

(104)

house approved of the proposed method of determination of income of families/house hold and the Hon'ble MP and the House also approved of the same. The Chairman DRDA also informed that the survey to identify people living below poverty line is purely with reference to implementation of various Rural Development Schemes of Govt. of India and has no other purpose. The incomes revealed during the Survey would be kept strictly confidential. Shri Ibrahim Ali Hussain Vice Chief Captain also raised a point whether assets owned by the families would be considered as income or not. The Chairman DRDA informed that clarification in this regard has already been sought from A&N Admn. Shri Ibrahim Ali Hussain opined that once the clarification is received a meeting of tribal representatives may be called by the DC before the survey starts. This was agreed by the Chairman DRDA.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 Nicobar District as a difficult area for purpose of admissible assistance under Govt. of India schemes.

Chairman DRDA informed the House that under various Rural Development schemes specially under popular Indira Awas Yojana the maximum admissible assistance to poor beneficiaries depends upon whether the area is a plain area or a difficult area. Under IAY maximum admissible assistance in a plain area is Rs.20,000/- per beneficiary while it is Rs.22,000/- per beneficiary in difficult areas. Hon'ble MP elaborated various problems faced by the islands of Nicobar District viz: remote location, insufficient logistics specially Shipping Services, lack of infrastructure and man power and wide spread poverty. He opined that entire A&N islands in itself is a difficult area and therefore Nicobar District should definitely be considered and declared as difficult area for purpose of admissible assistance under various Rural Development Schemes of Govt. of India. The entire house agreed with the recommendations of Hon'ble MP and it was decided that the decision of GBM in this respect will be communicated to concerned authorities.

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 Administrative expenses/Departmental Charges under MNP;

The Chairman DRDA informed to the house that under the scheme Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is a provision for assistance for construction of PFL @ Rs.5200/- per family on 100% subsidy basis to the tribals and 50% subsidy basis to the non tribals. He further stated that DRDA Nicobars has so far made impressive progress under this scheme and most of the beneficiaries who have benefitted from this scheme are tribals. He further disclosed that since the inception of the scheme about 3500 PFLs have been constructed including 1600 PFL constructed so far in the current year itself.

He further informed that in other Rural Development schemes of Govt. of India there has been a provisions of administrative expenditure for successful implementation of schemes. Under IRDP 15% under JRY, IAY & MWS 2% each and under