

E.S. Rajesh  
Member

Hon'ble Lt Governor  
Raj Bhavan, Port Blair

The Chief Secretary  
A&N Admn, Port Blair

Zila Parishad  
Andaman & Nicobar Islands  
Laxmi Nagar, the

Sub: WELFARE AND REHABILITATION - TSUNAMI AFFECTED FAMILIES

Sir,

More than a year past after the disastrous Tsunami, the affected families living in shelters at Campbel Bay are looking forward for the redressal of their difficulties and rehabilitation on a permanent measure. All of us are thankful to the Central Govt and our administration for whatever has been done for our welfare till date. Much more is needed to be addressed for creating self-sustained employment opportunities and permanent rehabilitation.

PERMANENT HOUSES: Provision of pre-fabricated housing units needs reconsideration. The reason being:

- A major chunk of the cost will get utilized in transportation of the units and payment to the Contractors towards erection charges.
- Ex-Servicemen, being agriculturists, will need the houses with their choice design and construction materials. The design and proposed construction materials aren't liked by the Ex Servicemen as the pre-fab housing units do not suit their needs.

BANKLOANS: Concerned Banks have not yet been directed to write off the outstanding bank loans of the Tsunami affected customers as on 26 Dec 2004. May these directives be got issued at the earliest. To gain impetus for the growth of our agricultural economy we need fresh bank loans. We are requesting that the rate of interest be kept at 4% per annum till such time that our agricultural economy picks up. The small scale sector may also be considered for low interest rate.

AGRICULTURE: Subsidy on agricultural inputs and machinery deserves to be raised above 50% for the benefit of Tsunami affected farmers. We request for this concession.

FREE RATIONS FOR THE SURVIVAL OF EX-SERVICEMEN: During nineteen sixties, when the need to man this island was felt, ex-servicemen with their families were inducted to this island as settlers. They braved the weather vagaries, suffered from diseases, toiled hard and put Great Nicoba Island on the map of progress in A&N. The devastating Tsunami has washed away all their belongings and with them the progress made during the last 35 years was also lost. We are refugees within our own island. Sir, you are aware what a refugee's life could be. We are passing time in the shelters 35 KM away from our pre-Tsunami living areas. We cannot go there till such time our permanent houses are