

9. Grant-in-aid to Tribal Councils in Nicobars District (New Scheme)

There are seven Tribal Councils in Nicobars District viz, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Nancowry, Katchal, Kondul and Pillobhabi. The Tribal Councils are autonomous in their own way and the A&N Administration doesn't interfere in their functioning. Unlike PRIs, no financial or other powers have been devolved on the Tribal Councils nor do they get any funds for carrying out the developmental works in these islands as they are yet to be recognized as statutory bodies under any law. The Tribal Councils are implementing only the JGSY scheme entrusted to them by DRDA, Nicobar. The Tribal Councils neither have any source of revenue nor it receives any financial support from the Administration. The Tribal Councils are demanding greater role for them in the development of tribal area. However, in this connection a Draft Nicobar Island Autonomous (Tribal Council) Regulation, 2000 has been formulated and circulated to all the Tribal Councils for comments. The Tribal Councils, Car Nicobar has taken the lead in the matter and is actively engaged in discussion with Tribal Council of other Islands. The comments on the draft Regulation from the Tribal Councils are awaited. The District Administration is continuously pursuing the matter with the Tribal Councils for an early response.

As per the policy of the Govt. of India, the planning process is to begin from the grass root level i.e. PRI's. There are no PRI's formally constituted in the tribal area. The issue was discussed in the DPC meeting held on 4.6.2002 and it was decided that certain funds may be devolved, which would need aspirations of the tribals for undertaking need-based developments by these Tribal Councils which are functioning in a democratic manner.

The Tribal Councils are to be given guidance in formulation of the Schemes by the line departments but overall monitoring will be done by the Tribal Welfare Department. Therefore, it is proposed to appoint and post two Extension Officer and two Data Entry Operator, one each to Tribal Council, Car Nicobar and Tribal Council, Nancowry. Besides, modern equipments like computers is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-03. The Deputy Commissioner, Nicobar would be responsible for local monitoring the developmental works and proper utilisation of funds to be provided to the Tribal Councils.

An Outlay of Rs. 10 lakh is proposed for the Annual Plan 2002-03.