

Autonomous Tribal Council for Nicobar Islands

The draft Tribal Councils Regulation has been attempted and forwarded to the Tribal leaders in Nicobar for their comments. The Tribal leaders have not yet communicated their views. The tribal leadership is diffused and scattered over a number of islands and the logistics of getting them together is time consuming. The administration has been interacting with the Tribal leaders from time to time, however, the efforts made by the Administration over the years have been without specific response. Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar) has also been trying to convince the tribal leaders. Even the LG held a meeting recently with the Tribal Council of Car Nicobar on 03.01.2003, but they want more time to consult the more southern islands of Nancowry and beyond.

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 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 will be conducted by the State Election Commission constituted for the UT Administration.