Subject:

Para No.	

F. No 1-804/2004-TW

(45) May please peruse notes from para 37/N onwards. It is regarding sanction of grant-in-aid to the Nicobarese Tribal Councils during the Financial Year 2005-06. The Sr. Accounts Officer (Fin. II), A&N Administration vide note at paras 37-41/n has observed that the Govt. of India, Ministry of Finance have issued specific instructions following the judgment of the High Court of Delhi that fresh grant-in-aid cannot be released unless utilization certificates in respect of the grants released during the precious year are submitted.

(46) As per letter No. 0393/PAO-1/Vol-IV/2297 dated 30.8.2005 of the Pay & Accounts Officer, Port Blair at page 122-124/c, it is stated that it is mandatory for the Autonomous bodies/Institutions concerned to submit Utilization Certificates within 12 months of the closure of the financial year as laid down in Rule 151 (1) of the General Financial Rules.

(47) In this connection the details of the fund in the form of grant-in-aid released to the Tribal Councils in the previous year is given as under:-

1. Rs. 16,18,200/- vide Cheque No. BA 756974 dated 06/12/04.
2. Rs. 27,00,000/- ,, ,, No. BA 763531 ,, 22/03/05
3. Rs. 4,22,000/- ,, ,, No. BA 763904 ,, 31/03/05

(48) Thus it may be noted that a permissible period of 12 months to submit the Utilization Certificate of the grant-in-aid released earlier is yet to complete. The responsibility of spending the grant-in-aid on behalf of the Tribal Councils was vested upon the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars by the Administration. The Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars has been asked to send the U.Cs for the previous year. It may be mentioned here that the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars is pre-occupied with the emergency task of relief and rehabilitation following the tsunami disaster of December, 2004. However, the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars would be submitting the UCs within the specified period.

(49) Further the proposal was informally discussed with the Finance Section, Secretariat on 29.9.2005 when it was pointed out that the grant-in-aid to Tribal Councils is admissible only for developmental activities and not for any recurring expenditure like motorcycle and mobile phone. The total estimated cost towards the aforesaid items come to Rs. 20.05 lakhs. In that case the above amount can be utilized for developmental activities by the Tribal Councils. The requirement of fund for developmental activities for six Tribal Councils namely - Tribal Council, Teressa, Nancowry, Kamorta, Katrchal, Chowra & Great Nicobar has already been accommodated in our proposal. The remaining one Tribal Council, i.e, Car Nicobar has asked for fund to the tune of Rs. 5.24 crores for developmental activities against which we have proposed only Rs. 1.093 crore. Therefore, an amount of Rs. 20.05 lakhs proposed for recurring expenditure may further be given to Tribal Council, Car Nicobar.