

Discussed with the Director (TW).

This is regarding approval of draft rules for grant-in-aid and ex-post-facto sanction of grant-in-aid to Nicobarese Tribal Councils of A&N Islands for creation of community facilities for the year 2004-05 and 2005-06. We had requested the Joint Secretary, GOI, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi to get the draft rules for grant-in-aid to Nicobarese Tribal Councils for A & N Islands approved by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India, being the Administrative Ministry, in consultation with the Ministry of Finance in terms of rule 148(2) of GFR and convey the approval to this Administration at the earliest vide Admn.'s last reminder dated 26.12.2005 at page 161-162/cor. We had also requested the Resident Commissioner, A&N Administration, Andaman Nicobar Bhawan, New Delhi to pursue with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to get the approval of the grant-in-aid rules expedited so that the grant-in-aid for the current year can be released to the Nicobarese Tribal Council without further delay vide this Admn.'s letter dated 25.10.2005 at page 139/cor. But the approval of the Govt. of India is still awaited. If approved, we may remind the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs to expedite the approval of grant-in-aid rules.

In this context it is stated that there was a provision of Rs. 230 lakh towards grant-in-aid to the Tribal Councils under the Annual Plan 2005-06 which could not be utilized for want of approved grant-in-aid Rules. However, as the grant was to be released urgently to Tribal Councils to enable them to undertake reconstruction of community facilities which were devastated by tsunami that hit these islands on 26.12.2004 apart from the taking up other development works, the Administrator (Lt. Governor) has sanctioned grant of Rs. 230 lakh to the Tribal Councils of Nicobarese subject to ex-post-facto approval to be obtained from Govt. of India, pending approval of grant-in-aid Rules.

Similarly an amount of Rs. 31.22 lakh was released to the Nicobarese Tribal Councils as grant-in-aid during the previous financial year (2004-05) subject to ex-post-facto sanction of the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, pending approval of grant-in-aid Rules. Accordingly a proposal for ex-post-facto approval of the above grant-in-aid was referred to Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs vide this Administration's letter No. 1-804/2004-TW/1097 dated 13.4.2005 at page 143/c. In reply to the above proposal the Govt. of India asked for certain clarification vide their letter dated 29.6.2005 at page 163/c. The clarification were furnished vide this Admn.'s letter No. 1-804/2004-TW/1363 dated 10.8.2005 at page 155/c, but the approval of the Govt. of India is yet to be received.