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With a view to improve the communication link the administration has included specific provision for construction of berthing facilities at various islands viz. Chowra, Teresa, Bambooka, Tilang Chang, Trinket, Pilomillow, Pilopanja, Minyuk, Upper Katchal, West Bay Katchal, Ponda, Daring, Pilpillow, Tapang, Pilobhabi, Kopen Heat etc. of which hydro-graphic survey for construction of jetties at the following islands viz. Pilobhabi, Trinket / Safed Balu, Pilomillow, Kopen Heat, Southern side of Chowra and Pilopanja has already been completed. The estimates had already been framed by AHW and submitted to the Shipping & Transport Department of the Administration in August 1998. A jetty and breakwater at Mus in Car Nicobar have been taken up. Procurement of a number of vessels under the Tribal Sub-Plan for the 9<sup>th</sup> Five year Plan (1997-2002) has been taken up by the Shipping Department. L T S P

3) Economic Difficulties: -

The economy of the Nicobarese is mainly based on cultivation and marketing of coconut and betel-nut. They sell their agricultural produces like coconut and betel-nut through their primary co-op societies at village level and the village level societies, in turn, market the agricultural produces to the Apex Societies. Hitherto the market price of copra was reportedly Rs. 24/- per Kg, which has dropped to Rs. 15/- per Kg all of sudden. The sudden drop of selling price of their agricultural produce is causing hardship to the tribals. There has been drastic reduction in their income due to drop of price of the copra. So they have demanded that the administration may fix a support price for the copra so as to protect the tribals from economic hardship / crises. The demand appears to be genuine, so the feasibility of fixing support price of the copra may be examined by the Agriculture Department so that in the event of drop of market price of the copra, the Agriculture Department could purchase the copra from the tribals.

4) Educational Problem: -

The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore may be involved in development of the Nicobarese language.