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ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

46.	Action Taken by Ministry of Environment & Forest on the Prof Babu Committee Report regarding A&NI	<p>After the impact of earthquake and Tsunami on the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, a need was felt to examine and address the developmental and conservation issues of the Islands in light of the Supreme Court's order dated 7th May, 2002 in which the Apex Court had accepted the recommendations made by the Shekhar Singh Commission. Hence the Ministry of Environment & Forests had set up a Scientific Expert Committee to study the Supreme Court order, evaluate Shekhar Singh's recommendations and suggest good practices for environment protection without impacting the sustainable development of the Islands. This Committee was headed by Prof. C.R.Babu, which was constituted in December, 2005. The C.R.Babu Committee submitted its report in Sept. 2007. The recommendations of Prof. C.R.Babu Committee was discussed in a meeting under the Chairmanship of Secretary (E&F) in Feb, 2008.</p> <p>In the 12th IDA Meeting under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, the MoEF was directed to hold inter-ministerial consultation on the recommendations of C.R.Babu Committee and submit a report. As per the instruction of Planning Commission, a copy of the C.R.Babu Report along with the minutes of the meeting held on 18th Feb, 2008 were sent to the Ministries of Rural Development, Labour, Tribal Affairs, Home Affairs, Tourism and Agriculture. So far we have received comments from Tourism, Tribal Affairs and Agriculture. Comments from Rural Development, Labour and Home Affairs have not been received. In the light of above background, the inter-ministerial consultation was held on 15th July, 2010 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (E&F) wherein all the concerned Ministries were invited for consultations. The comments from Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Tourism and Agriculture were incorporated in the relevant section of the C.R.Babu Report and the discussion was held point by point on all the recommendations of the C.R.Babu Committee. Please find enclosed herewith the minutes of the meeting (Annexure-A) and the tabulated comments on 47 points (Annexure-B)</p> <p>2. Although the recommendations were given on the 47 points of Shekhar Singh's Report but these can be broadly categorized into 5 major categories :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and Management of Forests. Tribal Reserve and Andaman Trunk Road. Coastal Zone Protection and Sand Mining. Infrastructure Development. Eco-tourism & other issues <p>3. One of the objectives of the Babu Committee is to evaluate Shekhar Singh's Report. The recommendations of the C.R.Babu Committee are more</p>	<p>It was decided that based on the decisions of the MoEF on the Prof. Babu Committee Report, ANI Administration would prepare a draft affidavit to be submitted in the Supreme Court for review of the earlier orders of May 2002 based on the Shekhar Singh Commission report. The draft affidavit would be vetted and approved by the MoEF and the MHA and filed by the ANI Administration on behalf of the Government of India. Planning Commission will coordinate this matter.</p>
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