

186

Shri Bhakta was of the view that an autonomous council should be established in Nicobar District. The Home Secretary clarified that a constitutional amendment is need for setting up an autonomous council under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. However, it could be examined if a council could be set up as has been done in the case of Jharkhand and Darjeeling. The Prime Minister directed that a decision on this should be taken very early.

ACTION TAKEN REPORT

The draft tribal council regulation has been attempted and the same forwarded to the tribal leaders of Nicobars to get their views. The Administration is in the process of holding consultation with the tribals in this regard. Panchayat regulation and seek to provide a three tier structure of tribal council at village level, Island level and district level with direct transparent elections, reservation for women and formulizing powers and function of the councils.

The tribal leaders are studying the proposals in detail and have requested for some time to process as it is tedious and time consuming. The tribal leadership is diffused and scattered over a number of Islands and the logistics of getting them together is time consuming.

It however appears that the Tribals of Nicobar group are more interested in an autonomous Tribal Council under Sixth Schedule of Constitution rather than in a regulation on the pattern of Panchayati Regulation.

The proposed law provides for formation of an Autonomous District Council for Nicobars consisting of 18 members to be elected on the basis of adult suffrage for a term of five years. There will be one member from each island, but the islands with more than one thousand population will elect one additional member. The Council will have a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and a Chief Executive Officer. There will be an Executive Committee consisting of nine members including its Chairman. The council shall carry out various development programmes and also discharge such functions as may be assigned by the Govt. Besides, there will be Village Committee for every village with not more than 7 and not less than 5 members as may be determined by the Executive Committee. This will be also be elected for a period of 5 years on adult suffrage. One third of the committee members shall be women on rotation. There shall be a Secretary to the Village Committee appointed by District Council. The Village Committee shall be the executive agency for all minor development schemes of the village. The elections to the Village Committee will be conducted by the State Election Commission constituted by the State Govt.