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CHAPTER - VII

SCOPE FOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN TRIBAL AREAS

7.1 Basic Considerations:

As already discussed in the earlier chapters (Ref. Chapter - III), all the tribal people in these islands are continuing their subsistence economy mostly by selling of coconuts/arecanuts of the existing plantations and occasional hunting/gathering/fishing and depending on Government Dole. It has been observed that by and large the tribals are not interested in agricultural activities, leaving apart industrial activities, as a means of improving their subsistence level, as a result of this most of the tribal people have become totally dependent on the Government support. During the last 15 years or so, the situation has reached to such an extent that the tribals will find it difficult to survive if the support is now withdrawn. While there is ample justification to provide necessary support to this weakest sections of the society, it is not desirable to make them totally dependent on the same. It would be rather more prudent to help them develop a sustainable economy and the dole system should be gradually withdrawn when the tribals will be able to continue their subsistence with self-sustained economy.