectly, utilizing about 9000 cum of timber annually. The Administration therefore, pleads before the Hon'ble Court to kindly accept the recommendations of Prof. Shekhar Singh, to allow the functioning of these small scale industries within the industrial estates, under strict control of the Department of Environment and Forests, solely for meeting the local requirements of timber, utilizing the timber that may be made available by the Administration, or which the industries may import from mainland or abroad,