

island, and one or more Village Councils, depending on the number of villages in the island. Superimposing a District Council on this traditional set-up would result in creating an artificial structure that has not found favour with the existing Tribal Councils. Besides, each Tribal Council functions independent of the others due to geographical reasons, and to attempt to link the islands politically at the apex may not be necessary or desirable.

The proposed Regulation, therefore, envisages a separate and independent District Planning Committee headed by Deputy Commissioner (Nicobar) to be constituted for Tribal areas only of Nicobar District, in which the Island-wise Tribal Councils would be given representation by considering these as independent entities and not a part and parcel of District level Tribal Council.

4. Implementation strategy and targets: In so far as administration and implementation of major developmental works in the District of Nicobars is concerned, the same is done by the Deputy Commissioner of the District. The Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars is the Chairman of the Integrated Tribal Development Agency constituted under ITDP, Nicobars to formulate the Tribal Sub-Plan and monitor the progress of its implementation, the tribal chiefs are also members of the ITDA.

Further with regard to constitution of a District Planning Committee at the District Level, it is stated that the District Planning Committee consists of Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar as Chairman and the Chief Captains of Island Councils as members shall prepare Five Year Plans and Annual Plan, in co-ordination with the Govt. departments and other agencies in the District for the development of the area under its jurisdiction. The Chairperson of DPC shall forward the Development plan for the District as recommended by the Committee, to the Secretary, Tribal Welfare.

5. Major Impact: Participation of the Tribals in development administration at grass-root level can be ensured. They can decide on schemes and plans for the upliftment in their area according to their requirement. They themselves will be able to implement and monitor the schemes and programmes. Tribal Council shall be empowered in the same manner as done in the case of Panchayat which are constituted as per 73rd and 74th amendment of the Constitution. They will be conferred with some powers both financial and universal adult franchise replacing the existing selection system and to elect their own leaders.