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EAS 3% of the fund are earmarked for administrative expenditure. The MNP scheme was earlier being implemented by APWD but was handed over to DRDA later on for better and speedy implementation. APWD charges 10% of the funds as departmental charges which are equivalent to administrative expenditure. However no provision has been made for charging any departmental charges or administrative expenditure under MNP. As a result implementation of MNP in Nicobar District is being adversely affected. Chairman DRDA further informed the House that if 10% funds under MNP are earmarked as departmental charges or administrative expenditure the scheme may be more speedy and effectively implemented. The hon'ble MP and entire House approved of the idea in principle and suggested that the matter may be taken up with the A&N Admn. for providing 10% as administrative expenditure/departmental charges under MNP.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5. Review of all RD scheme

The Chariman DRDA Nicobars informed the house about the progress made so far under various RD schemes of Govt. of India. While expressing satisfaction over the progress made by DRDA Nicobars so far during the current year, the House unanimously agreed that involvement of all implementing agencies, Govt. departments, tribal representatives and tribals in general is a pre-requisite for successful implementation of various schemes and for deriving maximum benefit for the rural poor in order to raise their income levels and living standards.

During the proceedings of GB meeting and specially after discussions on agenda items, many related matters of common interest of the tribals also came up for discussion. They are given below:-

- 1) The Hon'ble MP addressed the need of education for the tribals of Nicobar District and stated that it is very important to have all the posts of teaching staff filled in. He also elaborated recent decision of Govt. of India regarding filling up of vacant posts of C and D staff by the concerned department itself, if the scheme has been approved by the concerned Ministry. The tribals representatives expressed happiness over the concern of the Hon'ble Minister towards the educational needs of the tribals.
- 2) Hon'ble MP also highlighted the importance of proper Rural Sanitation and informed that in the Andaman District Panchayats are responsible for construction of PFL in their areas. On enquiry from the Hon'ble MP, Shri JB Daniel clarified that at present tribals or Tribal Councils are not in a position to construct PFL by themselves. Upon this Hon'ble MP said that the construction of PFL may be got done by DRDA as is being done at present. However, maintaining cleanliness and sanitation of PFL remains the responsibility of the beneficiaries and the users and not of Govt. He further advised DRDA to emphasise more on construction of PFL in remote islands viz., Terressa, Chowra and Katchal etc. The Chairman DRDA informed that some construction agencies have been awarded the work of the construction of PFL in