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Ref: DTW's minutes at Para 5/n

The Admn's view point on grant of Sixth Schedule status to the Nicobari tribes is given below: -

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- (i) The Nicobarese requesting the Administration for inclusion of the entire Nicobar group of Islands under the purview of VI Schedule of the Constitution. For inclusion under VI Schedule, requires the Constitutional amendment.
- (ii) Earlier also The Nicobarese tribes demand for Autonomous District Councils on the pattern of the States of North Eastern Region of the Country under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The issue was taken up with the Govt of India and it was also discussed in the 12th IDA meeting held on 19th January, 2009 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, however, it was decided to have the matter examined by the MHA, as per the demand of the then Member of Parliament, A&N Islands. Accordingly, the issue was examined by MHA and it was not agreed to grant sixth schedule status to the Nicobarese tribes due to unique position (sensitive strategic location) of the A&N islands.
- (iii) The Island being strategically located and other issues, the MHA took a decision to extend the benefits of development by promulgating Regulation titled the **Andaman & Nicobar Island (Tribal) Regulation, 2009**.
- (iv) To implement the Regulation, a draft of the rules titled "Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Tribal Council) (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections)" Rule was prepared and for consultation the draft rule sent to the Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar District) for wider consultation with the Tribal leader way back in May, 2011 before they are finalized got approved from the Hon'ble LG, A & N Islands .
- (v) The tribal leaders of late has now expressed their reservation about the Regulation and proposed draft rules.

Submitted please.

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18/12/13
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AC(TW)