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PUC is a letter from the Chairman, Tribal Council, Chuk Chucha, Car Nicobar requesting for providing of funds to the Tribal Councils at par with PRIs. The PRIs of these Islands have been made functional and delegated with functions and responsibilities, except in the Tribal Reserve Areas of the Nicobar District. The proposal for formation of Tribal Autonomous Council is under examination in the Tribal Welfare Department, which is pending for want of comments of various Tribal Councils with DC(N). It is learnt that various Tribal Councils are slightly apprehensive on certain aspects of the proposed Rules and are taking time to study it. It is worth mentioning that the tribals do not have the resources and expertise to study the various consequences of the suggestions given for these proposed provisions and largely depend upon the few educated unemployed youth from their areas for advice. In addition tribals generally take their own time in coming to conclusion over the problems/issues before them and consultation in the tribal society is time consuming. There are seven Tribal Councils functioning in the Nicobar District. These Councils conduct their own elections and elect their members since time immemorial and funds under various developmental schemes like JGSY, EAS & SGSY are given to them. The Tribal Councils are facing difficulties because they do not have the funds to provide salaries, which are now met by way of donations/voluntary contributions from the tribal community. The issue was discussed during the visit of the Second Finance Commission which visited Nicobar District. Subsequently, during the discussions with LG, the Members of the Commission also raised this issue and it was felt that it would be appropriate that funds are provided to these institutions of self-governing bodies on similar analogy as in other areas governed by PRIs.

The matter was amplified during the meeting of DC(N) held on 04.06.2002. It was decided to incorporate a new TW under the Deptt. W&K taken allocation of Rs. 50 lacs. P. to prepare a new scheme.

04/06/2002

Ac/ TWA