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**ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL WELFARE**

This is in connection with the meeting scheduled to be held on 21.3.2001 at 9.00.a.m in the conference hall under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, A & N Administration to discuss various issues pertaining to the southern group of Islands. So far as the Tribal Welfare Department is concerned the following issues may be discussed.

1) Participation of tribals in administration of the development programmes in the tribal areas

Unlike the non-tribal areas, the tribal areas of Nicobars do not have Panchayati Raj Institutions. In other words, the tribal areas are exempt from the A & N Islands Panchayat Regulation. However, the Nicobarese tribals have their traditional village and islands tribal councils. The tribal councils are informally consulted in administration of the development programmes in the tribal areas. The Chairman of the tribal councils are members of District Planning Committee, which is responsible to formulate the UTs plan including the Plan Programmes for tribal areas. In this way the participation of the tribals in administration of the development programmes is being ensured. However, the tribal councils are not statutory bodies. In order to legalize the traditional tribal councils of the Nicobarese, a draft tribal council regulation on the pattern of autonomous district tribal council of Tripura has been formulated and sent to the tribal councils to elicit their opinion, but the tribal councils are yet to respond. If they come forward to accept the draft tribal council regulation and it is approved and notified, the tribal councils will acquire legal status. Consequently the tribal councils can function on the pattern of the PRIs and implement the programmes / schemes for development of the tribals.

2) Adoption of Maharashtra model of quantification of funds for Tribal Sub-Plan

The Maharashtra model of quantification of fund has been examined and found feasible to be adopted for quantification of funds in respect of the tribal areas. Under this system the fund required for development under Tribal Sub-Plan will be placed at the disposal of the Tribal Welfare