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Minutes of meeting held in the chamber of Special Secretary (TW) on 23/07/2007 regarding ongoing civil works at Strait Island

List of the Officers attending the meeting is enclosed as annexure "A"

A meeting was convened in the chamber of the Special Secretary (TW) to discuss about the ongoing civil works being undertaken at Great Andamanese settlement in Strait Island. Special Secretary (TW) stated that an amount of Rs.475.53 lakhs was deposited by AAJVS with APWD for execution of various civil works at Strait Island for the permanent settlement of the Great Andamanese. Out of the 9 different works sanctioned, only 3 minor works have been completed.

- a) The Superintending Engineer APWD informed that due to rain and stagnation of water, construction of 11 houses for the Great Andamanese and 7 staff quarters is running behind schedule. Presently, the foundation and pillar work of the building have been completed. He stated that work would speed up after October as soon as the rain stops. He would hand over the 18 buildings by 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2008. He had requested that construction of retaining wall around these structures is urgently required so that there is no landslide and loss of property. Superintending Engineer was requested to submit the estimates, which would be sanctioned in due course, but concentration should be on completion of the existing works.
- b) With regard to construction of footpath and community hall, Superintending Engineer informed that the work have reached the roof stage and he would hand over the same by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.
- c) Superintending Engineer, informed that tenders for construction of school building, guesthouse, sub-center etc has not been called and will be called shortly.

Special Secretary (TW) stated that the Great Andamanese have requested that an English medium school may be started at Strait Island and they wanted to shift their children presently studying at Port Blair back to Strait Island. Special Secretary (TW) asked Superintending Engineer to take up the issue on priority basis.