

131
PUC is a DO letter No. 5-19/EC/A&N/2015/204 dated 11.1.2017 received from Election Commissioner, Election Commission for UT's, A&N Islands regarding finalization of Draft Electoral Rules, prepared in context of A&N Islands (Tribal Council Regulation, 2009).

132
The Election Commissioner by citing the reference of her previous DO letter dated 25.1.2016 has stated that the while responding to her DO letter, the Directorate of Tribal Welfare had informed that the 07 Tribal Councils in the Nicobar District of Andaman and Nicobar islands only one Tribal council i.e. the Car Nicobar has stated that they would like to retain "the present situation i.e. of having a traditional Village Council and an Island Council, until the community is well informed about the said Regulation" and that the views of other Tribal Councils were being obtained from the remaining tribal council.

133
Now the Election Commissioner has urged this Administration to review this matter at the appropriate higher level as without Notification of the Rules of the aforesaid Regulation by the A&N Administration, the Commission is unable to initiate any further step for holding the elections to the seats in the Councils and the offices of the First Captains under the Said Regulation. It was further added that even after the Notification of the said Rules, the Administration would have to first initiate action for constitution of Village General Bodies under Section 3, and will also have to determine the areas of the said Village General Bodies under Section 6 of the Regulations as was done at the time of the Constitution of Panchayat.

134
In this regard, it is submitted that from last 2012 onwards, the Election Commissioner is pressing hard for finalization of Draft Electoral Rules of Tribal Councils. To implement the Regulation, a draft of the Rules titled "Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and Conduct of Elections)" Rules, 2011 was prepared and sent to the Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar District) for wider consultation with the tribal leaders in the month of May, 2011, before they could be finalized and got approved from the Hon'ble LG. The DC (N) in turn, circulated the Rules to elicit views/suggestions of the traditional tribal councils/ tribal leaders. Even a campaign was launched to educate the tribals about the impact of implementation of Regulation in vernacular following coming into force the Rules. However, the tribal leaders have expressed their reservations in the instant representations 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).

135
The Hon'ble Member of Parliament had also demanded for implementation of Tribal Council Regulation, 2009 and to conduct the election of Local Self Govt.

136
The Dy *Commissioner, Car Nicobar who is also the Chairman of ITDA, Car Nicobar had obtained the view of Vice Chairman, Tribal Council, Car Nicobar and conveyed to this office that "the Tribal Council, Car Nicobar is aware of the fact