



सत्यमेव जयते

Mr. Bhupinder Prasad, IAS (Retd.)
ELECTION COMMISSIONER

ELECTION COMMISSION FOR UT

(Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep,
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D.O.No.5-19/EC/A&N/2010/463
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Respected Mr. Governor,

The Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department), Govt. of India notified the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009 on 31.12.2009. This Regulation was promulgated with the view of providing greater autonomy and ensuring a wider participation of the Nicobarese Tribe in managing their lives and community. The implementation of this Regulation has not commenced so far as the relevant rules required to be framed in this regard have not been finalised by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration. The Commission has been taking up this matter with the Administration from time to time. I had also drawn your kind attention on this issue vide my D.O. No. 5-19/EC/2014/45 dated 12.05.2014.

Responding to my aforementioned D.O., the Secretary (Tribal Affairs), A&N Administration informed that a draft of the Rules titled "Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections) Rules", had been prepared and was sent to Dy. Commissioner, Nicobars for seeking the views and suggestions of the tribal leaders as far back as May, 2011. The Dy. Commissioner, Nicobars, had circulated this draft among the traditional tribal leaders and also launched a campaign to educate the tribal people of the impact on their lives in implementing the Tribal Council Regulation. It was further informed that the members of the existing Tribal Councils of the Nicobarese have, however, demanded the inclusion of the Nicobars tribal area under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and had asked for an exemption of the Nicobarese from the payment of Income Tax on par with the Scheduled Tribes of other states, who are included in the Sixth Schedule.) In response to that, the Administration decided that the DC, Nicobars, alongwith some representatives of Tribal Councils may visit the Autonomous District Council of the North Eastern States for a better