

The Director (TW) pointed out that the toilet blocks are not in proper condition and need repair to provide pour flush latrines. The Executive Secretary AAJVS informed that the estimate furnished by APWD for toilet blocks has already been approved and the funds will be deposited by 14th of this month.

It was decided that the tribals should be educated to stay neat and clean to prevent diseases caused due to insanitation. The DHS informed that health educators would be deputed periodically to educate the tribals in respect of cleanliness. The Director, Health Services further stated that arrangements will be made to study the cases of infertility.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay of ASI, Port Blair suggested that there is a need of further Bio-Anthropological Survey to find out the reasons for the diseases and malnutrition among the tribals. ASI would undertake such studies in the near future.

The Director (TW) referred to the article of RMRC in which it is mentioned that intake of fat items are more than the recommended quantity. The Director (TW) wanted to know whether the quantities of oils supplied as par of free ration to Andamanese are to be cut down. The DHS and the Assistant Director, RMRC opined that at present there is no need to cut down the fat items and to make any changes in the ration items.

However, Dr. Rao stated that the changes if required would be reflected in the final report. He also suggested that infants upto 4 months should not be given any other milk or food items except Breast milk. The DHS also agreed with him and intimated that the mothers are properly advised in this respect.

The DHS and the Assistant Director, RMRC stressed on the supply of green vegetables to the tribals to prevent deficiency in nutrition. Director of Agriculture informed that action has already been initiated to raise vegetal garden of Strait Island. He further informed that the fencing materials and seedling etc. are ready but the department could not transport the same to Strait Island due to non-availability of conveyance.

The Executive Secretary, AAJVS informed that MV Milale has been repaired and the materials may be taken to Strait Island by MV Milale and requested the Representative of agriculture department to intimate the programme for making necessary arrangements. The Executive Secretary also informed that the Veterinary Department has also arranged goats for the tribals which may also be taken alongwith the items of agriculture department.

The Director (TW) pointed out that till vegetables are grown in the settlement area the same may be provided from Port Blair under the free ration supply and the Secretary (TW) instructed the Executive Secretary, AAJVS to take necessary steps in this respect.