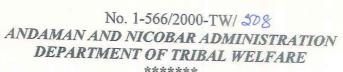
88.40.41)



Port Blair, dated the 25 May, 2000.

To

- The Deputy Commissioner
 Nicobars District,
 Car-Nicobar
- The Registrar of Cooperative Societies A & N Administration, Port Blair.

<u>Sub</u>: Procurement and marketing of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agriculture Produce (SAP) grown / collected by the tribals - reg.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of DO letter No. 20012/38/99-TDB dated 25th February, 2000 of the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, GOI, New Delhi addressed to the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration, Port Blair regarding the above mentioned subject. The following observations are made with regard to the sale of surplus agricultural produce of the Nicobarese tribals.

The tribals particularly the Nicobarese are growing coconut and betelnut. The Nicobarese sell their agricultural produces like coconut and betelnut to their village cooperative societies which, in turn, sell the commodities to apex tribal societies. The apex societies market the commodities to some unrecognized agencies in the mainland. TRIFED is an autonomous Organisation functioning under central Govt. So it could better protect the interests of tribals with regard to marketing their agricultural produce and getting them remunerative prices. Therefore, the apex societies could be asked to sell the agricultural produce of the tribals to the TRIFED instead of to some unrecognised agencies as they are doing at present.