

beneficiaries to DRDA. DRDA will assist maximum number of beneficiaries out of the fund available and the rest beneficiaries if any, will be kept under panel for assistance during next year.

4. Distribution of rice under JRY to the beneficiaries.

The scheme of distribution of rice as part of wages to the poor tribal beneficiaries under JRY has always been very popular in Nicobar District. As per the provision of JRY, and also various orders issued by Govt. of India from time to time, the rice for distribution as part of wages is to be issued from PDS network at prevalent PDS rate on cash and carry basis. Till 1995 Directorate of Civil Supplies was issuing rice for JRY workers from PDS network (Fair Price Shop). However in recent past Civil Supplies department has been refusing to issue rice for JRY workers from PDS network. Shri. Daniel Secretary tribal Council, Car Nicobar pointed out that because of this unjustified refusal of Supply Department, various Gram Panchayat and Tribal Council of Nicobars District are forced to procure rice for JRY workers from Food Corporation of India (Depot) Port Blair. He also pointed out that this is not only against the provision and spirit of JRY but is causing substantial monetary loss to poor Tribal beneficiaries of Nicobars District who are below poverty line. He stated that whereas the prevalent issue price of rice at PDS network in Nicobar District is Rs. 5.98 per kg. only, the poor tribal beneficiaries (BPL) are paying approximately Rs. 7.83 per kg. of rice. He also requested DRDA to take up the matter with higher authority. Chairman explained that matter has already been