

# Minimum Support Price For Copra, Betel Nut Produced By Nicobarese Urged

PORT BLAIR, JULY 1

Concerned by the situation wherein tribal Nicobarese are not getting remunerative prices for copra and betel nuts—these being their main source of income and livelihood, the Lt. Governor, Shri. IP Gupta has written to the Union Agriculture Minister, Shri. Nitish Kumar seeking his intervention for relaxing specifications for fixing minimum support price for copra and to implement Market Intervention Scheme for Betel Nut both produced by Nicobari tribals in these island.

The Lt. Governor said that even if the minimum support price is less than the price already fixed by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, and the NAFED provides price support, it would help these tribals to a great extent as their present economic condition is in dire strait.

Giving details about the state of affair with the Nicobarese, the Lt. Governor said that ninety percent of the tribal population in Nicobar are dependent on coconut and betel nut plantation which is the main source of their income and livelihood. He said the price of copra and betel nut has fallen to such an extent that it cannot sustain the livelihood of a vast majority of tribals living in the southern group of islands of this U.T.

The A&N Administration had taken up the matter with the Ministry of Agriculture with the request to fix minimum support price for copra and issue directions to National Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) for price support to the copra produced by the Nicobari tribals. However, the NAFED has declined to provide price support to copra produced by the Nicobarese on the ground that the

(Contd. on page 4)

## MP Urged To Solve Villagers' Problems In Diglipur

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The Member of Parliament, Shri. Bishnu Pada Ray during his visit to a number of places at Paschim Sagar in Diglipur Tehsil today took stock of various problems and the needs of the people of the area. He was accompanied, among others, by the Deputy Commissioner (Andamans) and the Assistant Commissioner, Mayabunder.

During the visit, the villagers urged the MP to take up the matter relating to the construction of road from Kalighat to Paschim Sagar, setting up a health sub-centre and construction of a new school building at Paschimsagar. They also requested him to regularise their encroached land in the reserved forest areas under pre-78 category. After hearing the grievances patiently, the Deputy Commissioner assured the villagers in the presence of the MP to regularize atleast 1 hectare of land in their possessions to each family as per the govt order in vogue, a press release from MP Bhavan said here today.

According to this, the residents of Jagannath Dera, Narayan Tekri

(Contd. on page 4)

## Solution To D/Pur STS Problems Assured

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The Lt. Governor has assured that the ongoing transport problem being faced by the people at Diglipur will be sorted out immediately and that he is giving necessary direction to the concerned STS authorities to solve the problem at the earliest.

The LG's assurance has come after the Member of Parliament, Shri Bishnu Pada Ray who is currently in Diglipur, is stated to have apprised the LG about the problem in Diglipur. The MP has informed that as against four STS buses which were plying on various routes in Diglipur only one

(Contd. on page 4)

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