

members (5 each from Zilla Parishad and from amongst A&N Administration officials) should visit one of the states namely, Gujarat, Kerala, Maharashtra or Karnataka to examine how the devolution of powers has taken place there for replication in this Territory.

4.3 Clarifications given:

The LG informed the Hon'ble Home Minister about the steps taken by the Administration in this regard.

- Creation of an Engineering Circle headed by an SE with related staff under Zilla Parishad so that the works relating to rural roads and water supply, etc. can be undertaken by them effectively.
- CEO, Zilla Parishad has been delegated some financial powers as available to other HODs.
- It has been agreed in principle to delegate the powers of the Administrator on appointment and disciplinary matters to CEO, Zilla Parishad in respect of Group 'C' & 'D' staff of Zilla Parishad. Orders are being issued.
- The initiation of process of consultation with Zilla Parishad for appointment of Group 'A' & 'B' posts in Zilla Parishad has already been started.
- The power in regard to the appointment of Group 'C' & 'D' officials in Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Samities will remain with Director of Panchayat who is also the CEO of Zilla Parishad.
- The Appellate power in respect of Group 'C' & 'D' staff of Gram Panchayats and Panchayat Samities will be with Adhyaksh of Zilla Parishad.
- Identification of schemes of various departments, which can be passed on to the PRIs with funds and staff, has already been started.

4.4 Decision Taken:

While summing up the discussions on this issue the Hon'ble Home Minister stated that the allocation of funds for the PRIs will be enhanced to Rs. 50 crore and for PBMC to Rs.7.2 crores during the next financial year. The fund allocation for slum development would be increased for the Port Blair Municipal council during the next financial year. He