जी. देव नीति दास,मा.प्र.स.

सचीव / Secretary

अण्डमान तथा निकोवार प्रशासन G. THEVA NEETHI DHAS, I.A.S. ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION सचिवालय / SECRETARIAT

Date Telephone: 03192-23 Fax: 03192-244083 Mobile: 9434280725 -mail: gtndnas220668@gmail.com

D.O. No. 1-849/2013/ 405

Port Blair dated the quue, 2014

To Ms Bhupinder Prasad, Election Commissioner for UT's, Govt. of India. Ministry of Home Affairs, MS Apartments, F-Block 1st Floor Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110 001.

Common Election Commission for UTs of Andaman & Neobar Islands Duman & Ditt, Dodra Natur Haveli and Lakshadeep F-20 . M.S. Apartment, Kasturba Gandl.i Marg. New Delhi.

Sub:-Publishing of the draft Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Council) (Preparation of Electoral Rolls and conduct of Election) Rules 2011 to operationalise the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Tribal Council) Regulation, 2009.

· Madam,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 5-19/EC/2014/45 dated 12th May'2014 on the above cited subject.

In this context, it is stated that 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, Nicobars for seeking the views/suggestions of the tribal leaders way back in May2011, before they could be finalized and got approved from the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands. 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.

In the meanwhile, the Members of the Tribal Council of Nicobarese have demanded to include the Nicobars tribal area under Sixth Schedule and also for exempting the Nicobarese from the payment of Income Tax on par with the Scheduled Tribes of states included in the Sixth Schedule, in response to which the Administration has decided that the DC, Nicobar alongwith the representative of Tribal Councils may make a visit to the Autonomous District Council of the North East States to have a better understanding of the concept of Sixth Schedule. With regard to exemption from the Income Tax the Administration has submitted the proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Tribal Affairs for consideration.

Further it is stated that still the Nicobarese are following their traditional pattern of election for election of the Members of Tribal Council.

Secretary (Tribal Welfare)