

Highlights :-

Some of the highlights of the visit were as follows:-

- Improvement in connectivity by enhanced shipping services is a must for overall development of southern group of islands and responsive administration. The shipping services between Port Blair-Car Nicobar-Nancowry-Campbell Bay and inter-island (within southern group) needs to be considerably enhanced. The villagers were informed that with the deployment of six 75/100 pax vessels at Car Nicobar, Nancowry and Campbell Bay, there shall be considerable improvement in shipping services within next six months.
- Villages with even 5 to 10 houses, demanded electricity, water supply, roads etc. In view of large investment required for providing such amenities, the tribal leaders were requested to consider merging of smaller villages to bigger villages so that physical infrastructure like road, power, water supply, schools, health centers could be provided quickly to all at a lesser investment.
- The Villagers at most of the places complained that Copra is not being lifted by EHL/ANCOFED regularly and timely payment is also not being made. The villagers were informed about GOI's Scheme of Minimum Support Price. The villagers were assured that the matter is being taken up with EHL/ANCOFED to improve their working capital position by borrowing from banks.
- The quality of copra in general being produced by the villagers is poor as they are using traditional drying methods. The Biomass Dryer installed by the Electricity Department on sharing basis in Car Nicobar was found to be giving good quality output. It is felt that this should be replicated at a large scale for drying copra in southern group of islands.