

islands; (e) the Government may evolve a policy to restrict/ stop immigration by adopting strategies such as reduced levels of subsidy (including transport subsidy) and enhanced levels of user charges for all Islanders except for Government employees and indigenous population; (f) user charge levels be enhanced to cover at least operation and maintenance expenditure of the services provided for sand, water, timber, transport and power, and this can be done in two ways—one way is to double the royalty rates for sand, water and timber and increase by 10% every year and the second way is to increase the present rates 3 or 4 times and then revise it after 5 years as has been done in Maharashtra and A.P.; (g) the forest officers be empowered to evict any encroacher using the Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation 1966 and Rules of 1968 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as per SC order, and PRIs may be made more vigilant; (h) a monitoring and control committee be set up for the preparation of an effective action plan and its implementation; and (i) constant vigilance in each settlement be maintained by a joint committee consisting of Forest officials and representatives of PRIs.

Recommendation 26 of Shekhar Singh's Report

SC did not pass any order on this recommendation.

The historical facts on the Andaman Truck Road have been well-documented by Kiran Dhingra in her book. She made the following observations (Annexure 10 f):

"No department has provoked more controversy from conservationists than the PWD, the construction of the Andaman Trunk Road and the utilization of sea-sand for construction being the two most controversial issues. Sanctioned along with the colonization scheme in the Second Five Year Plan, the Andaman Trunk Road is a major 333 km long road, cutting across the length of Great Andaman from Aerial Bay Jetty in North Andaman to Chirya-tapu, the southernmost point of South Andaman, and crossing three creeks in the process – Middle strait, 410 m wide; Homfray Strait, 350 m; and Austin Strait, 268 m. In