

side by mechanical transport. Regarding the Agenda point on drains to be provided the Tribal Council may project the area for construction of drains raised under the tribal sub-plans of the Agriculture sector.

Regarding paying compensation @ Rs. 5000/- per coconut tree as done in the case of Air Port, Car Nicobar as pointed out in the Agenda. The existing compensation per coconut tree as finalized by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration is Rs. 480 per tree.

Supply of treated sawn Timber @ 50% subsidy

There seems to be no justification to further reduce the sale price of treated sawn timber as it is below the production cost and prevailing market rates. The department will explore the possibility of establishing depots for sale of sawn timber at Car Nicobar and Campbell Bay. Alternatively, the local coconut trees could also be utilized for making coconut timber which are useful as building material in these islands. The department of Industries or Forest Corporation can venture in sawing of coconut tree by establishing departmental mill or a Cooperative Mill. For ensuring supply of poles, planks and others, working scheme will be prepared for the forest areas, other than protected areas under Wildlife (Protection) Act.

HEALTH- Hepatitis-B

- (i) **25-30% Nicobari suffering from Hepatitis-B disease through carrier causing Liver Cancer.**

The NICD, Delhi has confirmed that out of the 1689 serum samples, 420(25%) were found Hepatitis-B +ve. Action has already been taken to immunize the entire tribal community by Hepatitis-B vaccine. So far 2035 children under 0-5 year age group have been given 1st dose, 1583 children