

## Education

4 (a) Please state the problems and needs regarding education of SCs/STs. Whether the measures taken by the State Government and Central Government to meet the needs are adequate? Do you suggest any further schemes to strengthen the educational programme?

Ans: Of the six (6) Scheduled Tribes of this U.T, five (5) are recognised as Primitive Tribes and the sixth viz. the Nicobarese have entered the main stream of civilization. Their literacy percentage as per 1991 Census is 56.2% which is an evidence of their advancement in the field of education. There is no specific problem relating to education of STs of this U.T. However the remoteness and isolation of the tribal villages coupled with communication bottleneck in some islands of the Nicobar District makes it difficult to cater to the educational needs of the tribals. The Administration has taken up measures to solve the above problem by providing school facilities within easy reach of the Scheduled Tribe students. To simplify the process of imparting effective primary education to the Nicobarese, it is proposed to bring out a dictionary of Nicobarese Grammar with scientific codification with the assistance of expert linguist.

The measures taken by the UT Administration and the Central Govt. to meet the educational needs of the tribals are adequate.

(b) What is the teacher-pupil ratio in schools located in ITDPs and MADA, Cluster areas vis-a-vis in other parts of the State?

Ans: There is no MADA and Clusters in this U.T. The Teacher Pupil ratio in schools located in the ITDP vis-a-vis in other parts of the U.T is as under:

| Tribal Area   |        | Non-Tribal Area |  |
|---------------|--------|-----------------|--|
| Primary       | 1 : 19 | 1:19            |  |
| Middle        | 1 : 24 | 1:21            |  |
| Secondary     | 1 : 20 | 1:21            |  |
| Sr. Secondary | 1 : 18 | 1:20            |  |