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TRIBAL WELFARE SECTION
R.D. No. 513
323/1
11TH FEBRUARY 2000 at 1630 HRS.

The list of Officers present in the meeting is placed at Annexure.

Initiating the discussion the Chief Secretary informed the participants that the Administration has constituted a High Powered Committee for promotion of Tourism under the Chairmanship of the Lt. Governor, A & N Islands. The Executive Committee is an adjunct to the High Powered Committee and has been formed to monitor decisions related to tourism promotion and development in the islands.

1. **Status of Nature interpretation centre at Rutland island:**

Taking up agenda item No.3 for discussion first, Chief Secretary stated that a team of officials headed by Chief Secretary had visited Rutland on 30.1.2000 to inspect the site proposed to be developed at Badakhari, the approach roads, etc.

The Chief Conservator of Forests informed the Committee that as per the project report framed in this regard, 3(three) estimates have been received from APWD and these have been sent to Planning department of the Secretariat.

The Director(IP&T) informed that Tourism department has moved a proposal to buy three semi rigid inflatable boats for the purpose of ferrying tourists to Rutland and back. The considered view of Forest department as well as Police was that 40 HP OBMs are better than 70 HP OBMs proposed to be purchased by Tourism department. It was also informed that Forest has recently purchased 40 HP OBMs as their maintenance was easier. The Chief Secretary observed that the most important aspect in making these purchases is to ensure that there is reliable after-sales service and support. It was decided to look at the option of recent tenders done by some departments, for instance Forests, regarding the choice of out board motor. Tourism department