

development of the tribals are to be identified and remedial measures to be taken.

As per the suggestions of the National Commission for SCs, STs & also the decision taken at the meeting of the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India and Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, A&N Islands held on 11/11/2001 at Port Blair at TR&TI is proposed to be set up at Port Blair with assistance of Govt. of India in the form of matching grant. The matching grant will be provided by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

An outlay of Rs. 21.25 lakh is proposed for the 10 Five Year Plan.

8. Construction of a transit hostel at Port Blair:

As per the suggestions of National Commission for SCs and STs and also decision taken at the meeting of the Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India and Lt. Governor, A & N Islands held on 11th Nov., 2001 at Port Blair a tribal hostel is proposed to be set up at Port Blair with assistance of Govt. of India in the form of grant in order to provide guest house accommodation to the tribal candidates when they come over to Port Blair from the Southern Group of Islands to appear for various competitive examinations, to undergo training courses etc. as there is no such facility existing at present. The matching grant will be provided by the Govt. of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs during the 10th Five Year Plan. The Hon'ble MP suggested in the DPC meeting held on 28/12/2001 at Megapode nest that the timber structure could be preferred for the hostel.

An outlay of Rs. 25.50 lakh is proposed for the 10 Five Year Plan.

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.