

No. 1-804/2004-TW(PF)

May please refer to the observation made by Chief Secretary at para 76/n. It is regarding release of Rs.230 lakhs as a grant-in-aid to the Nicobar Tribal Councils in anticipation of ex-post-facto approval of the Govt. of India as it was done during the previous financial year. The justification for release of grant-in-aid in the above manner could be as under :-

- (i) The A&N Admn. has formulated draft Grant-in-aid Rules way back in Nov 2002 and sent to the GOI for their approval;
- (ii) After two years GOI responded and suggested for certain modifications in the draft rules. Accordingly, the modified draft rules were also sent to GOI in June 2005;

(iii) Several reminders have been sent to GOI seeking approval for Rules. We have written to our Resident Commissioner, Delhi also to pursue with the GOI. However, Rules are yet to be approved by the GOI;

(iv) Further action in the matter lies entirely with the GOI. As such it would be logical for GOI to consider ex-post-facto sanction for release of grant-in-aid;

(v) Funds have been allocated in 2005-06 as Grant-in-Aid based on felt needs of Nicobarese as communicated by the Tribal Councils. They have resolved to undertake essential developmental activities in the Nicobar islands as a part of reconstruction / rehabilitation after tsunami devastation;