

Reference page: 162/cor.

288. The EE, PHED, APWD, Port Blair vide his letter No. Transit/DB/PHED/2009-10/604 dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 has stated that the Transit Tribal Hostel building at Brookshabad has been completed except water and electric connection, it can be taken over by the Tribal Welfare department.

289. In this context, it is stated that initially a proposal was included in the 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan 2002-07 for construction of a Transit Tribal Hostel for the Tribals particularly the Nicobarese coming from Southern group of Islands for various purposes including interview, competitive exams, training courses etc. Besides, there was also proposal to create a few post viz. Care Taker, Chowkidar and Cook etc. to look after the Hostel as could be seen at flage 'A' (a copy of the scheme is placed for perusal). However, following on review of this scheme under the Annual Plan 2007-08 by the then Secretary (TW) it was decided to do away with the proposal of creation and appointment of staff in order to avoid recurring expenditure on the part of exchequer and also to entrust responsibilities to Tribal Councils of Nicobarese to take care and maintenance of the Transit Tribal Hostel. Since then, we have not made any provision for creation of post and appointment of staff in any of the subsequent Annual Plan proposal.

283 Further, it may also be noted that in the past a similar Tribal Guest House was constructed at South Point out of the fund of the Administration under sector "Welfare of SCs, STs & OBCs." In fact the land on which Tribal Guest House was constructed was belonging to the Tribal Council, Car Nicobar and the entire expenditure on the building was borne by the Administration. When the building was completed a decision was taken by the Administration to handover the building to the Tribal Council, Car Nicobar. What we had done in respect of Tribal Guest House at South Point was that the consent of the Tribal Council, Car Nicobar was obtained through a resolution adopted by them, which was approved by the Administration. A copy of the resolution is placed at flag 'B'.

281. We may go by the same pattern in respect of newly constructed Transit Tribal Hostel at Brookshabad. Since the Tribal Council, Car Nicobar had already got a Tribal Guest House, the existing Transit Tribal Hostel, could be given to Tribal Council, Nancowry for upkeep and maintenance. In this regard it is stated that the Tribal Councils of Nicobarese are being provided grant-in-aid for various development activities. They could be given grant-in-aid for the up keep and maintenance of the Transit Tribal Hostel out of Budget of the Tribal Welfare department in terms with the grant-in-aid released for other development activities. Tribal Council, Nancowry and Great Nicobar are already maintaining Ashram at Kamorta and Campbell Bay respectively from the grant-in-aid provided by the Administration.