

Ref. Notes in paras 57-59/n. of the Finance Department of the Administration.

It is regarding sanction of grant-in-aid to the Nicobarese Tribal Councils during the current financial year (2005-06). The Finance Department of the Admn. - vide their Note in para 59/n. have pointed out that the Administrator (LG), A & N Administration Islands is competent to sanction grants under Rule 20 of the DFP Rules to the institutions or organizations set up as autonomous bodies, provided the rules governing pattern of assistance has been approved by the GOL. They have stated that it is not possible to concur with our proposal for release of grant-in-aid to the tune of Rs. 230 lakh to the Tribal Councils unless Rules are approved. They have further suggested that approval of the GOL for release of grant-in-aid to the Tribal Councils may be obtained.

In this context it is stated that the revised draft rules governing grant-in-aid to the Nicobarese Tribal Councils were referred to the GOL, Ministry of Tribal Affairs way back in June, 2005 vide this Admn's letter No. 1-804/2004-TW/1263 dated 30 June 05 (copy is placed at page 137/c). Since then we have regularly pursued the GOL to get the rules approved. The last reminder was sent to the Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs-vide this Admn's letter No. 1-804/2004-TW/1653 dated 19 Oct 2005 (a copy is placed at page 138/c for reference).

Further, we have sent a D.O. letter No. 1-804/2004-TW/1581 dated 25 October 05 at pages 139-140/c. to the RC New Delhi explaining the statutory requirement of the rules for release of grant-in-aid to the Tribal Councils and necessity of grant for the Tribal Councils for reconstruction of tsunami damages to pursue with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to get the grant-in-aid rules approved. However, we have not yet received any response from the GOL.

It may, however, be mentioned that during the previous financial year (2004-05) the grant to the tune of Rs. 31.22 lakh was released to the Tribal Councils in terms of D.O. No. 17012/2/2005-S&M dated 8.2.05 at page 18/c. of the Joint Secretary, GOL, Ministry of Tribal Affairs addressed to the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration. The Finance Department had cleared the proposal subject to the condition that all the expenditure may be incurred by the DC (N) on behalf of the Tribal Councils in accordance with the govt. rules and procedures. (A Xerox copy of the note dated 2.3.05 and note dated 31.3.05 are placed at pages 141-142/c. for reference.) In