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*Sub:- Observations of parliamentary Committee on welfare of SCs & STs during the visit of Andamanese settlement.*

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The Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of SCs & STs visited Andamanese settlement at Strait Island on 3.9.2002 and inspected Middle School, Medical Sub-Centre, Power House, Community Hall and houses of Andamanese. The Committee was impressed by the overall cleanliness in the settlement.

The Committee Members specifically enquired from Andamanese whether they would like to shift to Port Blair, the Andamanese stated that they would like to stay on Strait Island itself to continue to live their traditional way of life. Some of them were critical about their children who having gone to Port Blair have adopted bad habits like drinking etc.

On inspection of the Medical Sub-Centre Committee was satisfied about the availability of necessary medicines in the Sub-Centre.

After inspection of the settlement and discussions with Andamanese tribals the Committee made the following suggestions / observations.

- (i) All the students in the Middle School, Strait Island should be given the uniforms as well as shoes as a part of school uniform.

*Action : Director of Education.*

- (ii) Existing Black Board in the school should be replaced.

*Action : Director of Education.*

- (iii) Medical Officer, PHC, Long Island should visit the Medical Sub-center at Strait Island at least once a week.

D.F.O Rangat should provide the motor boat to Medical Officer, PHC, Long Island on demand. The issue relating to payment of Bills should not become one of the reasons to deny medical aid to the Andamanese.

*Action : DHS, DFO, Rangat & ES, AAJVS*

- (iv) Old and unserviceable sewing machine kept in the Community Hall could replaced immediately.

*Action : Executive Secretary, AAJVS*

- (v) Director (IP&T) should ensure that TV Sets are available at Community Hall at all times and should be replaced with spare TV sets in case of repair.

*Action : Director (IP&T)*

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