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Important issues raised during the visit of His Excellency the President of India during his visit to Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2005.

His Excellency the President of India visited Car Nicobar, Teressa and Campbell Bay on 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2005. HE had detailed interaction with the tribal leaders/Panchayat representatives at Car Nicobar, Teressa and Campbell Bay. The main focus of His Excellency's visit was the inspection of intermediate shelters and also interaction with the school children. In the course of the interaction with the local leaders, the issues of supply of electricity, road connectivity, providing water supply, etc. were highlighted. The following are the issues highlighted and the assurance given to His Excellency by the Administration:

1. Car Nicobar:

(i) The tribal leaders informed His Excellency that in view of the existence of the traditional Tribal Council, the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment of the Constitution in terms of implementation of the Panchayat Raj system is not applicable. However, the leaders pleaded that the Tribal Council should be empowered in terms of providing adequate budgetary provision as is being done in the case of Panchayat Raj Institutions, for taking up various developmental activities. It was also pleaded that a full-fledged Tribal Council building/office may be constructed. It was assured that these issues will be examined at the appropriate level.

[Action: Secretary(LSG)/Secretary(TW)]

(ii) The leaders requested that supply of electricity, water supply and road connectivity to the newly set up intermediate shelters should be improved. It was assured by the Administration that immediate action will be taken to redress these problems.

[Action: Commr (PWD)/CE, APWD]

(iii) The problem of procurement of copra and rejuvenation of plantation crops were highlighted. The Administration informed that necessary action has already been taken to rehabilitate the Cooperative Societies so that procurement of copra takes place immediately. The Agriculture Department has already taken action to reclaim land lost due to ingress of seawater, to make it viable for re-plantation of plantation crops.

[Action: Dev.Commr]

(iv) The people desired that the ration now being supplied to those who are staying in the intermediate shelters be continued for some more time, as people have not yet been gainfully employed. It was assured that the Administration will take appropriate action.

[Action: CS/Secy (CS)]

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