



सत्यमेव जयते

मणि शंकर अय्यर
MANI SHANKAR AIYAR



पंचायती राज, युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल
उत्तर-पूर्वी क्षेत्र विभाग / Port Blair
भारत सरकार, नई दिल्ली-110 001
दिनांक: 28/3/07

मंत्रि जनजाती कल्याण अनुभाग
Tribal Welfare Section
सचिवालय / Secretariat
नई दिल्ली-110 001
दिनांक / Date: 28/3/07

Panchayati Raj, Youth Affairs & Sports and
Development of the North Eastern Region
Government of India
New Delhi-110 001

21 March 2007.

Do No. N-12012/1/06-P&J-696

I had occasion to interact with members of the Tribal Council Chukchucha of Car Nicobar in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 17.3.2007 during my recent tour to the Union Territory. The members of the Tribal Council explained at length the need for acceptance of the draft regulations of the Tribal Council Act, 1996. Shri Cephaus Jack, Dy. Vice Chief of the Tribal Council of Car Nicobar, explained that the basic structure of Nicobarese family and social life revolved around the "Tuhet" system. The traditional Tuhet or modified joint family system comprises anywhere between 45 to 350 members wherein the headman or captain is nominated or selected.

The Tribal Council also felt that elections be held on a non-political basis incorporating the Tuhet system. Only recently, elections through secret ballots has been initiated. Traditionally, Tuhet heads are elected from the first, second and third captains of the 15 villages of Nicobaris in Car Nicobar Islands, Nancowry and Little Nicobar. Thus elections are conducted by secret ballots of 3 captains from the 5 nominated leaders of the Tuhets heads.

The Nicobaris stressed the need for their own regulations for self-governance in 1996 and had these reexamined and reforwarded again in 2003. They are reportedly pending with the Government for legal status. I would request that this matter be kindly expedited.

I am enclosing a copy of letter dated 17.3.2007 given by the Chairman, Tribal Council, Car Nicobar for your ready reference.

I would request that the above matter may kindly be expedited.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/-

Encl.: a/a

Shri Shivraj Patil
Home Minister
Government of India
North Block,
New Delhi-110 001.

Cont'd...2/-