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**Agenda Item No.2 (b) – Review of the setting up of empowered Tribal Council with appropriate powers under the 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment of Constitution of India in conformity with PM's directions.**

8. Member (SH) inquired whether any reservations exist on establishing Tribal Councils in A&N. Joint Secretary (UT), MHA explained that MHA is fully endorsing the proposal on granting statutory powers to Tribal Councils and is holding consultations with Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The views of Ministry of Legal Affairs are awaited on providing judicial powers to the Tribal Councils. He informed that PMO is monitoring this subject and the matter is expected to be placed for consideration of the Cabinet in the about two months.

*(Action: Ministry of Home Affairs)*

**Agenda Item No.2(c) – Action taken report on works pending with different Departments of Government of India and with A&N Administration in pursuance of action points issued after PM's visit in January, 2006.**

9. The Action taken by Ministries/ Departments and UT Administration was noted by the Standing Committee of IDA.

**Item 3: Review of Implementation of Post Tsunami Measures**

10 Deputy Chairman asked Secretary MoUD to report the position on housing.

Housing

11. Secretary, MoUD, indicated that after extensive consultations, the Empowered Group of Ministers (EOGM) approved the project in December 2005 and the design specifications were frozen. Tenders have been invited and foundation work has commenced. CPWD is to construct 7317 houses, now increased to 7400 by March 2008. In Campbell Bay there is a delay, as the roads for moving the material is under construction. Monthly Review meetings are being convened with all concerned including the UT Administration. Flexibility with regard to shifting of sites, and layouts have been taken care of. He indicated that MoUD would endeavour to prepone the date of completion from March 2008, to December 2007.

12. Member (SH) inquired the reasons for SEEDS, an NGO, withdrawing from construction of permanent houses. Secretary, MoUD informed that the design of the houses had to be frozen to meet seismic requirements and subsequently the construction material ordered cannot be modified as it involved contractual obligations. Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, informed that some NGO's who had backed out due to financial constraints were requested to construct lesser number of permanent shelters.