

37. The Government of India should provide the necessary financial and infrastructure support to the Administration for immediate implementation of the ecotourism model evolved by the committee. The manpower recruited from the islands should be provided necessary training. Such an approach is more effective in promoting ecological sustainability, income generation and job creation than what Shekhar Singh envisaged in his recommendation 41.

A high-powered committee consisting of national and international experts in the area of island tourism with Chief Secretary of ANI Administration as its chairperson be constituted to examine the different ecotourism models suggested by UNDP/WTO Report, NEERI Report, A.F. Ferguson Tourism Review and GEF-UNDP project document and to evolve an ecologically sustainable (low volume and high value) ecotourism model that does not damage the fragile Island ecosystem. The model should also take into account the Public-Private-PRIs partnership in the implementation of this venture.

36. Ecologically sustainable ecotourism has huge potential for income generation and livelihoods in the islands, particularly in the light of closure of timber industry, sand mining, phasing out of red oil palm and rubber plantations and also the devastation brought out by earthquake and tsunami.

Ecotourism:

35. Sand substitutes such as stone dust be used to minimize sand extraction from the beaches. In fact, high quality flyash bricks may also be used for walls of the buildings and for roads in place of sand-cement structures. Use of cement be minimized for house building purposes by using pretreated wood and bamboo.

allowed as a continuous process for the safety of jetties. In fact, tsunami buried many settlements under heaps of sand which should be allowed to extract and use it locally.