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All the new construction works have been started by APWD by assigning the works to three contractors. It has been later learnt that all the three contractors have sub let the works to three sub-contractors with the knowledge and permission of APWD authorities and the Sub-contracts are actually carrying out the work. APWD being the technical authority all terms and conditions are by and between the APWD and the Contractors. Since the responsibility as well as technical authority of supervision of construction works also vests with APWD nothing is ever revealed to the user Department / Organization.

As regards the instant complaint, the same appears to be pseudonymous. However, the matter has been enquired by me obtaining a report from the Incharge of AAJVS posted at Strait Island and also examining Smti. Surmai, the Chief of Great Andamanese. Both of them have stated that they have never seen any of the contractors or their labourers unauthorisedly removing sand from the shore at Strait Island. Smti. Surmai, the Great Andamanese Chief further stated that no complaint was ever made to her by any member of her tribe in this regard. It is pertinent to mention here that ever since the new construction works have been taken up a Junior Engineer of APWD has been posted at Strait Island. The statement of the Junior Engineer has however, not been recorded by me because if there be any truth in the complaint regarding unauthorized removal and use of sand from Strait Island it can be possible only with the connivance of the Junior Engineer who is stationed there. During my visit to Strait Island on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 i.e a day before Hon'ble LG's visit I personally enquired the matter there but none of the Great Andamanese corroborated the complaint. The Executive Engineer, CD-I, APWD who had accompanied me also stated to be unaware of it.

In conclusion, it may be stated that the possibility of unauthorized removal of sand by the Contractors / Sub-Contractors from the shores of Strait Island and use of the same in the buildings under construction cannot be ruled out as plenty of sand is available at Strait Island and it is a remote place without any Forest Official so