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In this context, we have seen and witnessing the rapid stride that our brethren in the Andaman Group especially in islands like Havelock have made in the field of tourism and have been able to gainfully employ their people.

It is our firm belief that the time has come that a serious thought be given to open up some areas in the Nicobar with our consent, which has all the attractions, viz; beaches, coral life, flora and fauna as well as rich culture and history to make the place an attractive tourist destination. While a policy decision on this needs to be taken the way forward can be formulated in consultation with us so that we have controlled/group tourism which does not affect the culture/life-style of the tribals. In this connection we propose that a Committee be formed with tourism professions, Administration officials and Mr. Nils Finn Munch Petersen, who is an expert in tourism and has done lot of work especially in tribal areas even in India which could make a detailed study and propose the way forward for sustainable development.

3. TRIBAL COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

Cooperative Society both in the Nancowry Group and Carnicobar islands where the prime institution which led the way forward for economic activity. Since the Tsunami and also due to the fall in the prices of copra these societies have been considerably weakened and require active support of the Administration to bring them back to former glory. It is only due to such cooperative societies and self help groups that in the interest of the tribals can be protected as otherwise with the weakened cooperative societies restructure at the village and apex level there is every chance that private traders will exploit the situation and gain entry to such areas as has been seen by us for personal profiteering. We would urge you Sir, the Administration to kindly provide a package through grants/interest-free loans and managerial training and support to enable these societies to rise to the expectation of the tribals.

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