

- 9 -

28

Para
No.F.No.3-9/AAJVS/TW/2005-PF

A team of officers alongwith the Andamanese representatives visited Strait Island on 29/1/2005. The composition of the team is placed at page..69../C. The team included Anthropologists of Anthropological Survey of India, (ASI) apart from the officers of A&N Administration. The primary task was to identify the suitable site for new Settlement for the Andamanese who were affected by the devastating Tsunami that visited the Strait Island also on 26/12/2004. Presently, Andamanese are staying in the Relief Camp in Adibasera in Port Blair.

Tidal waves due to Tsunami inundated the Andamanese Settlement at Strait Island, though the structures continued to exist which could be put to use after some repairs. Since the existing (old) Settlement at Strait Island is situated very close to the high tide mark and is almost at the sea level, it is not safe to use the same site for the Settlement again keeping in view its vulnerability. The Administration has been of the general view following the Tsunami to strictly follow the CRZ Regulation and to discourage human habitation near the coastal area.

The Andamanese did not suffer loss of life due to Tsunami as they quickly deserted their Settlement and climbed a high ground (Ridge) near by. Knowledgeable Andamanese including their Headman accompanied the team of officers in scouting the suitable high ground.

A moderately high ground / ridge located at the back of the existing Solar Power Plant was found to be suitable for the new Settlement. The land with atleast 30 meters above mean sea level (MSL) alongwith this ridge could be used for Settlement. The site shall have to be atleast 500 meters away from high tide mark.

In the first instance two wells could be sunk near the Settlement to provide drinking water. At the later date water from stream / spring reported to be available on the other side near Light House could be tapped.

Necessary infrastructures like bridle path (a path of about 2 meters wide with stone pavement), Streetlights, Tap water connection, Power Supply, Community Hall (for 100 persons), Medical Sub-Centre, Police Radio Centre, School, Cooperative Society and residential accommodation for the Govt. / AAJVS functionaries etc. could be provided at a higher ground some distance away from the Andamanese houses.

Lay out for the Andamanese houses could be drawn up keeping in view the natural topography and not restoring to the large scale leveling and felling of big trees. Each Andamanese