

*Annexure 12*  
Extracts of C.R. Babu Committee  
Report (Sept. 2007)

The Forest Department is in agreement with the recommendations made by Shri Shekhar Singh but suggested additional manpower to undertake the additional work on the process of eviction and checking of new encroachments and identification of encroachers and longer time framework to implement the actions (Annexure 13 a).

The Committee, after discussing the various dimensions of the problem, recommends that:

- (i) the carrying capacity studies carried out on the ANI do not reflect true picture because one study took only land resource and other study took only sea resources; further the carrying capacity figures suggested are indicative of only the maximum that islands can support at a point of time and not the figures that the islands can sustain ecologically or environmentally; further the land resource-based study took into account agriculture which is not sustainable, particularly after tsunami in the islands, and sea-based study did not take into account the narrow shelves and deep seas. Consequently, the figures suggested might be far from reality and there is an urgent need to undertake an integrated carrying capacity studies of the islands taking into account life-supporting potentials of environmental resources.
- (ii) The Government may evolve a summary eviction procedures and appropriate enforcement mechanisms together with the regulations on the influx of people from mainland. For example, time bound work permits should be made compulsory to all immigrants from the mainland or from other countries, and all PRIs and police stations should comply with this and keep a track on the movements of immigrants;
- (iii) ID cards be issued to all local citizens and this be completed at the earliest and the entire database should be accessible on line to all departments, PRs and all police stations; (c) a cut-off point to issue identity cards to local population be decided in consultation with PRs and ensure livelihoods; (d) all non-identity cardholders have to gradually leave the islands to enable sustainable development of