

PUC is a letter dated 24.11.2015 received from Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Hon'ble Member of Parliament addressed to the Secretary (TW) regarding holding of elections as per A & N Islands (Tribal Council) Regulation, 2009 in Nancowry Group of Islands as demanded by all the 12 Village Captains of Nancowry Group of Islands. He has also enclosed a copy of the Joint representation dated 23.11.2015 of the Village Captains of Nancowry Group of Islands addressed to the Hon'ble Lt. Governor regarding implementation of A & N Islands (Tribal Council) Regulation Act of 2009 at page 128-129/cor.

92

The issues addressed by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament are as under:

93

- (a) The Village Captains of Nancowry are demanding of implementation to Tribal Council Regulation Act., 2009 and to conduct the election of Local Self Govt. in Nancowry Group of Islands for enabling the tribal community to elect their own desirable representatives and to run their own affairs by delegating them the financial and executive powers.
- (b) To expedite the final publication of the A & N (Tribal Council) (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Election) Rules, which were draft in 2001, to enable to proceed further for delimitation of constituencies, preparation of electoral rolls and conduct of maiden General Elections as per the A & N Islands (Tribal Council) Regulation 2009.
- (c) The Village Captains are unaware of the funds allotted and its utilization under TSP. The Administration neither consulted nor obtained the consent from the village captains about the demands for Tribal Sub Plan.

He has requested the Administration to intervene in the matter and to honour the legitimate demands of the Village captains for fulfilling their democratic rights under the constitution for holding the Local Self Govt. election in Nancowry Group of Islands at the earliest.

94

In this context, it is submitted that the Nicobarese have their own Traditional Tribal Council to ensure the developmental programmes for the Nicobarese. However, for better governance the President promulgated the "A & N Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009" at flag 'A'. To implement the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Council) Regulation, 2009 draft Electoral Rules at flag 'B', was prepared and sent to the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars for seeking the views/suggestions of the tribal leaders before they could be finalized and got approved from the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands at The Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar in turn, circulated the rules to elicit views/suggestions of the traditional Tribal Council/Tribal Leaders. Even a campaign was launched to educate the tribals about the impact of the implementation Regulation in vernacular following coming into force the Rules. However, some of the Tribal Councils have expressed reservation in constituting Tribal Councils as stipulated in the Regulation, 2009 on the ground that the election process would politicize the tribal community, bring divisions and ultimately destroy their social cohesion and unity including the Tuhet structure (community living through extended family) and they demanded that the Nicobar District should be included in the Sixth schedule to the Constitution. In response to which Administration had decided to send the representatives of the Tribal Councils to the Autonomous District in the Northern-Eastern States to have better understanding of the concept of the Sixth Schedule.

95