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C. (i)ROADS & BRIDGES (Andaman & Nicobar Islands)

20.	Construction of East West Road in Great Nicobar A&NI Admin	<p>East West Road was constructed by BRO during 1971-77. This 43 km long road connects Campbell Bay with the uninhabited West Coast of Great Nicobar Island. During November, 2001, the road was damaged extensively at about 50 places due to heavy rain and massive landslides. The road was completely washed away at 16 kms, 18 kms and 20 kms, but was temporarily restored for light vehicular traffic till 16 kms. Reconstruction of road was entrusted to BRO after Tsunami (excluding 9-10 kms retained by APWD). Rs. 11.39 crores was deposited with BRO during 2006-07 and restoration work started by BRO, incurring expenditure of Rs. 8.35 crores till August, 2009. Ministry of Tribal Affairs objected to the road construction and wanted total closure. In the meeting held on 03.07.2009, CoS decided to stop the work and place the issue before IDA for decision. Work has been stopped as per decision of the CoS meeting held on 03.07.2009.</p> <p>The Expert Committee of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs set up for formulation of policies for Primitive Tribal Groups of A & N Islands at its meeting held on 30th September, 2008, endorsed a draft policy for Shompens in which it has been recommended that the East-West Road should not be completed or repaired and the surroundings jungles should be allowed to encroach upon it.</p> <p>The Shompens frequently visit Campbell Bay for medical treatment and food. Nothing untoward has ever happened in the past as the Shompens are peace-loving and live in harmony with the settlers. Andaman and Nicobar Command have been pressing for completion of East-West Road due to security considerations. It would be difficult for our security agencies to detect intrusions in time and take effective counter measures in the absence of accessibility by land from Campbell Bay. However, there is no foreseeable traffic on this road. maintenance costs are also likely to be very high.</p>	<p>The East West Road was passing through the Shompen reserve for the last 30 years and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recently expressed its reservations on its reconstruction as the road was destroyed by the tsunami and earthquake in 2004. Andaman & Nicobar Command is insisting on the reconstruction due to security considerations.</p> <p>Member-Secretary, Planning Commission to hold a meeting with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Environment & Forests and Chief Secretary, ANI for taking a view on starting the suspended construction of the East West Road and placing the matter for decision by the IDA.</p>
21.	Maintenance and up gradation of Andaman Trunk Road A&NI Admin	<p>Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) from Chidiyatapu to Diglipur (333 Km) has been declared as National Highway (NH 233), by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MORTH) vide Gazette Notification dated 25/02/04. Homtary's Strait and Middle Strait on Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) are two creeks where vehicles and people are transferred by vehicle ferry. Road from 61 Km to 104 km in South Andaman District and from 142 Km to 155 Km at Kadamtala in North Andaman District has not been in the National highway programme for any improvement / widening as it falls within the Jarawa reserve area. However due to single lane and non paved shoulder the crossing of two vehicles during monsoon period becomes a problem. To avoid such problem it should be widened to two lanes or atleast the</p>	<p>Two opposite set of views were expressed on the maintenance and upgradation of the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR). While some participants suggested that the ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve should have paved shoulders, a few others felt that no maintenance should be permitted in this stretch of the road and the alternative sea route needs to</p>