No. 3-28/97-PR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION SECRETARIAT

S Dak No 233

To

Port Blair, dated the 24th January, 2002

- The Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar District, Car Nicobar.
- The Director of Tribal Welfare, Port Blair.

Sub: Providing three tier Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Tribal District of Car Nicobar – reg.

Please find enclosed a copy of letter No. U-13025/37/2001-ANL dated 31st December, 2001 from the Ministry of Home Affairs together with a copy of letter No. A-2/BJP/PB/2001/4996 dated 24th November, 2001 from Shri H.N.Arora, State President, B.J.P, Port Blair on the above subject.

In this connection the Secretary (TW)'s letter No. 1-505/93-TW dated 16th October, 1997 (copy enclosed) addressed to the Secretary (Panchayats) may please be referred to wherein it was stated that a draft Tribal Council Regulation for extending the Panchayat (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 to Nicobar Districts has been sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Car Nicobar for obtaining the views of the Tribal people. The draft Tribal Council Regulation said to have been sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar District may have to be given complete shape and need to be sent to the Government of India for obtaining the approval of the President of India as was done in the case of Panchayat Regulation.

You will appreciate that the matter regarding Tribal Council regulation is pending since 1997 for want of comments from Tribal Leaders and since than there has been devolution of powers to PRIs alongwith Grants-in-Aid to the tune of about Rs. 110 crores out of which Rs. 66.70 crores will be given during 2001-02. This means denial of right of self determination to the original inhabitants of these islands. The matter also came up for discussion during the recent visit of Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development from 3rd to 5th January, 2002.

It is, therefore, requested that the matter may be taken up with Tribal Council and report submitted at the earliest.

(Sanjiv Kumar) Secretary (Panchayats)

bune/24/1102

Copy to:

1. The Commissioner-cum-Secy (Rev), A & N Administration, Port Blair.

2. The Commissioner-cum-Secy (Tribas welfare) ASN Admin. Part Blair