

44

**Point-07      Power – Electrification of tribal villages**

**Villages are to be electrified**

Around 81 villages in Nicobar group of islands were electrified more than a decade back by providing solar street lights, domestic lights which have become non-functional. These consists of 12 villages having population of less than 50 with few temporary hutments for their seasonal stay and cover less than 2% of total population of these islands. The tribal captains have demanded that around 10 villages out of these need to be electrified by providing either community power houses or extension of distribution lines, which will be taken up under PMGY. The remaining small villages would be electrified by providing 3 solar lanterns per households at concessional price of Rs. 1000/- each.

**Payment of street lights should be made through TSP, like in Andaman District GIA (PRI)**

Installation, maintenance and payment of energy charges in respect of street lights in tribal villages is not satisfactory, due to non-availability of adequate funds with the District Admn., who are not responsible for meeting these expenses. It is suggested that Electricity Department will arrange installation and maintenance of street lights in tribal areas and will also arrange payment of energy charges from its own fund allocation. However, the Tribal Welfare Department shall pay these amounts on quarterly basis on production of bills, which need to be examined and approved by Administration.

**Conversion from solar light Diesel Electricity**

The defective lights in the premises provided by Solar Power Plants will be rectified for which the repair cost is to be met by the consumers. However possible T&D lines will be extended or small community DG Power Houses will be established.