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In the Symposium organised by the RMRC (ICMR) on 27/02/98 (copy at page 4-10/C) the various aspects of the tribal health and nutrition were discussed and recommendations were offered. At page 11-13/N, the copies of the recommendations and report were forwarded to all heads of departments for comments as desired by Secretary (TW) at para 39 of page 13/N. Only the DIIS has offered the comments (Page 26-27/C) in which she has recommended for providing high protein diets and enough green vegetables. The agriculture department has to raise vegetables and horticultural crops in the tribal settlements. At present the tribals do not include vegetables in their daily diet as they are not habitual in taking vegetables. Vegetables are to be grown in their settlement areas so that they may learn the value of vegetables and start including the same in their daily diet. A copy of report and recommendations furnished by ICMR placed at page 110-112/C.

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The DIIS has also recommended for supply of green leafy vegetables and other vegetables rich in iron and vitamins to the tribals. Though the DIIS has also started the process of de-worming the tribals and administering iron and folic acid. This is also to be started at Dugong Creek and South Bay. The DIIS had deputed a team of Doctors, Para Medical Staff and Lab Technicians with necessary equipments to Strait Island on 06th July 1998 headed by Dr. Alok Sinha, Sr. Medical Specialist. On the basis of the findings of the team of doctors the DIIS furnished a report on the general health and nutritional conditions of the Great Andamanese which is placed at page 117-124/C. Dr. Narsimha Sr. Medical Officer who was deputed on duty-cum-tour to Dugong Creek also recommended for providing Jaggery, Moong Dal, Eggs and vegetables to the tribals. Accordingly a proposal was submitted on the concerned file to supply the vegetables like brinjal, vegetable banana, ladies finger, beans, bitter guard, leafy vegetables like Pouy Bhaji, Marsa Bhaji, Palak, Mooli etc. The Secretary (TW) opined that before adding any new items in the free ration, the expert opinion of DIIS and ICMR was necessary. Copies of notes placed at page 125-128/C. Accordingly a meeting was convened in the chamber of Secretary (TW) on 10/09/98 at 11.00 a.m. The DIIS, Assistant Director, ICMR, Representative of Agriculture Department, Director (TW) and Executive Secretary, AAJVS attended the meeting. Copy of the minutes of meeting may kindly be seen at page 102-105/C.