

5		Chapter VII refers to the Island Councils. The MHA draft mentions in Regulation 53(3) that the Island Council shall exercise supervision over the Village Council. The A&N Administration has suggested deletion of this provision. Their view appears to be reasonable as one elected body normally does not supervise the work of another elected body but only coordinates at a higher level.	No comments.
6		In Regulation 9(4), MHA has suggested that one-tenth of the total number of members of the Village General Body shall form the quorum for a meeting. The A&N Administration has suggested that one-fifth of the total number of members of the Village General Body should form the quorum. As per general practice in the local bodies one-tenth of the members being present constitute a quorum. The A&N Administration has not given any grounds for enhancing this to one-fifth. Hence the MHA view should prevail. Since the majority of the population in Nicobar District is tribal, the Village Governing bodies could however be given more powers as the practice in the States that have areas covered under the fifth Scheduled and which are governed by the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996.	Regulation 9(4) provides for 1/5 of the total number of members of Village General Body to form the corum for a meeting in order to encourage active participation by the Nicobari Tribes. This was a conscious decision taken by the A&N Administration to ensure that the practice of democratic functioning is introduced to a larger number of participants.