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ction Plan and its successful implementation. The Chairman welcomed the suggestions of Hon'ble MP and assured to take necessary action. Regarding next point of the minutes Chairman informed the house that Annual Action Plan for the year 1996-97 of DRDA Nicobars District as approved by GBM held in March, 1996 has already been furnished to Directorate of Rural Development, Port Blair for necessary approval. Regarding "Distribution Of Rice Under JRY To The Beneficiaries" Shri Ibrahim Ali Hussain, Vice Chief Captain and Shri JB Daniel Secretary Tribal Council highlighted the problems faced by tribals of Nicobars District because of insistence of Civil Supply Department to not to supply rice to poor JRY beneficiaries through PDS. The Hon'ble MP stated that it was the responsibility of the Civil Supply Department to provide rice under various Rural Development Schemes from PDS net work i.e. respective Supply Godown of Civil Supply Department in Nicobar District. He further stated that in case Civil Supply Department is unable to do so they should intimate to the DRDA as well as to the A&N Admn. so that the matter could be taken up with the Govt. of India. Regarding next point of the minutes Chairman DRDA once again explained the provisions of Govt. of India regarding identification of beneficiaries by Gram Panchayats and Tribal Councils for various Rural Development Schemes. Regarding sponsoring IRDP application to banks Chairman DRDA informed the house that last year the IRDP targets were met even though funds for the same were not received by the Govt. of India and had to be diverted from the interest amount of MNP. He further informed that 27 applications have been solicited in Car Nicobar regarding assistance under IRDP during the current year and efforts are on to identify more number of eligible beneficiaries. He also expressed the hope that Tribal Councils, Gram Panchayats and implementing agencies will also identify the beneficiaries under IRDP and take necessary action.

After this the minutes of 16th GBM were unanimously approved by the House.

#### Agenda Point No.2 Identification of Rural Poor living below Poverty line in Nicobar District.

The Chairman DRDA informed the House that the A&N Admn. has proposed to carry out a survey to identify rural poor of Nicobar District who are living below poverty line. He explained the concept of poverty line and informed the House that at present the monetary limit defining the poverty line stands to Rs.22,000/- per year. Shri Ibrahim Ali Hussain, Vice Chief Captain stated that in Nicobarese Tribal Society a system of joint family (Tuhet) is prevalent. A joint family may consists of 50 to 250 family members staying together under the leadership of the head of the family. The income of the joint family is considered to accrue to the head of the joint family who in turn provides for the maintenance of other single families consisting the joint family. He therefore suggested that in order to assess the income of single family the total income of the joint family must be more or less equally divided between the single families of the joint family. All tribal representative present in the