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**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL WELFARE.**

This is regarding one of the charter of demand viz - 'autonomous tribal council' of Shri M.R. Bhakta, Ex MP.

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Panchayat Regulation is not applicable to the reserved area (tribal area). In other words the tribal area is exempt from the purview of the Panchayat Regulation. The idea behind exemption of the tribal area was to allow the tribals to continue their traditional panchayats as the Nicobarese tribals have their traditional panchayats called - Tribal Councils at village level and island level. So there is no question of discrimination of the tribals in exempting them from the Panchayat Regulation.

With regard to formation of autonomous tribal council for Nicobar, it is stated that a draft Tribal Council Regulation on the pattern of Tripura, Autonomous District Council has been formulated and referred to the Tribal Council Car Nicobar to ascertain their views, but the Tribal Council is yet to respond. They are further being pursued to expedite their views in the matter.

(Arun Goyal)
Secretary (TW)

Secretary (PGC)

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