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assets and generation of wage employment to the unemployed tribals. The Tribal Councils have time and again highlighted the successful implementation of this scheme by them and are demanding devolution of funds for execution of need based development works.

Though the Tribal Councils are democratically elected bodies, they are not statutorily recognized under any Regulation or Rules. With an objective to provide financial autonomy in the Tribal Councils, a draft Nicobar Island (Tribal Council Regulation) 2000 was made and circulated to all Tribal Council of Nicobar District for their valuable comments / suggestions vide D C (Nicobars)'s letter No.1-89/Estt/D C(N)/99/1896 dated 15.11.2000 . Comments from Tribal Council are still awaited inspite of reminders as follows (1) 1-189/ESTT/DCN/99-2001/1775 dated 11.6.2001 (2) 32(20)/TE/ESTT/2001/2623 dated 19/20.9.2001 . Once the Tribal Council indicates their willingness to adopt the draft / model Regulation with or without modification, then steps can be taken to constitute the Village Council / Tribal Council under the new Regulation which will automatically confer statutory recognition and lead to flow of funds in the form of grant-in-aid from the Administration. The Tribal Councils are being constantly persuaded to let know their views on the above Regulation for taking further necessary action but their response is yet to be received and the matters rests at this juncture.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Research Officer (TW)
(C. F. No.: Folder-Minutes/T4-80)

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