

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE  
OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND  
SCHEDULED TRIBES  
(1988-89)**

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

**FORTY-FIRST REPORT**

**MINISTRY OF WELFARE**

**Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Welfare--Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**



*Presented to Lok Sabha on*

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# CORRIGENDA

to the

41st Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (1988-89) on Ministry of Welfare - Socio-economic conditions of SCs/STs in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

<u>Page</u>	<u>Para</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
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18.	3	1	Recommendation Sl.No.34	Recommendation Sl.No.35

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**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES  
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (1968-69)**

**Shri Arvind Netam—Chairman**

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## INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Forty-first Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirtieth Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Welfare—Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

2. The draft Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on 16 September, 1988.

3. The Report has been devised into the following Chapters:—

I. Report.

II. Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government.

III. Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.

IV. Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.

V. Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received.

4. An analysis of the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 30th Report of the Committee is given in Annexure. It would be observed therefrom that out of 58 recommendations made in the Report, 37 recommendations i.e. 63.8 percent have been accepted by the Government; the Committee do not desire to pursue 11 recommendations i.e. 19.00 percent of their recommendations in view of the Government's reply; 4 recommendations i.e. 6.9 percent in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee, require reiteration and for 6 recommendations i.e. 10.3 percent, final replies of Government have not been received.

NEW DELHI;  
September 30, 1988

ARVIND NETAM  
Chairman,  
Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled  
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

1.7 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Government as it is evasive in nature. The Committee stress that the subsidy on pump sets be stepped up with immediate effect to encourage tribals to have their own pump sets instead of having them on loan, from the administration.

1.8 In para 3.32 of their Report, the Committee had observed that only 410 tribals had been engaged in fisheries on part time basis in the Islands. It was obvious to them that without making the fishing lucrative and attractive the Administration Could not attract more tribals to take up fisheries. The Committee had therefore recommended that apart from other steps marketing facilities should be augmented rapidly so that more tribals were attracted to fishing. This could only be done if the fishermen were assured that their catch would ensure them on the spot payment.

1.9 In their reply dated 21 July, 1988, the Ministry of Welfare have stated that fishing equipments including fishing boats are supplied to tribal fishermen on 60 per cent subsidy to increase fish catch in tribal area. There is ready market for fish in the tribal area. The fisheries department has on hand a proposal to construct one 10 tonnes capacity cold storage and one 5 tonnes capacity ice plant at Car Nicobar for preservation of fish.

1.10 The Committee do not find the Government's reply satisfactory. The Government have not stated as to what specific marketing facilities have been created by them. They have also not stated as to what steps the Government have taken to ensure on the spot payment to the fishermen for their catch. The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation that apart from other steps marketing facilities should be augmented rapidly so that more tribals are attracted to fishing. This can only be done if the fishermen are assured that their catch will ensure them on the spot payment.

1.11 In para 3.39 of their Report, the Committee had observed that an outlay of Rs. 550 lakhs had been provided for the Forestry Schemes in the A & N Islands by the Planning Commission during the Sixth Five Year Plan. However, the yearly allotments made came to Rs. 495.17 lakhs only. The Committee noted with regret that even out of this reduced Plan outlay the Administration was able to utilise Rs. 423.344 lakhs only. This indicated that due importance not had given to the Forestry Schemes by



the Administration viewed against the demand of some of the Ministries for more funds in plan outlay, the Committee could not reconcile to the non-utilisation of the funds by the Union Territory Administration. The Committee had recommended that Administration should draw proper schemes in time and then vigorously implement them to obviate the possibility of non-utilisation of funds during the Seventh Plan.

1.12 In their reply dated 21 July, 1988, the Ministry of Welfare have stated that proper schemes for the development of forest including raising of socio-forestry and minor forest products in the Nicobar District have been drawn up and included under the Seventh Plan period. An amount of Rs. 1,200 lakhs is provided in the State Plan under sector Forest, of which an amount to the tune of Rs. 97 lakhs was being utilised as flow of fund for the Tribal Sub-Plan in the Nicobars District. The expenditure upto last year was to the tune of Rs. 35 lakhs."

1.13 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Government as they find that out of Rs. 97 lakhs being utilised as flow of funds to the Tribal Sub-Plan in the State Plan under sector Forest, the expenditure upto last year was to the tune of Rs. 35 lakhs only. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that the administration should draw proper schemes in time and then vigorously implement them to obviate the possibility of non-utilisation of funds during the Seventh Plan.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

#### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 2, Para No. 1.30**

The Committee note that two contact parties one for the Jarawas Tribe and another for Sentenelese Tribe have been making visits to their areas once a month since 1975 and to their utter dismay these parties have so far made neither any dent in winning the confidence of these tribes nor have those been able to establish any rapport with them. The visits of these contact parties have more or less assumed the nature of rituals and their only purpose is to give some gifts to these tribes once a month which in the opinion of the Committee is not going to help the tribals to improve their quality of life and they will continue to be as primitive as ever. The Committee will like to impress upon the Administration not only to increase the frequency of such visits but also send persons dedicated to motivate the tribals to extend their hands of friendship to these parties.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The visits of the contact parties to Jarawa areas has been successful and encouraging to befriend the Jarawa tribes. In fact more and more Jarawas are coming in contact with the team and their hostile activities are considerably found reduced. Of late we could also assess that the Sentinelese are also not far away from our contact. It is expected that we would make them friend in the near future. The question of increasing frequency of contacts with Jarawas was under active consideration of the Administration, but then the Expert Group constituted under I. D. A. has not favoured with this proposal as frequent visits might disturb the way of life of these tribes. Instead they have recommended to increase the duration of stay of the party with the Jarawas to help strengthening friendly relation. Follow-up action on this recommendation is being taken. The persons involved in the contact party are responsible senior government officers including anthropologists and medical experts who are fully devoted to the task of ameliorating the life of Jarawas.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88]

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee would like to be apprised of the final follow-up action taken on the recommendation of the Expert Group constituted under IDA.

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 36, Para Nos. 1.31 and 1.34**

The Committee have been informed that the reason for extinction or decrease in the number of certain tribes is the spread of diseases among them because of outside pressure and that the Administration has set up a Scheduled Tribe Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor to curb the outside pressure spreading diseases among tribals.

The Committee regret to note that the project undertaken by Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry was discontinued. However, this project has since been revived in November, 1986. The discontinuing of the project is an enigma to the Committee. However, they hope this project which has already been revived will not be discontinued till such time the conditions of the tribals improve on permanent footing.

### **Reply of the Government**

A close study reveals that during the past over a decade the population of the primitive tribes is maintained static. However, the Steering Committee of I.D.A. has appointed Dr. IC Verma, All India Institute of Medical Sciences to undertake an Action Oriented Research, *inter alia*, to find out cause of decline in the population of the primitive tribes. An interim report has since been received and necessary follow-up action is taken up on his recommendations.

The areas inhabited by the tribals are fully protected under the provisions of A & N Islands Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation and in fact no outsider can enter into the tribal area without official duty and a valid pass granted by the competent authority.

The research work conducted by JIMPER on Onge tribes became dormant since 1981. However, under the aegis of I.D.A. an expert group has been constituted to undertake study on the socio-cultural pattern of tribal population, their living style, health condition, nutritional status etc. Dr. IC Verma, A.I.I.M.S. has drawn up and undertaken an Action Oriented Research on the health condi-

tions of the primitive tribes of these Islands. In fact his first report has since been received which is under consideration of the Administration.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A)  
dated 21-7-88]

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee would like to be informed of the main recommendations contained in the interim report submitted by Dr. I. C. Verma and action taken thereon.

#### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 5, Para No. 1.33**

It has also been brought to the notice of the Committee that the number of Andamanese and Onge tribes is declining very fast due to the peculiarity in their life style. The Committee have been informed that a special long term study has been undertaken about their living style activities and health conditions specifically by the Anthropological Survey of India and as and when their Report is available the Administration will certainly take action. The Committee feel that it may take a long time before the results of the Study undertaken are known. The Committee are of the opinion that in the meantime the Administration should take interim measures to ensure that fall in the number of these tribes is arrested and their extinction averted.

### **Reply of the Government**

A close study on the population of Andamanese and Onges reveals that during the past over a decade their population is static. Medical officers/staff are posted to these settlements to provide medical coverage and every effort is taken to arrest the fall in the population of these tribes. As already stated against para 1.31 above, a preliminary report by Dr. I. C. Verma, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, who is undertaking an Action Oriented Research on the primitive tribes of these islands has since been received and is receiving the attention of the Administration for follow-up action.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A)  
dated 21-7-88]

#### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 9, Para No. 1.46**

The Committee feel that voluntary Organisations can play a vital role in improving the social educational, and environmental

conditions of Scheduled Tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee therefore, recommend that dedicated voluntary organisations should be encouraged to work among the Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory and necessary grant-in-aid provided to them. The Administration should keep a close watch on their functioning so as to ensure that the money given to them is gainfully spent for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and there is no misuse of funds. In the opinion of the Committee it would be better if the social workers are drawn from amongst the various tribes themselves as the tribals are more likely to listen to their own compeers.

### **Reply of the Government**

Mahila Mandals and Border Area Project are main voluntary organisations functioning in the tribal areas of Nicobars, which are adequately represented by the tribal woman folk. They also get grant-in-aid through the State Social Welfare Advisory Board to manage the diversified programmes for the tribal welfare undertaken by them.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A)  
dated 21-7-88]

### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 10, Para No. 1.47**

The Committee note that grants are released by the Central Welfare Board, New Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration on year to year basis to meet the expenditure of Mahila Mandals, and that as such no provision has been made by the State Board to meet such expenditure during the Seventh Plan. The Committee recommend that adequate allocation be made by the Union Territory Social Welfare Advisory Board for the Seventh Plan so that the Mahila Mandals are aware and assured of the money likely to be made available to them. This will give the Mandals more confidence to undertake diversified programmes for the tribal welfare. The Committee note that the Nancowrie Group of Islands are neglected in the matter of development. The Committee recommend that special care should be taken for their upliftment and more funds should be earmarked therefore.

### **Reply of the Government**

100 per cent grant is released to the Mahila Mandals in Tribal areas by the Central Social Welfare Advisory Board through/and

the State Social Welfare Advisory Board. The fund being released to Mahila Mandals is considered sufficient for their activities.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A)  
dated 21-7-88]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 12, Para No. 2.12**

The Committee regret to note that out of Rs. 225 crores allocated during Seventh Plan only a sum of Rs. 22.65 crores alone has been spent in the first year of the Plan (1985-86). The Committee are not satisfied with such a slow pace of progress. The Committee need hardly emphasise that unless the entire plan allocations are gainfully utilised in an evenly phased manner over the 5 years period, the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes are unlikely to improve. The Committee urge that the factors which hamper the utilisation of plan allocations in an even manner should be identified and corrective measures, as deemed necessary, taken urgently with a view to ensuring that the funds allocated are fully utilised in time.

**Reply of the Government**

Of the U.T.'s Seventh Five Year Plan provision of Rs. 285.00 crores. Rs. 34.11 crores has been earmarked for Tribal Sub-Plan as flow of funds, which amounts to 12%. Besides, the Govt. of India has also earmarked a provision of Rs. 1.64 crores as Special Central Assistance. The expenditure incurred during the first three years of the plan period on Tribal Sub-Plan amounted to Rs. 13.40 crores and the provision for the current year (1988-89) is Rs. 10.15 crores. The balance amount shall be utilised during the remaining part of the plan period. It is admitted that during the first year of the Seventh Five Year Plan period the expenditure on Tribal Sub-Plan was comparatively less, but then this was due to factors beyond the control of the Administration. The main shortfall is primarily in the shipping sector as it consumes times in procuring vessels. However, every effort is being made to utilise the plan allocations to ensure the aimed target is achieved.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 15, Para No. 2.15**

From the information furnished to them, the Committee note that although substantial achievements have been made for the development of the islands and the tribal people in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands yet the progress made in the Nicobar District which is predominantly inhabited by the

tribals has been tardy e.g. out of a total area of 12000 hectares under paddy cultivation, the area in Nicobar Islands is only 20 hectares; out of 38 veterinary hospitals and dispensaries there are only 10 in the district; out of 327 cooperative societies there only 57 in Nicobar District; out of 290 educational institutions there are only 51 in the district and of total enrolment of 62091 children in these institutions the enrolment in the district is 7921 and out of 2919 teachers only 372 are available in the district. The Committee also find that in the field of medical and public health facilities, power generation and transport and communication facilities the district is lagging behind in development. The Committee regret the imbalance in the development of the tribal district of Nicobar. They are of the view that this lopsided development at the cost of tribal district of Nicobar should not continue any further and that the Administration should make earnest efforts for the development of this district and allocate adequate funds therefore to bring it at par with the Andaman District.

### **Reply of the Government**

The Nicobari tribes are interested only in plantation crops like coconut, arecanut etc. and not in paddy cultivation. Only three Nicobari families could undertake paddy cultivation so far. More so, low lying valley land fit for paddy cultivation in Nicobar tribal areas is also remote. This being the reason the area brought under paddy cultivation in the Nicobar District is only 20 hectares.

The geographic area of Andaman District is 6408 sq. kms. while that of Nicobars District is only 1841 sq. kms. Similarly, the population of Andamans District is 158272 while that Nicobars District is only 30454 as per 1981 census. Hence the distribution of works on various schemes like agriculture, education, co-operative animal husbandry etc. etc. for the area and family oriented developmental schemes is comparatively less in Nicobars District than that of the Andamans District. However, the fund earmarked as flow of fund from U.T. Plan for strengthening/increasing various developmental activities in the Tribal Sub-Plan area is comparatively sufficient for the purpose and attempts are being made to achieve the aimed target.

[Min. of Welfare .O. M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88].

**Recommendations:** Sl. Nos. 16, 17, 18A and 18B, Para Nos. 2.26, 2.27 2.29 and 2.30

The Committee note that during the Sixth Five Year Plan the number of families assisted under IRDP was 1052. Out of these,

the number of Scheduled Tribe families were only 51 i.e. about 4.85 per cent. Similarly during the Seventh Plan, out of 742 families is 77 constituting a percentage of 10.38. The Committee have been informed that the Scheduled Tribes population in the Union Territory was 15.72 per cent according to 1971 census and is estimated to be 11.85 per cent according to 1981 census. The percentage of Scheduled Tribe families assisted during the Sixth Plan and Seventh Plan so far under IRDP is considerably less than the percentage of their population in the Union Territory.

The Committee recommend that earnest efforts should be made to cover more Scheduled Tribe families under I.R.D.P. so that their economic condition improves at a brisk pace to enable them cross the poverty line early.

The Committee regret to note that during the years 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1984-85 neither any subsidy nor any loan facility was availed of by any person belonging to Scheduled Tribe. They are not convinced by the plea of the Ministry that it was due to the backwardness; social and traditional customs of the tribals. If it were so, the Administration would not have been able to assist 77 tribal families with an amount of Rs. 2,52,500 as subsidy and with equal amount of bank loan during the year 1985-86 was also 50 families with a subsidy of Rs. 2,33,000 in 1986-87. Had the Administration started the motivational programmes at the right time the things would not have drifted thus far. In the opinion of the Committee with continuous pursuation more tribals could have been assisted during the 6th Plan. The Committee recommend that now onwards the Administration should take all necessary steps to motivate the tribals to avail of subsidy and loan facility so that their quality of life improves.

The Committee regret that no specific scheme exclusively for Scheduled Tribes has been initiated under I.R.D.P. so far. Had a suitable scheme been formulated, the possibility of more tribals coming forward for loans could not have been ruled out. The Committee expect that some such schemes for the tribals may be chalked out now which may help the tribals in over coming their averseness towards taking of loans. This will go a long way in ameliorating the living conditions of the tribals and for their social well being. The Committee will like to be apprised of action taken in this regard within next three months.



### Reply of the Government

IRDP (Para 2.17 to 3.34): It is true that I.R.D.P. had very mild beginning in the tribal areas owing to aversion of tribals for obtaining loan from Government and ignorance about governmental schemes. However, over a period time, the tempo of progress under I.R.D.P. has picked up which can be seen from the table given below:—

Sl. No.	Year	No. of tribal beneficiaries physically assisted
1.	1982-83	6
2.	1983-84	39
3.	1984-85	—
4.	1985-86	77
5.	1986-87	163
6.	1987-88	267

The upward trend in the assistance to the tribal beneficiaries has been achieved by holding constant dialogue with the tribal beneficiaries by convening credit camps, demonstration camps etc. The initial indifference towards the government schemes is facing away and the tribals are coming forward in a big way to avail assistance under various governmental schemes, which will be maintained.

D.R.D.S., Nicobars at district level and the block functionaries at the block level are taking all necessary steps to motivate the tribals to avail the subsidy and loan facilities to improve their quality of life. Assistance provided covers sector like poultry, fisheries, animal husbandry, mechanised boats, automobile repairs, petty shops, bullock carts, horticulture etc.

The reply of the Government given against Sl. No. 16—para 2.26 and Sl. No. 17—para 2.27 may kindly be seen.

[Min. of Welfare O. M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88].

### Recommendation: Sl. No. 18 Para No. 2.28

The Committee find it highly regrettable that out of the 47 youths imparted training during the year 1985-86 none belonged to the Scheduled Tribes. This shows an in-built apathy towards the Scheduled Tribes on the part of the Administration. The Committee cannot condone such an attitude and expect the Administration to be more responsive to the development of Scheduled Tribes.

### Reply of the Government

The Administration has drawn up various schemes for the training of the Nicobar tribal youths but then the response from their end was comparatively poor. However, efforts are on hand to motivate the tribal youths to accept the training programme under TRYSEM to improve their skills and help them to earn their livelihood. Of late the progress under TRYSEM has been quite encouraging. During the year 1986-87, 46 tribal youths were trained in coir making and pottery. During 1987-88 10 tribal youths were trained in automobile repairing and another 16 were trained in mushroom cultivation. Proposals are on hand to assist 50 tribal youths during the year 1988-89 in training them on various trades.

[Min. of Welfare .O. M. 16015/1/88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88].

### Recommendation: Sl. No. Para No. 2.34

The Committee are really perturbed to find that no integrated tribal development projects have been initiated in the tribal district of Nicobar. So, it appears that it dawned on the Administration undertake such projects only after the subject was selected by the committee for examination. The Committee cannot but express their anguish over such an indifferent attitude of the Administration towards tribal development. Even now it is stated that the schemes in the I.T.D.P. could not be included in the Annual Tribal Sub-plan for the year 1985-86 to their late receipt on 28 July, 1986. In the opinion of the Committee the I.T.D.P. is one of the most suitable programme for the socio-economic betterment of the tribals and schemes thereunder should have been introduced in the Nicobar Island much earlier. They expect that since the administration has taken steps to initiate projects under the I.T.D.P., these will be properly planned and implemented as early as possible so that the condition of the Scheduled Tribes improves in the Nicobar Island. The Committee will like to be kept apprised of the details of the projects initiated by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration in this regard.

### Reply of the Government

The Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute, Hyderabad has prepared an integrated Tribal Development Plan for the Nicobars District. Based on the guidelines contained in the Plan, the Tribal Sub-Plan under the Seventh Five Year Plan are being formulated by the Administration and implemented in the district.

However, the proposal to constitute an integrated Tribal Development Agency for the I.T.D.P., Nicobars with the D.C. as its Chairman, the Project Officer as Member Secretary, Heads of Developmental Deptts., Members of Pradesh Council. Village Captains and leading citizens of Nicobars District at Members to prepare the Action Plan and to review periodically the progress of implementation of the schemes is under active consideration of the Administration.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88]

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee will await the final decision taken on the constitution of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency for ITDPs, Nicobars.

### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 20, Para No. 3.9**

The Committee have been informed that the ownership of all the lands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands vests in Government. However, cultivation rights are given to the tribals which can be transferred (i) by way of succession, survivorship or inheritance according to the personal law of the tenant or (ii) by way of sale, gift etc. with the result that the tribals are transferring their cultivation rights to the migrants from the mainland in Committee's opinion, the existing provisions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Reforms and land Revenue Regulation, 1966 and the rules framed thereunder may be alright so far as the transfer of land is among the tribals only. "The Committee hope that the rights of the tribals in land in the Union Territory especially in Nicobar Island which is predominantly inhabited by tribals are zealously protected by the Administration. In case in the past any tribal has transferred his occupancy rights to a Man tribal, such rights of land should be restored to the tribal."

### **Reply of the Government**

The provisions of A & N Island Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966 and A & N Islands Protection of Aboriginal Tribes Regulation, 1956 provide sufficient protection against transfer of right in land by tribals to non-tribals.

Under the Revenue Law the tribals in Nicobar District are deemed to hold their land as grantees and not occupancy tenants

Alienation of land by tribals to non-tribals is totally prohibited under these regulations and in fact not even a single case of transfer of right in land by tribals to non-tribals has been reported so far.

[Min. of Welfare O. M. 16015/1/88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88].

**Recommendation: Sl. Nos. 21 and 22, Para Nos. 31.10 and 3.11**

The Committee note that no allotment of land has been made to the tribals under rules 170 and 171 of the 1966 Regulation so far except 200 hectares allotted to 165 Nicobar families to meet their additional requirement of land as a special case in early seventies.

The Committee recommend that the matter be reviewed by the Administration to assess present requirement of land by the tribals and if need be more land should be allotted to them to elevate their economic conditions and to improve the standard of their living.

**Reply of the Government**

The 165 Nicobari families who migrated from Car Nicobar to Little Andaman were given 200 hectares of land for cultivation after dereserving the forest in Little Andaman. The proposal of the Administration to dereserve another 200 hectares for allotment to more Nicobar families in Little Andaman was, however, not agreed to by the GOI.

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 23, Para No. 3.16**

The Committee note that in spite of various measures taken by the Administration to improve the agriculture in the Islands, the crop yields are comparatively low e.g. the yield of paddy from 12,000 hectares is 40 metric tonne only; the yield of arecanut is 1,000 metric tonne from 2,620 hectares. Similar appears to be the position in the case of cashewnuts and spices. The Committee are of the opinion that more intensive efforts be made to improve the crop yields in Islands. They hardly need to stress that introduction of modern techniques in cultivation of high value cash crops is one of the best ways of improving the economic standards of the tribals. The Committee, therefore, recommend that more demonstration farms should be set up in the tribal areas to popularise modern techniques of cultivation and to introduce new high value cash crop like spices, cashewnuts, fruits in the tribal areas.

### Reply of the Government

The figures with regard to the production of rice (40MT) from 12000 Hect. was perhaps due to typographical mistake. Productions of rice has rather increased from the level of 27,000 MT to 30,000 MT. The yield of arecanut shown was from the underaged plantation. Now almost all the plantations have attained the full growth stage and present level of production upto 1986-87, is 4752 MT. In this connection, all out efforts are made by the Deptt. to boost up the production. Provision shall be kept in the Eighth Five Year Plan period to establish more demonstration centres/units. Steps have already been taken to undertake cultivation of spices, fruits, and cashew as recommended by the committee.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

#### Recommendation: Sl. No. 26, Para No. 3.24

In the material furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Welfare there is no mention of any Cattle or Livestock Insurance Scheme. Probably no such scheme has been introduced in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is within the knowledge of the Committee that such schemes have been undertaken by four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India since 1974. The Committee recommend that Cattle Livestock Insurance Schemes should be introduced in the Union Territory at the earliest. This will go a long way in covering the losses due to death of cattle etc. of Scheduled Tribes in the field of animal husbandry and to their economic well-being.

### Reply of the Government

The heifers being supplied to tribal beneficiaries under Tribal Sub Plan and IRDP on 50 per cent subsidy has been insured to cover losses on account of death of cattle by the United Insurance Company Limited, Port Blair.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

#### Recommendation : Sl. No. 27, Para No. 3.25

The Committee note that during the Seventh Plan, scheme have been introduced to supply cattle and other livestock to the tribals at a subsidy cost of 50 per cent of the actual cost. Keeping in view of the economic backwardness of the tribals in the Islands the committee recommend that the rate of subsidy should be suitably increased to induce more tribals to opt for animal husbandry.

### Reply of the Government

As per the State Plan, approved by the GOI, the animals are supplied at 50 per cent subsidy. However, the Administration has taken up the matter for relaxation of developmental norm and to enhance the rate of subsidy from 50 per cent to 75 per cent on supply of cattle to the tribal beneficiaries.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee will like to be apprised of the final decision taken in the matter.

### Recommendation : Sl. No. 29, Para No. 3.20

The Committee note that the A&N Islands with a coast line of about 200 kilometers with a number of bays and inlets has a vast fishing potential. The estimated exploitable stock of fish from these waters is to the order of 7,40,000 tonnes annually. However, in the absence of required infrastructure and facilities like mechanised fishing, cold storage, marketing facilities etc the catch of fish by end of the Sixth Plan period could only be 4,312 tonnes annually. The Committee regret to say that little has been done so far to check this colossal wastage of natural resources of the country. Had Government made sincere efforts to harness those resources the catch of fish from the Islands could not only have provided food to the people on the mainland as well as in the Union Territory but also this source could have been utilised for exports to earn precious foreign exchange which the country need badly. It appears that the approach of the UT Administration has been casual and inept in this regard, more so. In view of the fact that out of an outlay of Rs. 203540 for the Sixth Plan, Rs. 112.125 only were utilised by the UT Administration. Had the Administration been serious and vigilant, fishing could have been given a far better boost during the Sixth Plan itself. The Committee recommend that this matter should be gone into depth, responsibility find and remedial measures taken. Meanwhile, the A&N Administration should take suitable steps urgently and in right earnestness so that the marine resources around the Union Territory do not remain unexploited.

### Reply of the Government

As a result of various measures taken by Administration, the annual fish catch has been increased to 10,000 metric tonnes by

the end of 1987. A working group has been set up by the GOI under the Chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor of Kerala Agricultural University to study the marine resources in A&N Islands. A master Plan for development of fisheries in these Islands will be prepared after the report of working group is available. Besides, the Island Development Authority has proposed to set up a division of development and finance corporation in Anadaman and Nicobar Islands to help commercial exploitation of fishing resources.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation : Sl. No. 33 Para No. 3.40**

The Committee are surprised to note that Assistant Conservator of Forests has very limited field staff and the proposals for creation of post have been approved. The Committee further note that targets for the Social forestry programme could not be achieved mainly due to shortage of staff. The Committee need hardly stress that there is no use in drafting various forestry schemes without having adequate staff for their implementation. The Committee recommend that the administration should realise the gravity of situation and appoint the requisite staff without further loss of time for the successful implementation of various forestry schemes.

**Reply of the Government**

A fullfledged forest division has been established with a D.C.F. as in-charge in Nicobars. Additional staff required for implementation of social forestry scheme in tribal areas of Nicobars have also been posted. With the establishment of forest division and posting of staff, the entire plan outlay under sector "Forestry" during the 7th Plan is likely to be utilised.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation : Sl. No. 34, Para No. 6.45**

The Committee note that only 126 Nicobarese have been given training in trades of coir processing, carpentry and garment making etc. in the Training Centre in Car Nicobar in a span of about seven years i.e., between 1978-79 and 1985-86. The Committee consider that as a meagre achievement and desires that more tribals should be induced and motivated to join the Training Centres at Car Nicobar.

### **Reply of the Government**

The number of Nicobarese trained in various trades has since increased to 148 upto 1987-88. Necessary programme for screening films, holding meetings in the villages etc. is being continued to motivate the tribals to avail the training facilities in coir processing etc.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

#### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 34, Para No. 3.46**

The Committee are surprised to note that there is not even a single Industrial Training Institute in the Islands. They fail to understand as to how the Administration hopes to build up the Small Scale Industries sector in the Islands without the requisite trained man-power. The Committee recommend that the ITIs for giving training in different trades should be set up in the Islands at the earliest and these should preferably be located in the tribal areas where a considerable number of the trainees can be inducted from amongst the tribals.

### **Reply of the Government**

A Polytechnic college is established at Port Blair where the tribal students are given reference in admission. The intake capacity of the said Polytechnic has also been raised from 50 to 70 to accommodate more candidates. Besides, an ITI is being opened at Port Blair and sufficient seats will be reserved for the tribals here also.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

#### **Recommendation: Sl. Nos. 36 and 38, Para Nos. 3.49 and 3.51**

The Committee note that the shipping facilities between the mainland and islands and also between the different islands of Andaman and Nicobar islands are quite inadequate as stated by the Ministry themselves. The Committee desire that sincere efforts should be made to procure more ships to facilitate regular and quicker passenger and cargo traffic between the mainland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the islands inter-sea.

The Committee also like to impress upon the administration that timely action be taken for the procurement of the three ships provisions for which has been made in the Seventh Plan so that there are adequate transport facilities available to meet the demands of passenger and cargo traffic.



### Reply of the Government

Adequate provision has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan for augmentation of shipping facilities both for mainland-island traffic. 2 nos. 1200 passenger-cum-1500 container cargo vessel have already been ordered on the Polish firm M/s. Centramor, S. A., in 1987 and these are expected to be delivered by 1990-91. The third vessel is also likely to be ordered on the same shipyard by September 88.

As regards inter-island traffic, orders for 22 vessels of different categories have been ordered to augment the shipping facilities on the inter-island sector. These are expected to be delivered between 1988—1991.

The new ship which are with increased speed factors and better amenities are expected to improve the transportation facilities for passengers and cargo both on the mainland sector as well as inter-island sector.

A high speed hydrofoil service by private entrepreneur is also likely to be introduced soon in the A. & N. Islands on certain sectors as cleared by the Director General of Shipping Bombay and the Government of India.

The Administration has taken over the responsibility of overseeing the construction of inter-island vessels and the SCI for the mainland vessels so that the earlier problems associated with the DGS&D procurement are avoided and ships will be made available for service at the earliest.

Orders for 2 nos. 1200 passenger-cum-1500 cargo vessels has already been placed on Polish firm M/s Centramor, S.A. in 1987 and these are expected to be delivered in 1990-91. Orders for one more vessel of same type is likely to be placed on the same shipyard by September 1988.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

### Recommendation: Sl. No. 39, Para No. 3.56

The Committee note that out of an outlay of Rs. 1267.00 lakhs for construction of roads in the Andaman and Nicobar Island during the Sixth Plan Rs. 1072.81 lakhs could be utilised by the Administration for the purpose. The Committee need hardly emphasise the importance of roads as an instrument of economic development. The Committee, therefore, recommend that at least in the Seventh

Plan period, the Administration should plan properly and ensure to achieve fully the targets fixed by utilising all the funds earmarked for the roads.

### **Reply of the Government**

During the Seventh Plan there is no shortfall of funds, under sector 'Roads and Bridges'. In fact against a total approved outlay of Rs. 1590 lakhs for the period 1985-88, an amount of Rs. 2002 lakhs had been spent. The total fund provided for the Seventh Plan period shall be spent without any surrender under this sector.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 40, Para No. 3.61**

The Committee note with concern the tardy progress made by the Administration in the implementation of the Schemes for electrification in the Union Territory. Out of 491 villages with 40671 house-holds, electricity has been provided to 296 villages with 24660 households. The Committee find that the number of tribal villages so far electrified dismally low at 49. The lackadaisical approach of Administration is fully reflected by the mere fact that out of Rs. 12 crores provided in the Sixth Plan for the electrification schemes in the Union Territory, the Administration could utilise Rs. 8.51 crores only. Had the Administration been vigilant and prompt enough, they could have got cleared the schemes early to ensure full utilisation of these funds. The Committee has been assured that during the Seventh Plan period all the tribal villages will be electrified. The Committee hope that the Administration keep up their promise and make timely efforts to electrify the tribal villages by the end of the Seventh Plan.

### **Reply of the Government**

Of the 156 tribal villages, 87 are already electrified till 1987-88. The Administration is making every effort to electrify all the remaining tribal villages by the end of the Seventh Plan period.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 41, Para No. 4.4**

The Committee note that in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands that out of 334 cooperative societies of various types only 57 societies are located in the tribal areas for the purpose of providing credit (agricultural and non-agricultural) to the tribal people. The Committee feel that the number of Co-operative Societies in tribal areas is too inadequate. As the tribals are not only backward but are also too weak economically, they require

better looking after as compared to other communities. The Committee recommend that more Co-operative societies be set up in tribal areas to cater to the needs of tribals.

### **Reply of the Government**

The main economic activities of the Nicobari tribals round coconut and arecanut plantation produces. Every village of the tribals in the Nicobar has got a primary marketing co-operative society for handling procurement and marketing of agricultural produces like coconut and arecanut. Besides, there are two Central Societies functioning in Nicobars, which co-ordinate the activities of primary marketing societies. Therefore, the scope of organising more primary marketing co-operative societies is limited in view of existing coverages of villages. Efforts are, however, being continued to set up more co-operative societies in other subsidiary activities viz. fishing industry etc.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

### **Recommendation: Sl. Nos. 42 and 43, Para Nos. 4.25 and 4.26**

The Committee note that in Andaman and Nicobar Islands the percentage of literacy as per 1981 census is 51.56 in general and 31.11 for Scheduled Tribes.

The Committee need hardly stress that education is the most effective instrument in raising the social and economic status of the Schedule Tribes in the Islands. The Committee suggest that more and more Scheduled Tribe students should be encouraged to become teachers after attaining necessary qualifications. They further suggest that special syllabus and curricular of studies be laid down according to the needs of the tribal students and special techniques for imparting education to the tribals be worked out for spreading education among them.

### **Reply of the Government**

Aministration is fully aware of the need of education for the tribals and are doing everything possible to provide schooling facilities in the tribal areas. Hostels are also attached to Senior Secondary Schools at Car Nicobar and Chamblin. Stipend for each boarder is also extended. Every attempt is made to enrol more persons in elementary and adult education to raise the percentage of literacy amongst the tribals. Whatever required pre-primary and primary schools are opened and the existing primary, middle and secondary schools are upgraded periodically. Additional class rooms, hostels quarters, development of play grounds, supply of free books, free

uniforms, travel concession, hostel stipend, opening of new Adult Education Centres etc. are on-going jobs of the Education Department.

All efforts are being made to encourage the scheduled tribe students to become teachers. Even the educational qualification has been relaxed for admission in J.B.T. course. As far as possible tribal teachers are appointed in schools in tribal areas for imparting education to them and thereby spreading education among them. Further premiers for Class I and II in Nicobari tribal language has also been prepared and followed in schools in tribal area for imparting education to the tribals in their mother tongue.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 44, Para No. 4.27**

The Committee note that the facilities available for technical education viz., one polytechnic with an intake capacity of 50 students is quite inadequate. The Committee recommend that the intake capacity of the polytechnic should be increased to at least to 100,50 in civil engineering and 25 each in electrical and mechanical engineering. They also recommend that more polytechnics and ITIs should be opened in the Islands and new disciplines such as electronics and computer engineering should be introduced in the technical institutes.

**Reply of the Government**

The intake capacity of the existing Polytechnic Institute has already been raised from 50 to 70. Action to establish one more Polytechnic Institute in Middle Andaman has been taken, besides establishment of one I.T.I. at Port Blair. Proposals are also on hand to start new courses in the existing Polytechnic Institute.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 49, Para No. 4.39**

The Committee need hardly point out that on account of the long distances between the mainland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Islands *inter-se*, the provision of adequate medical facilities assumes considerable importance. The Committee would like the Union Territory Administration to pay special attention to the provision of adequate medical facilities in the remote areas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that at least two well equipped mobile dispensaries may be opened to cater to the needs of the tribal people living in remote areas.

### **Reply of the Government**

Adequate medical facilities by providing hospitals, P.H.Cs., sub-centres and dispensaries in the tribal areas are available. Such units are being upgraded in a phased manner. Provision for providing canteen, kitchen blocks, water tanks, x-ray and dark rooms, mini operation theatres, improved medical equipment for various specialists, mobile dispensary, ambulances etc. and posting of additional specialists like Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Medicine, E.N.T. & Orthopaedics etc. are some of the items of the budget for the current year. One Mobile Dispensary is already functioning at Car Nicobar. Even Specialists are rushed to the remotest tribal areas by helicopter to attend to the tribals in the exigencies of any emergency. It is thus evident that the Administration is committed to have a health and medical coverage to all the tribals throughout this territory.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

#### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 50, Para No. 4.40**

The Committee regret to observe that a number of posts of doctors and para medical staff are lying vacant in two district hospitals in tribal areas. The Committee do hope and recommend that the posts of doctors medical staff are created and filled up without any loss of time as assured by the representative of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

### **Reply of the Government**

It is a fact that due to non-availability of doctors and other para-medical staff, some posts could not be filled up by the Administration. However, to tide over the situation, the Administration has arranged to have eight medical specialists from the Army Medical Corp join the Medical & Health Department. The Medical Department has scheme on hand to train local youths in multi-purpose/para medical courses. It is hoped that in due course of time when more doctors and para-medical workers would be available, the position would be improved.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

#### **Recommendation : Sl No. 51, Para No. 4.45**

The Committee are constrained to note that all the Scheduled Tribe villages in the Union Territory have not been covered to provide with drinking water facilities. The Committee note that by the end of Sixth Plan, 53 tribal villages remained to be covered and during the Seventh Plan upto December, 1986 only 14 villages have been covered. 39 more villages are yet to be given drinking water supply

facilities in tribal villages will be provided with water supply facilities on a priority basis and in no case the period of coverage will extend beyond the stipulated period, i.e., end of 1989-90 as has been assured to them.

### **Reply of the Government**

8 villages during 1985-86, 11 villages during 1986-87 and 18 villages during 1987-88 have been provided with drinking water supply facilities. During the current year, another 18 villages shall be covered. It is hoped that all the tribal villages will be covered with supply of drinking water facilities by the end of the Seventh Plan period.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 52, Para No. 4.49**

The Committee note that all the eight families of Andamanese tribals have been provided with permanent houses free of cost. The Committee are however, concerned to note that the scheme relating to Special Housing Programme for Nicobarese, after supplying building materials at ex-Port Blair rates by subsidising transport and handling charges will benefit only 6 families. The Committee desire that the scheme should be geared upto cover more Nicobarese families. The Committee recommend that the Administration should try to cover other small tribal groups also with housing facility.

### **Reply of the Government**

The primitive tribes viz. Andamanese and Onges of Strait Island and Dugong Creek respectively have been provided with permanent houses with all civic amenities at Government expenses. A Shompen Complex has also been created for use by the Shompens at Great Nicobar. The Nicobarese live in their own traditional houses in their permanent settlement. No doubt, these houses are made of minor forest produces and in order to provide other modern buildings for housing, building materials at subsidised rate were supplied to the Nicobari families but then for want of artisans like carpenters, masons etc. they could not raise their own buildings. However, a scheme is already on operation to provide housing facilities to the tribal families and this will be executed. Besides, under the Indira Awas Yojana (RLEGP) 50 houses are constructed for Nicobarese and they shall be distributed to the needy families. As a non-going scheme more houses shall be constructed under the scheme, Indira Awas Yojana for the benefit of the tribal families.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 54, Para No. 4.52**

The Committee hope that the feasibility study for construction of a jetty in Cinque Islands must have been undertaken by now. They would like to be apprised of the final outcome and the progress, if any, made in the construction of the jetty. The committee further recommend that the proposal to develop Cinque Islands in the Andaman Group of Islands as a modern Beach Resort should be given a concrete shape immediately to encourage|attract tourist traffic in the Islands which will automatically become additional source of income for tribals and broadened their horizon through inter action with tourists.

**Reply of the Government**

No tribal is living in Cinque Island. However, as part of Tourism Development the Administration has taken up development of the Cinque Island including providing jetty etc. The Preliminary survey for construction of a jetty here has been completed by the Andaman Lakshdweep Harbour Works Department and drawings and estimates are under preparation. It is expected that the construction of the jetty will be taken up shortly, and so also to provide other requirements to develop the Island into a modern beach resort for the use of the tourist traffic.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation : Sl. No. 57, Para No. 5.9**

The Committee recommend that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration should make concerted efforts to improve the representation of Scheduled Tribes in all the Groups particularly in Groups 'C' and 'D' and bring it to the prescribed level of 16 per cent. The Committee feel that the target can be achieved by resorting to special recruitments and by relaxing the eligibility criteria in case of Scheduled Tribe candidate. Another aspect which has not been taken care of is, training of Scheduled tribes and bringing them up to the levels laid down for recruitment. Job oriented courses, should be organised in all schools and colleges so that Scheduled Tribe candidates passing out those institutions can straight way be observed and provided employment.

**Reply of the Government**

We have taken action to provide training oriented course in Nicobar itself to enable the tribal candidates eligible for appointment for banking services etc. But no tribal has come forward to join the course. Selection of candidates from the tribals for appointment under the Administration is also being done in Nicobar itself to

encourage/motivate the tribal youths to come forward to take up Government employment. 20 per cent of the seats for various professional courses on the mainland have also been reserved for Scheduled Tribe candidates in order to improve their representation in technical and professional services. We have also proposals to establish pre-examination training centre for the tribal candidates along with other candidates in competitive examinations.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 58, Para No. 5.10**

The Committee also recommend that while deputing Officers from the mainland or recruiting non-locals to the posts in the Union Territory, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration should ensure that there is good mix up of officers belonging to the Scheduled Tribes at their places of origin because they will have better understanding and be more responsive to the problems faced by the tribals in the Union Territory from their own personal experiences and will help more energetically to bring the local tribals into the mainstream of life.

**Reply of the Government**

Officers and other staff recruited from the Nicobar District are posted preferably in Nicobar itself. They could develop a good mix-up with the other non-tribals posted in that area. Posting of more officers belonging to the Scheduled Tribes to have good mix-up shall depend on availability of the Scheduled Tribe officers in days to come. It may not be out of place to mention here that for the better implementation of the Tribal Sub-Plan in the ITDP of Nicobars District, we have appointed a DANI officer who belongs to the Nicobari tribe as the Project Officer and it is he, who has to monitor the implementation of various developmental schemes in the ITDP district as a whole. He can be better instrument to achieve the aimed goal of the overall two-fold thrusts of socio-economic development of tribal areas and that of the tribal families as a whole.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]



### **CHAPTER III**

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT REPLIES**

##### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 1, Para 1.8**

The Committee note that besides the Chief Secretary there are 5 Secretaries excluding the Secretary to the Lt. Governor to assist him in the Administration of the Union Territory. The Committee are surprised to note that there is no Secretary exclusively incharge for Tribal Welfare who could devote his whole time and energy to the vital task of ameliorating the social and economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of A & N Islands who are inhabited at distant places in different islands, speak different languages and have varied customs and way of living. In view of the peculiar geographical factors and special tribal problems there, the Committee, recommend that there should be a separate Secretary exclusively incharge of Tribal Welfare activities and other socio-economic problems of Scheduled Tribes of the Union Territory of A & N Islands.

##### **Reply of the Government**

Besides the Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner and Secretary to Lt. Governor, there are only three Secretaries viz. Secretary (Finance), Secretary (Judicial) and another one Secretary. The works of all the departments of the Administration are shared by these Secretaries. The Tribal Welfare is accordingly assigned to one of these Secretaries. He is assisted by the Director of Tribal Welfare, who is a senior officer of DANICS. The present workload in the Tribal Welfare Department does not justify to have a Secretary solely for the tribal welfare work.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88]

##### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 4, Para No. 1.33**

The Committee note that a doctor has been posted in Jarawa to lookafter the health problems of tribals. However, the Administration gets no feed back from the doctor in regard to the patients treated by him and the value of medicines disbursed. The Committee are surprised that no separate provision is made in the

budget of the Union Territory for the medical facilities to be provided to the tribals. The expenditure is incurred under the Social Welfare Scheme which in the Committee's opinion is far from satisfactory. The Committee recommend that sufficient funds should be earmarked for the medical facilities to be provided to the tribals under a separate head of account in the Union Territory Budget.

### **Reply of the Government**

It is clarified that no doctor is posted in Jarawa area. In fact no outsider is residing in the Jarawa area as there is no scope for anyone to live with the Jarawas so far. However, a medical officer accompanies the contact party and minor ailments (cuts/wounds etc.) of Jarawas are treated on the spot during the contact. The Jarawas are not prepared to accept any pills or injections presently.

The Govt. of India provides grants-in-aid under Special Central Assistance for the welfare programmes of the primitive tribes including medical coverage and the fund being released is found sufficient for the purpose.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 7, Para No. 1.35**

The Committee have been informed that Jarawas are facing acute food shortage. The Committee recommend that steps should be taken to lay orchards in those areas so that the fruits grown there are available to them. Further pigs should be left in those areas as Jarawas eat pig meat. This may help them in having piggeries in the Islands.

### **Reply of the Government**

It is inevitable whether the Jarawas are facing acute shortage of food. For a population of about 200 Jarawas, who are still in hunting and food gathering stage, an area of over 800 sq. kms. of thick forests with potentialities like fruits, roots, honey, pigs etc. is solely reserved for them. The Administration also supplies adequate quantities of coconuts, bananas etc. during contact which the Jarawas like very much.

In fact in the past the Administration had attempted to plant fruit trees in the Jarawa area but then the Jarawas uprooted them. This indicates that the Jarawas are not ready to accept the same. Efforts to plant fruit trees in their area shall be made in course of time. Sufficient number of wild pigs are available in the forests inhabited by Jarawas, which they hunt for their food. During contact we could notice that enough pigs are killed by the Jarawas

and the pork is kept reserved in their huts. Leaving domestic/reared pigs in the Jarawa area is not recommended presently as similar attempts in the Onge settlement was a failure.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015|1|88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 11, Para No. 1.51**

The Committee are surprised that no community has been specified as Scheduled Castes under Article 341 of the Constitution of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee do not agree with the position taken by the representative of the Ministry of Welfare that "the State Government and Union Territory Administration cannot notify any caste as Scheduled Caste unless the list prepared by Parliament has been amended by the Union Government." The Committee are aware that the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are amended by the Union Government on the basis of the representation received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Of course, this requires an amendment of the list through enactment of Parliament. The Committee recommend that after reviewing the position carefully the Union Territory Administration should take up the matter suitably with the Union Government for declaring any deserving caste as Scheduled Caste in the Union Territory.

**Reply of the Government**

No caste has been scheduled in these Islands. People from all walks of life have developed a casteless society and live in complete harmony and no community suffers from any social disability. In fact no caste is existing in this territory and it may not be advisable to schedule any caste to create/develop differences amongst the people.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015|1|88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 14, Para No. 2.14**

The Committee have been apprised that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration have the financial powers to sanction a project upto Rs. 2 crores only which the opinion of the Committee keeping in view the constant cost escalations is too meagre. They desire that the Ministry of Welfare being the nodal Ministry, should monitor and keep a close watch on the developmental activities going on in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and impress on the sanctioning authorities the need for delegation of more financial powers to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration so that the tribal welfare projects are not bogged down by procedural wrangles.

### Reply of the Government

No project or scheme causing more than Rs. 2 crores under any sector of the Tribal Sub-Plan is being implemented in this territory. Hence for want of more financial powers of the Administration over and above Rs. 2 crores, no scheme is affected.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88]

### Recommendation: Sl. No. 28, Para No. 3.26

The Committee regret that the number of tribals imparted training in animal husbandry is too meagre. Out of 122 farmers imparted training in deep litter system of poultry farming at different Departmental Demonstration Camps in 1985-86 the number of tribals is just 11. Similarly out of 16 farmers deputed to mainland for training in the field of cattle, poultry and piggery farming during 1985-86 the number of tribal is only 2. The committee recommend that more training facilities should be made available to the tribals in the field of animal husbandry keeping in view their backwardness.

### Reply of the Government

The number of tribals imparted training in deep litter system of poultry farming was less for the reason that there was poor response from the tribals. During 1987-88 there was a target of three tribals for being sent to mainland for training during 1987-88, only one tribal came forward to such training. Efforts will be made to impart training to more tribals in poultry keeping etc. during the remaining two years of the Seventh Plan.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88 ]

### Recommendation: Sl. No. 37, Para No. 3.50

The Committee note with concern that the proposal for procurement of a Hospital-cum-Banking-cum-supply ship in the Sixth Plan has not materialised so far. The Committee recommend that expeditious steps be taken to get the litigation problem between DGS and D and the manufacturing firm resolved expeditiously and the ship in question acquired at the earliest.

### Reply of the Government

The procurement of hospital-cum-banking-cum-supply ship ordered in Sixth Five Year Plan is not likely to be materialised in view of serious litigation between DGS&D and the Shipyard M/s Hindock Engineering, Calcutta. It has been decided in a meeting at a high level in the Ministry of Home Affairs with all concerned that this

vessel is not likely to be materialise for supply and as such the legal measures must be taken to recover the advance payment already made to the firm. DGS and D is progressing action in this regard.

In view of the vast improvement in net-work of medical facilities, banks, supply depots etc. in various islands especially in the tribal areas, the absence of this vessel will not in any way affect the welfare of the tribal people.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 45, Para No. 4.28**

The Committee note that in the hostels lodging is free for all the students while boarding is not free. However, an additional stipend of Rs. 20 is given to all Scheduled Tribe students staying in hostels. The Committee recommend that keeping in view the present rise in prices, the amount of this stipend should be suitably enhanced so that no economic burden is felt by the tribals in sending their children to Schools.

**Reply of the Government**

The rate of stipend for all hostelers has been raised from Rs. 75/- to Rs. 115/- per month. The S. T. students are however, given an extra amount of Rs. 20/- per month per head to evert any economic burden on the tribal families in the education of their children.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88]

**Recommendation : Sl. No. 53, Para No. 4.50**

The Committee note that the role of nationalised banks in extending loans for construction of houses for tribals is marginal. They recommend that Ministry of Finance, Banking Division should be approached to instruct the branches of nationalised banks located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to augment credit facilities for construction of houses for the tribals.

**Reply of the Government**

The Nicobari tribals are not in favour of availing bank loans for construction of houses. Efforts are being made to avail the loan facilities from the nationalised banks. However, with the introduction of Indira Awas Yojana for providing housing to the tribals. the possibility of their coming forward to have bank loans are remote.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88 ]

**Recommendation: Sl. No. 55, Para No. 5.7**

The Committee note that out of 238 employees in Group A posts, only 2 belong to Scheduled Tribes. In Group B posts also out of 307 employees, 2 are Scheduled Tribes. Thus the percentage of Scheduled Tribes in both Groups is less than even 1 percent.

**Reply of the Government**

Availability of qualified hands for appointment against Gazetted posts amongst the tribals is remote. Whosoever qualified for any of the gazetted post is immediately absorbed. In fact we have only four Gazetted Officers from amongst the tribals of these Islands. The Administration takes special care to depute the Scheduled Tribes for higher education on mainland and as and when any Scheduled Tribe comes out after successfully completing the course is appointed against any one of the suitable posts.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

**Recommendation : Sl. No. 56, Para No. 5.8**

In Group 'C' and 'D' also the picture is quite dismal; the percentage of Scheduled Tribes being 3.49 and 3.66 respectively against the prescribed percentage of 16 per cent.

**Reply of the Government**

It is because of the non-availability of sufficient number of Scheduled Tribe candidates for appointment against various posts under the Administration, the percentage of their representation in Government job is poor. The Government has earmarked 16 per cent of the posts for the tribals and if sufficient tribals are available even this limit can be increased upward. As on 31-12-1987 we had 309 Group 'C' and 539 Group 'D' tribal employees under the Administration.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88]

## **CHAPTER IV**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE AND REQUIRE REITERATION**

#### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 8, Para No. 1.42**

The Committee desire that the composition of the Pradesh Council should be made more broad-based by giving adequate representation to different tribes in the Island. The Committee further recommend that the meetings of the Pradesh Council should be held more frequently in order to create sense of involvement among the tribals, to make assessment of their problems and to devise ways and means for improving the socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants of the Islands.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The tribals are adequately represented in the Pradesh Council. Against a total strength of 30 members, 7 are tribes, which is 24 per cent of the strength of the council, while the population of the tribals is only 12 per cent. More so, one of the five Counsellors is also a tribal.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88]

#### **Comments of the Committee**

Please See para 1.4 of Chapter I

#### **Recommendation : Sl. No. 25, Para No. 3.20**

The Committee also recommend that the subsidy on pump sets be stepped up to encourage tribals to have their own pump sets instead of taking these on loan from the administration. This will help better crop yield and also go a long way to improve the financial condition of tribals.

#### **Reply of the Government**

It is proposed to make provision for increasing subsidy on supply of pump sets to tribals during next five year plan.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88]

### Comments of the Committee

Please see para 1.7 of Chapter I.

#### Recommendation Sl. No. 55, Para No. 5.7

The Committee have been informed that at present only 410 tribals are engaged in fisheries on part time basis in the Islands. It is obvious that without making the fishing lucrative and attractive the Administration cannot attract more tribals to take up fisheries. The committee recommend that apart from other steps marketing facilities should be augmented rapidly so that more tribals are attracted to fishing. This can only be done if the fishermen are assured that their catch will ensure them on the spot payment.

#### Reply of the Government

Fishing equipments including fishing boats are supplied to tribal fishermen on 60 per cent subsidy to increase fish catch in tribal area. There is ready market for fish in the tribal area. The fisheries department has on hand proposal to construct one 10 tonnes capacity cold storage and one 5 tonnes capacity ice plant at Car Nicobar for preservation of fish.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88]

### Comments of the Committee

Please See para 110 of Chapter I

#### Recommendation: Sl. No. 32, Para No. 3.39

The Committee note that an outlay of Rs. 550 lakhs was provided for the Forestry Schemes in the A&N Islands by the Planning Commission during the Sixth Five Year Plan. However, the yearly allotments made came to Rs. 495.17 lakhs only. The Committee regret that even out of this reduced plan outlay the Administration was able to utilise Rs. 423.344 lakhs only. This shows that due care was not given to the Forestry Schemes by the Administration viewed against the demand of some of the Ministries for more funds in plan outlay, the Committee cannot reconcile to the non-utilisation of the funds by the Union Territory Administration. The Committee recommend that Administration should draw proper schemes in time and then vigorously implement them to obviate the possibility of non-utilisation of funds during the Seventh Plan.



**Reply of the Government**

Proper schemes for the development of forest including raising of socio-forestry and minor forest products in the Nicobar District have been drawn up and included under the Seventh Plan period. An amount of Rs. 1200 lakhs is provided in the State Plan under sector Forest, of which an amount to the tune of Rs. 97 lakhs is being utilised as flow of fund for the Tribal Sub-Plan in the Nicobars District. The expenditure upto last year was to the tune of Rs. 35 lakhs.

**Comments of the Committee**

Please see para 1.13 of Chapter I.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88]

## **CHAPTER V**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS ON WHICH FINAL REPLY OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED**

#### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 13, Para No. 2.13**

The Committee are surprised to note that budget provision for the Tribal Sub-Plan was not reflected in the budget of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the year 1985-86. The Committee recommend that for the remaining years of Seventh Plan, provision should be made for the Tribal Sub-Plan in the budget of Union Territory under separate heads.

#### **Reply of the Government**

The demands for grants for this Union Territory are scrutinized and accepted by the respective Ministries on whom the constitutional responsibility for the functions in the State and Concurrent lists falls. These are consolidated and presented in the Parliament by the Ministry of Home Affairs as an "Area" demand. Therefore, the question of creating a separate demand in respect of services envisaged under Tribal Sub-Plan has become difficult. The matter is, however, pending with the Govt. of India for a final decision. A separate booklet is prepared/maintained year-wise reflecting the Tribal Sub-Plan under various sectors. Necessary instructions have also been issued to various departments separately showing the fund earmarked for Tribal Sub-Plan under a sub-head of their respective functional head of account.

#### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee may be intimated of the final decision taken by Govt. in the matter of making provision for Tribal Sub-Plan in the budget of Union Territory under separate head.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD(A) dated 21-7-88]

#### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 24, Para No. 3.19**

The Committee note that in the absence of any river, there is no major irrigation programme in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They have been informed that the Department of Agriculture has

some provision for digging of individual irrigation ponds and for providing pump sets on loan and gives a subsidy of 33.13 per cent on pumps sets purchased by the tribals. The Committee recommend that instead of concentrating on digging of individual irrigation ponds, the Administration should explore the possibility of digging community ponds which will be more economic and benefit a larger number of cultivators with water for cultivation from a single source. The Committee will await the outcome of the efforts made by the administration in this regard.

### **Reply of the Government**

The tribal areas are proposed to be surveyed in consultation with tribals for digging community ponds for irrigation purpose.

### **Comments of the Committee**

The Committee will like to be apprised of the outcome of the proposed survey in consultation with tribals for digging community ponds for irrigation purpose.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

### **Recommendation: Sl. No. 31, Para No. 3.33**

The Committee also desire that in order to make fishing more popular among tribals, the A and N Administration should take following steps :—

- (i) Organise inter-village fishing competition every year with an alluring prize money to the winner;
- (ii) devise ways and means to make fishing a full time commercial activity in the islands; and
- (iii) as an additional incentive the rate of subsidy should be suitably increased on both mechanised boats and other fishing materials.

### **Reply of the Government**

Action is being initiated to organise inter-village fishing competition in tribal areas. The fisheries department has a proposal to start pole and line fishing demonstration exclusively for tribals of Nicobars to encourage them to take up fishing, as a full time commercial activity. The department has proposals to raise the rate of subsidy on mechanised fishing boat etc. from 60 per cent to 80 per cent during Eighth Five Year Plan.

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee are not satisfied with reply of Government. They desire that the rate of subsidy on mechanised fishing boat etc. should be increased forthwith.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88]

**Recommendation:** Sl. No. 46, 47 and 48, Para No. 4.29, 4.30 and 4.31

The Committee note that one of the educational facilities provided to students in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is mid-day meals at the rate of 25 paise per pupil for working days from classes I to VIII.

The Committee cannot but express their surprise on the paltry amount of 25 paise allocated per pupil for mid-day meals upto class VIII. It is beyond their comprehension as to what type of meal could 25 paise fetch for a student studying in class VIII. While deprecating the mockery of this facility, the Committee strongly recommend that the rate of mid-day meal provided to students should be suitably raised without any further loss of time.

The Committee would also like to be apprised as to when the rate of 25 paise per student for mid-day meal was fixed by the Administration and the reasons why it has not been revised till date when the prices of food stuff and other essential commodities have reached rocket-high.

### Reply of the Government

It is admitted. However, efforts are being made to raise the rate of 25 paise to 75 paise per student per day.

We do admit that the present rate of 25 paise per pupil for mid-day meal upto Class VIII is too inadequate. The prices of food stuff and other essential commodities have gone up. The matter has been taken up with the Govt. of India for the upward revision of the rate and their orders are still awaited.

The rate of 25 paise per pupil was fixed by the Govt. of India in 1977. The proposal for upward revision of this rate is under consideration of the Govt. of India since 1986.

### Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be informed of the decision of Government regarding the upward revision of the rate of mid-day meal which in their opinion should not be less than Rs. three per day per student.

[Min. of Welfare O.M. 16015/1/88-TD (A) dated 21-7-88.]

## APPENDIX

(*Vide* Para 4 of the Report)

### ANALYSIS OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN 30TH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

- I. Total Number of Recommendations—58
- II. Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (*Vide* recommendations at Sl. Nos. 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 57 and 58).
- Number—37
- Percentage to Total—63.8
- III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (*Vide* recommendations at Sl. Nos. 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, 28, 37, 45, 53, 55 and 56).
- Number—11
- Percentage to Total—19.00
- IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration (*Vide* recommendations at Sl. Nos. 8, 25, 30 and 32).
- Number—4
- Percentage—6.9
- V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of Government have not been received (*vide* recommendations at Sl. Nos. 13, 24, 31, 46, 47 and 48).
- Number—6
- Percentage to Total—10.3