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where to accommodate the hereditary village chiefs amongst the tribals, the Nagaland Tribal Council Rules provide for:- "A Village Council shall consist of members, chosen by villagers in accordance with the prevailing customary practices and usages, the same being approved by the State Govt. provided that hereditary village chiefs (**Gaon Budha's**) and **Angs** shall be **ex-officio members of such Council and shall have voting right**".

Efforts to generate awareness regarding the advantages of Local Self Governance and the concomitant benefits of development need to be taken up more systematically to persuade the Captains in Nicobar. Given the fact that the institution of Tribal Council already exists in their society, the new institution with its added facets can harmonize with the old and also weld in the structure of democratic institutions. The Nicobaris are already participating in representational democracy by voting in the Parliamentary Elections and are experienced voters. Sustained and concerted efforts to assure the tribal chiefs of the benefits that would accrue through devolution of funds and greater participation in Local Self Governance need to be made to operationalize the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Tribal Councils) Regulation, 2009. The Commission looks forward to conducting elections in this regard.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,



(Ms. Bhupinder Prasad)

Lt. Genl. (Retd.) A.K. Singh, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM
Lieutenant. Governor,
Andaman & Nicobar Islands,
Raj Niwas,
Port Blair – 744 101.