

DETAILED PROGRAMME OF SCHEME

1. **NAME OF DEPARTMENT** : Tribal Welfare
2. **NO. OF SCHEME AND** : 9 (Nine)
NAME OF THE SCHEME : Grant-in aid to Tribal Councils in
Nicobars District.(New Scheme)
3. **OBJECTIVE / JUSTIFICATION**

There are seven Tribal Councils in Nicobars District viz, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Nancowry, Katchal, Kondul and Pillobhabhi. 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. The PRI's in the non-tribal area are actively involved in the formulation of the plan and huge funds along with powers have been devolved upon them. However, there are no PRI's formally constituted in the tribal area..The issue was discussed in the DPC meeting held on 4.6.2002 during formulation of Xth Five Year Plan and Annual Plan (2002-2003) for the Directorate of Tribal Welfare. It was decided in the DPC meeting that certain funds may be devolved through the traditional Tribal Councils for the purpose of providing funds as provided by the Second Finance Commissions for the purpose of development works through self government institutions, such devolution 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 in respect of their respective jurisdiction by the line departments but overall monitoring will be done by the Tribal Welfare Department. For this purpose 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. The Tribal Councils are to be equipped with modern equipments like computers for smooth functioning of the official work, for which a token provision of Rs 50 lakh is proposed to be kept under sector - "Welfare of SC's ST's & OBC's" for providing grant-in-aid to the Tribal Councils of Nicobars District through Deputy Commissioner, Nicobars for developmental activities of the tribal areas during the 10th Five Year Plan with a provision of Rs.10 lakh for Annual Plan 2002-2003.