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U2
May please peruse the notes at paras 40-41/n on pre-page. This is regarding procurement and marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) collected / grown by the tribals. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India vide his DO Letter dated 25.2.2000 at pages 7-8/c has sought cooperation of this administration to enable Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) to take up procurement of MFP and SAP collected / grown by the tribals of this UT.

U3
In this connection Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars vide his letter dated 21.8.2000 (PUC) has recommended induction of TRIFED for procurement of SAP viz. copra and betel nut grown by the Nicobarese tribals. This was further discussed with Director (TW), who is also RCS-in-charge currently. It is learnt that there has been sharp decline in the market price of copra and betel nut since December, 1999, as a result of which, the tribal growers ~~were~~ have been hard hit economically. So the administration took up a proposal for fixing support price of copra and betel nut. In the wake of the above proposal, the GOI, Ministry of Agriculture has fixed support price of copra at Rs. 2800/- per quintal for one year and directed NAFED to take up procurement of copra from the tribal cooperatives. Accordingly NAFED has come forward to procure copra from the tribal cooperative societies viz. EHL, Car-Nicobar, MML, Nancowry and A & N Marketing Federation Ltd., Port Blair at a cost of Rs. 2800/- per quintal and an agreement to this effect has