

There was a north-south road along the coastline from Campbell Bay to Indira Gandhi Point. This was used by ex-servicemen settled all along the east coast up to Indira Point. This road was washed away and some segments were submerged under sea during 26 December 2004 earthquake and tsunami. This road is now realigned in a way that it runs through the Forest and is a few km away from the previous road. The length of new north-south road is 51 km. Similarly, east-west road of 43 km exists that connects Campbell Bay to Shompen Hut for defense purposes and also to facilitate Nicobarese movement from Campbell Bay to the west coast. This road was damaged due to landslides and some portions were washed away. This road is being repaired and reconstructed and some encroachments already took place along this road (Annexure 27).

**The Committee feels that the Island Administration should evolve specific regulatory mechanism along with the guidelines and rules for keeping these roads free from encroachments of forest lands. The DFO of the area be empowered legally and administratively to enforce the rules and guidelines. The Department of Forests be strengthened by providing additional lower staff such as Rangers and Forest Guards for patrolling these roads regularly so that encroachments do not occur.**

**Recommendations 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 of Shekhar Singh's Report and SC order 19**

Shekhar Singh's recommendation 27 corresponds to SC order of 19. This has bearing on the land use pattern. Since deemed forests exists on revenue lands, no more land is available for any developmental activities in the islands except the encroached land which is honeycombed. Exchange of the honey combed encroached forest land to deemed forest is not always feasible, particularly for defense and other infrastructural facilities. Consequently, there is a necessity to divert a forest land or deemed forest land for developmental activities. The enforcement of SC order 19, no doubt, leads to development that will go hand-in-hand with the conservation of resources. But in equatorial climate of Andaman and Nicobar Islands every inch of land harbours