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May please peruse the office notes from para 5/n onwards. PUC is a DO letter dated 25.2.2000 of Secretary to GOI, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi regarding procurement of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) grown / collected by the tribals. As mentioned in the PUC, Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) has commitment to collect the MFP and SAP from state Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations LAMPS, State Forest Corporations etc. so as to ensure that the tribals get remunerative prices for their products.

With regard to MFP it is stated that there is no worthwhile MFP available in the forests to be exploited commercially.

So far the SAP is concerned, the tribals particularly Nicobarese are growing coconut and betel-nut. The Nicobarese sell their agricultural produces like coconut and betel-nut to their village cooperative societies, which, in turn, sell the commodities to apex tribal societies. The tribal co-operative societies in Nicobars are affiliated to the two central co-operative societies, one each, at Car Nicobar and Nancowry. The apex societies market the commodities to mainland to some unrecognized agencies. TRIFED is an autonomous Organisation functioning under Central Govt. So it could better protect the interest of tribals with regard to marketing their agricultural produce and getting them remunerative prices. Therefore, the apex tribal societies could be asked to sell the agricultural produce to TRIFED instead of to some unrecognised agencies in the mainland as they are doing at present.

In view of the above, it is suggested that the issue may be referred to the Registrar of Cooperative Societies and the Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars calling for their comments for or against the proposed induction of TRIFED in this UT for procurement of surplus agricultural produce of the tribals, if approved. A draft letter is placed below for approval please.

Research Officer (TW)
(Comp. File No. TW-728)

Director (TW)

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