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Title : Need to involve local people and agencies for rehabilitation activities in Tsunami hit Andaman and Nicobar Island.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House that Andaman and Nicobar Islands which is worst affected by Tsunami devastation, needs to be brought back to normal life ensuring the livelihood of the people. Though after the disaster, some relief work has been done, which is commendable, but for the construction of permanent shelters, the views of beneficiaries should have been taken into account. It is pertinent to mention here that only shelter cannot help in the livelihood of the people of the Islands. The victim should have been involved in the construction activities, which will give some kind of earnings for their livelihood and the shelter too. In such a condition, I do not think that the time schedule could be maintained.

Andaman Public Works Department is not being awarded the work. A number of agencies are sent from mainland for new construction work in the Islands which jeopardise the income avenue of the local people.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government to convene a meeting of the newly constituted Islands Development Authority which is chaired by the Prime Minister for the immediate appraisal of the status of the Islands and also to see his instructions given to Islands during his visit to Port Blair are fully implemented.