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ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
SECRETARIAT : PORT BLAIR

No. PA-1/Secy(TW)/2011/ 50

Port Blair dated 24th Nov 2011

NOTE

During my recent visit to Strait Island along with National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Govt. of India, to which Shri Govind Ram, Executive Secretary AAJVS also accompanied, following matters came up during discussions and field inspection at Strait Island,

1. The Jetty at Strait Island needs urgent repair/strengthening as some of the pillars have become loose at their foundation. It was told that the matter has been taken up with Harbour Master on many occasions in the past but no action has been taken so far. A letter from my side be put addressed to Harbour Master and Chief Engineer & Administrator, ALHW along with Director Shipping Services asking them to take up this work on priority, before any untoward incidence happens.
2. The construction work of new houses and other buildings at a higher ground is more or less completed. But there are issues, which have already been highlighted by you in the file. As already directed we need to take up the following points which need immediate attention to make this colony habitable and safe with a proper approach footpath/road during this working season itself.
 - i. The houses constructed are at the base of a steep slope and are very close to the slope. There is hardly any gap between the slope and the back side of the house. The soil is loose mainly consisting of lime stone rubble. Although there is thick vegetation on the slope there are chances of land slide/rock falling. Actually at the first house after the Police Barracks, the front side of the land has already slid down and if a retaining wall is not constructed there is a chance that this building may get damaged during the next rainy season. Considering the closeness to the building and fragile nature of soil, APWD needs to see whether cutting to make retaining wall at the back side of the houses can be avoided and some other type of protection such as steel or timber posts frame along with steel wiremesh, will be a better option to contain the soil and rock fall.
 - ii. The approach road needs to be developed and the final approach to the houses which is very steep needs to be provided with properly aligned cement concrete footpath giving ramp like structure rather than steps so that walking up and down is less strenuous.
 - iii. Water and electricity connection are to be provided and the houses are to be given final finish at the earliest so that the families can shift from the old colony to the newly constructed house.
 - iv. The issue of additional funds requirement for pending work/new work needs to be sorted out because funds released for work like retaining wall near the jetty are not being taken up and therefore these funds can be utilized for finishing the buildings and additional work of retaining wall/appropriate structure to contain soil, making approach road etc.