

Supreme Court have taken a view that the Home Ministry's letter is impermissible. However, the Administration can make a provision under Article 16(4) of the Constitution so that only local candidates will be entitled to or preferred in the matter of appointment to Group 'C' & 'D' posts. For this purpose, a Regulation has been drafted and forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for approval. This needs to be expedited.

- The Civil servants of the A&N Administration have not been promoted to DANICS on account of non-finalisation of the combined seniority list. This needs to be expedited.
- The Excise Regulation drafted and submitted by the Administration is pending with Ministry of Home Affairs. The same needs to be expedited as the Courts have held that in the absence of its own Excise Regulation, the Administration cannot levy any excise duty.
- As per the reports of different expert groups, carrying capacity of this group of islands is not more than 4 lakh, whereas, it is estimated that the present population has already reached 4 lakh. Thus in-migration needs to be checked. The Administration has taken some steps in this regard like issuance of photo identity cards to those who came here before 1993 and by drafting a Regulation to stop transfer of land from islanders to non-islanders without approval of the Deputy Commissioner etc. A firm view on cut off date needs to be taken so that it does not become an open-ended scheme.

7. Inter-island helicopter service

7.1 Issues raised by Lt. Governor:

- The inter-island helicopter services in the A&N Islands need to be re-started again, for which the required budgetary support is available under the current financial year. Also M/s Pawan Hans Ltd is keen to re-start the services. Thus the only thing required is the approval of Ministry of Home Affairs to re-start the services and to provide subsidy on the pattern of what is being provided to Arunachal Pradesh and Lakshadweep rather than referring the matter to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.