

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE
OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(1987-88)**

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTIETH REPORT

MINISTRY OF WELFARE

**Socio-Economic Conditions of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Andaman
and Nicobar Islands**



Presented to Lok Sabha on 2 MAR 1989

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 2 MAR 1989

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (1967-68)**

Shri Ram Ratan Ram—Chairman

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1. Shri N. N. Mehra—*Joint Secretary.*
2. Shri D. M. Chanan—*Chief Legislative Committee Officer.*
3. Shri Kuldip Sahai—*Senior Legislative Committee Officer.*

INTRODUCTION

1. I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Thirtieth Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Welfare—Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

2. The Committee took the evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Welfare and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands on the 30th January, 1987. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Welfare and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for placing before the Committee material and information the Committee wanted in connection with the examination of the subject.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on the 25th September, and 5th October, 1987.

4. A summary of conclusions|recommendations contained in the Report is appended (Appendix II).

NEW DELHI;
November 12, 1987.
Kartika 21, 1909 (S).

RAM RATAN RAM.
Chairman.
Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

A. Administrative Set-up

The Committee have been informed that the administrative set-up of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been stated to be as follows:

The Administration of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is headed by the Lt. Governor. He is assisted by the Chief Secretary. Besides the Chief Secretary, there are 5 Secretaries in addition to the Secretary to the Lt. Governor. These are—

- (i) Secretary (Planning)-Cum-Development Commissioner.
- (ii) Secretary (Finance).
- (iii) Secretary (Public).
- (iv) Secretary (Education)
- (v) Secretary (Judicial).

1.2. The Chief Conservator of Forests and the Principal Engineer, APWD also function as *ex-officio* Secretaries for their respective departments.

1.3 The Union Territory is divided into two districts (Andamans and Nicobars), each headed by a Deputy Commissioner. The Block Development Officers and Child Development Project Officers also function under the Deputy Commissioner.

1.4. Various programmes and schemes formulated by the Union Territory Administration are executed by the concerned departments. However, some schemes relating to harbour works and lighthouses are being implemented by the Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works and Lighthouses and Lightships Department of the Government of India.

1.5. It has further been stated that there is a Tribal Welfare Section in the Secretariat to deal with matters relating to tribals. A post of Director (Tribal Welfare) was created during Sixth Plan in the scale of Rs. 1100—1600. One of the Secretaries looks after the tribal welfare in addition to other duties assigned to him.

1.6. The Director (Tribal Welfare) is assisted by one Extension Officer (Tribal Welfare) besides Secretariat staff. An Assistant Commissioner (TN) used to assist the Director (Tribal Welfare), but this year his headquarter was shifted to Car Nicobar.

1.7. In reply to a query by the Committee as to why there was no Secretary incharge of the Tribal Welfare in the administration,

the Committee were informed by the Ministry of Welfare through a written note as follows:—

“Out of 5 sanctioned posts of Secretaries, two are exclusive i.e. Secy. to L.G. and Judicial Secretary and they cannot be given any other administrative work. The rest of 3 Secretaries have to share the remaining work in the administration. Hence it is difficult to give Tribal Welfare work to one Secretary exclusively.”

1.8 The Committee note that besides the Chief Secretary there are 5 Secretaries excluding the Secretary to the Lt. Governor to assist him in the administration of the Union Territory. The Committee are surprised to note that there is no Secretary exclusively in charge for Tribal Welfare who could devote his whole time and energy to the vital task of ameliorating the social and economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands who are inhabited at distant places in different islands, speak different languages and have varied customs and way of living. In view of the peculiar geographical factors and special tribal problems there, the Committee, recommend that there should be a separate Secretary exclusively-in-Charge of Tribal Welfare activities and other socio-economic problems of Scheduled Tribes of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

B-Tribal Area and Population

1.9. According to a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee the total area of the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is 8293 Sq. Kms.

1.10. The total population of the Union Territory as per 1971 and 1981 census has been stated to be 1,15,133 and 1,88,741 respectively.

1.11. The Scheduled Tribes population and its percentage to the total population as per 1971 and 1981 census has been stated to be as under:—

Scheduled Tribes population		Percentage of ST population to total population	
1971	1981	1971	1981
18,102	22,361	15.72	11.85

1.12. During evidence the Committee asked the representative of the Ministry of Welfare about the reasons for decrease in percentage of Scheduled Tribe population in the Islands. The Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration stated:—

“The ST population has not decreased; it has gone up during 1971—81; it has gone up to 22,361. There are several factors,

One such factor is the development activities which have increased in all the sectors especially in the PWD side where a lot of labour force has to be inducted from outside. Similarly, there are other organisations like MES, Border Roads and defence establishment which have to import their labour from outside and also because unemployment in the main land is much more than we have in the islands. So, the people have a tendency to go there and go through the Departments. I have just now mentioned. So, it is mainly because of these factors that there has been an increase in the non-tribal population which, of course is not proportionate to the increase in the tribal population. But as I submitted, there is no decrease as such in the tribal population and the tribal population figures would show that it is increasing. The increase is over 23 per cent. which we consider to be quite reasonable."

1.13 When asked about the number of migrants to Andamans & Nicobar Islands from various States, the Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration stated during evidence that the total number of migrants was 54,120 as per the 1981 Census.

1.14 The position was further clarified by the Ministry through a subsequent note furnished to the Committee giving the number of migrants by place of birth and by place of residence as 70,557 and 54,120 respectively.

1.15 The principal tribes living in the Union Territory and population of each tribe as per 1971 and 1981 census is stated to be as follows:—

Name of the Scheduled Tribes	Population	
	1971	1981
(1) Andamanese	24	The tribe wise population is still not finalised by the Registrar General of India, New Delhi.
(2) Jarawa	N.A.*	
(3) Onge	112	
(4) Nicobarese	17,874	
(5) Shompen	92	
(6) Sentanese	N.A.	

*The Jarawas and Sentanese being unfriendly tribes could not be enumerated at Census. Their population is estimated to be 200 and 80 respectively.

1.16 The following Tribes have been classified as primitive in Andaman & Nicobar Islands:

- (1) Andamanese
- (2) Onge
- (3) Jarawa
- (4) Sentenelese
- (5) Shompen

1.17 It has further been stated that "the Jarawas and the Sentenelese continue to live in isolation."

1.18 On the question of the steps taken to induce these tribes to a settled way of life, the Committee have been informed that "two contact parties of the Administration exist, one for the Jarawas and another for the Sentenelese. The respective contact parties pay visit to Jarawa and Sentenelese areas once in a month subject to weather conditions and provide gifts to the tribals. A group of the Jarawa has responded to friendly overtures and came forward to accept the gifts."

1.19 On being asked to explain the reaction of different tribes to the approaches made by the contact parties of the Administration, the representative of Andaman & Nicobar Administration stated during evidence that as far as the Sentenelese were concerned, they did not allow the Contact parties to approach their area and whatever gifts the contact parties took for them, were left at the sea-shore. After the contact parties leave, the Sentenelese tribals come and collect the gifts. However, the contact parties were able to establish contact with the Jarawa tribe.

1.20 Asked to explain the areas reserved for these Scheduled Tribes, the representatives of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration stated during evidence:—

"In Sentenelese areas there were 80 persons of the tribe. This area was enough for them. This area was regarded enough for a tribe. In Jarawa 200 people were there. The Administration had left 800 Km. land for them."

1.21 When asked since when the contact parties had been visiting the tribes, the witness replied that it had been done since 1975.

1.22 When asked whether the frequency of visits of contact parties was not inadequate, the witness assured the Committee that the frequency of such visits would be increased.

1.23 On being asked to explain the reasons for extinction or decrease in number of certain tribes and action taken by the administration in that regard, the Committee were informed during evidence that some diseases had spread amongst the tribes because of the outside pressure. This has resulted in fall in their population. The administration has a Scheduled Tribes Development Committee which works under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor. A doctor has also been posted in Jarawa who looks after their health problems. In addition to the Doctor, a Social Worker is also posted there who understands their language and can converse with them.

1.24 When asked whether the administration was getting any feed back from the doctor in regard to the number of patients treated by him and the value of medicines disbursed, the witness replied that the expenditure was met under the social welfare schemes and that there was no special provision therefor.

1.25 When asked whether the total number of some of the tribes was becoming lesser and lesser, the witness replied that the number of Andamanese and Onge tribes was coming down. The witness further submitted:—

“Their number has gone down—
Andamanese—Their No. is 28
Onge—there No. is 100

These are two tribes whose number has gone down. We have not much of control on the genetic problem. Their number is very small. Amongst Andamanese there are only three females in re-production age. They have got odd traditional marriage system—old man can marry a girl of very young age and a young man can marry an elderly woman.

These are the areas where it is very difficult for us to interfere because we do not wish to interfere in their way of life. But this is a thing which is receiving the attention at the highest level and we do not have any expertise available with us as to how we go about the problem. We seek your advice in the matter. This matter also received the attention of the Island Development Authority which has been recently constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. A special long-term study has been ordered about their living

style, activities and health conditions specially. This has been entrusted to the Anthropological Survey of India and they are studying this very important aspect of the problem. As and when their Report is available, we will certainly take action."

1.26 The representative of A & N Administration further explained during evidence that Nicobarese are about 22 thousands in number. They are on the way to progress and they have no extinction problem. Onge tribes need the help of the administration. Population of Shompen tribes has not decreased. In 1971 they were 92 and at present their number has increased to 214.

1.27 The representative of the Ministry of Welfare furnished a written note to the Committee during evidence stating that a project pertaining to the problem of diminishing tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands was taken up by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare some years ago. The research project was entrusted to Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER) Pondicherry. The team headed by Dr. I. C. Verma head of the Department of Paediatrics (JIPMER) visited the Islands during January 30 to February 18, 1978. The report of Onges was submitted in September, 1981*.

1.28 The following action was taken to control particular deficiencies/diseases by Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration on the report:—

1. Vitamin A deficiency
2. Skin infections
3. Tuberculosis
4. Treatment of worms
5. Malaria control
6. Nutrition
7. Anemia Prophylaxis
8. Immunisation
9. Drinking water

*At the factual verification stage, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration clarified the position further as follows:—

"The reasons for extinction or decrease in number of certain tribes such as Great Andamanese the Onges and are yet to be conclusively ascertained by expert studies. A Study Group constituted at the instance of the Island Development Authority presided over by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has taken cognisance of this matter. The Expert Group has decided that an in-depth study should be conducted by Dr. I.C. Verma, Department of Paediatrics, All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi, on priority so as to understand the reasons for decline in the population of the Onges and other vulnerable groups and identify the problem of health, nutrition etc. Dr. I.C. Verma is likely to visit these Islands from middle of January, 1988 to conduct his researches on the subject."

1.29 Later the project was discontinued and the staff sanctioned left the Institute and the equipment procured for the project was given to other departments. In November 1986 the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare decided to continue the project at (JIPMER), Pondicherry.

1.30 The Committee note that two contract parties one for the Jarawas Tribe and another for Sentenelese Tribe have been making visits to their areas once a month since 1975 and to their utter dismay these parties have so far made neither any dent in winning the confidence of these tribes nor have those been able to establish any rapport with them. The visits of these contact parties have more or less assumed the nature of rituals and their only purpose is to give some gifts to these tribes once a month which in the opinion of the Committee is not going to help the tribals to improve their quality of life and they will continue to be as primitive as ever. The Committee will like to impress upon the Administration not only to increase the frequency of such visits but also send persons dedicated to motivate the tribals to extend their hands of friendship to these parties.

1.31 The Committee have been informed that the reason for extinction or decrease in the number of certain tribes is the spread of diseases among them because of outside pressure and that the Administration has set up a Scheduled Tribe Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor to curb the outside pressure spreading diseases among tribals.

1.32 The Committee note that a doctor has been posted in Jarva to look after the health problems of tribals. However, the Administration gets no feed back from the doctor in regard to the patients treated by him and the value of medicines disbursed. The Committee are surprised that no separate provision is made in the budget of the Union Territory for the medical facilities to be provided to the tribals. The expenditure is incurred under the Social Welfare Scheme which in the Committee's opinion is far from satisfactory. The Committee recommend that sufficient funds should be earmarked for the medical facilities to be provided to the tribals under a separate head of account in the Union Territory Budget.

1.33 It has also been brought to the notice of the Committee that the number of Andaman and Onge Tribes is declining very fast due to the peculiarity in their life style. The Committee have been informed that a special long term study has been undertaken about their living style activities and health conditions specifically by the Anthropological Survey of India and as and when their

Report is available the Administration will certainly take action. The Committee feel that it may take a long time before the results of the Study undertaken are known. The Committee are of the opinion that in the meantime the Administration should take interim measures to ensure that fall in the number of those tribes is arrested and their extinction averted.

1.34 The Committee regret to note that the project undertaken by Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry was discontinued. However, this Project has since been revived in November, 1986. The discontinuing of the project is an engima to the Committee. However, they hope this project which has already been revived will not be discontinued till such time the conditions of the tribals improve on permanent footing.

1.35 The Committee have been informed that Jarwas are facing acute food shortage. The Committee recommend that steps should be taken to lay orchards in those areas so that the fruits grown there are available to them. Further pigs should be left in those areas as Jarwas eat pig meat. This may help them in having piggeries in the Islands.

C Pradesh Council

1.36. The Committee have been informed through a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare that there is a Pradesh Council set up under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Administration) Regulation, 1979. The Pradesh Council comprises of, —

- (a) The Administrator,
- (b) The Member of Parliament representing the Union Territory
- (c) The Chairman of the Port Blair Municipal Board
- (d) Twenty-five persons to be elected or nominated from the following areas.

Area	Number of Persons
1	2
(i) Diglipur Tahsil	2
(ii) Mayabunder Tahsil	2
(iii) Rangat Tahsil	3
(iv) Port Blair Municipal Board Jurisdiction	5

1	2
(v) Port Blair Tahsil (Excluding areas covered by the Port Blair Municipal Board)	3
(vi) Farrargunj Tahsil	3
(vii) Car Nicobar Tahsil	4
(viii) Nancowrie Tahsil excluding Great Nicobar	2
(ix) Great Nicobar	1

(e) One person belonging to any of the Scheduled Tribes of Andamanese, Onges and Shompens is to be nominated by the Administrator.

(f) One woman nominated by the Administrator if no woman becomes a member of the Pradesh Council under any of the foregoing clauses.

1.37 In a subsequent note furnished to the Committee it has been stated that out of 25 persons in the present Pradesh Council, 7 members belong to Scheduled Tribes of which six are elected and one is nominated.

1.38 It has further been stated that the representation of the elected Scheduled Tribes is 24 per cent. of the total elected strength of the Council.

1.39 In reply to a query from the Committee about the representation of Scheduled Tribes in Pradesh Council the following information was furnished to them by the Ministry of Welfare:—

“(i) The Administrator, the Member of Parliament representing the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Chairman of the Municipal Board are members of the Pradesh Council-ex-officio.

(ii) The Panchayat Pradhans of Andamans District and the Pradhans of Great Nicobar in Nicobars District elect members to the Pradesh Council from their respective areas from amongst themselves by forming an electoral college.

(iii) The Captains of tribals of Nicobars District, excluding Great Nicobar, elect members to the Pradesh Council from their respective areas from amongst themselves by forming an electoral college.

The Administrator can appoint five persons Counsellors from amongst the members of the Pradesh Council.”

1.40 In a subsequent note furnished to the Committee it has been clarified that one Counsellor is always appointed from the Nicobarese Tribe in accordance with rule 18(2) of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Administration) Regulation, 1979.

1.41 The number of meetings of Pradesh Council and the dates of such meetings have been stated to be as follows:—

Year	No. of Meetings	Date on which Meetings held
1983-84	2 (two)	26th to 27th June, 1983 21st to 23rd February, 1984
1984-85	2 (two)	21st June, 1984 29th to 31st October, 1984
1985-86	4 (four)	18th to 19th April, 1985 15th May, 1985 10th to 13th September, 1985 26th to 28th February, 1986.

1.42 The Committee desire that the composition of the Pradesh Council should be made more broad-based by giving adequate representation to different tribes in the Island. The Committee further recommend that the meetings of the Pradesh Council should be held more frequently in order to create a sense of involvement among the tribals, to make assessment of their problems and to devise ways and means for improving the socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants of the Islands.

D. Voluntary Organisations

1.43 As regards the work done by the Voluntary Organisations in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes, the position has been stated in the written information furnished to the Committee by the Ministry as under:

“The Social Welfare Advisory Board has been extending financial aid to voluntary organisations located in the tribal areas for the activities such as craft training, typing classes. There are 15 voluntary organisations in Car Nicobar and one organisation in Little Andaman functioning for the Welfare of women and children of those areas.

Besides the Board is also running one Border Area Project in Nancowry group of islands which is a tribal area. The project is providing various useful services to the women and children such as Balwadies, craft training etc.”

1.44 The details regarding total expenditure incurred on Mahila mandals and Border Area Projects during the Sixth Five Year Plan, as furnished by the Ministry of Welfare is at Appendix—I.

1.45 It has further been stated that “expenditure on Mahila Mandals is met by the Central Social Welfare Board, the expenditure on Border Area Project is shared by Andaman and Nicobar Administration and Central Social Welfare Board in the ratio of 1:2 respectively. The grants are released by the Central Social Welfare Board, New Delhi|Andaman and Nicobar Administration on year to year basis and as such no provision is being made by the State Board for the Seventh Plan.”

During the year 1982-83 Mahila Mandal Tamalu and Mahila Mandal Sawai in Car Nicobar have conducted a family welfare camp. A sum of Rs. 200 has been given to each institution. 80 women benefitted by this camp. In 1984-85, 7 such camps were conducted by the Mahila Mandals in Car Nicobar area namely Mahila Mandal, Arrong, Mus, Jayanti, Chachuka, Kakana, Malacca and Perka.

In 1981-82, 2 condensed courses of education—2 years' course had been given to a Mahila Mandal namely Mahila Mandal Topoming and Tamalu. A sum of Rs. 17,850 had been given to the Mahila Mandal Topoming for conducting two years course of High School Examination. 15 Adult women were benefitted by this course. A sum of Rs. 15,850 was given to the Mahila Mandal, Tamalu for running two courses of middle school Examination and 15 Adult Women were benefitted.”

1.46 The Committee feel that voluntary organisations can play a vital role in improving the social, educational and environmental conditions of Scheduled Tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee therefore, recommend that dedicated voluntary organisations should be encouraged to work among the Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory and necessary grant-in-aid provided to them. The Administration should keep a close watch on their functioning so as to ensure that the money given to them is gainfully spent for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and there is no misuse of funds. In the opinion of the Committee it would be better if the social workers are drawn from amongst the various tribes themselves as the tribals are more likely to listen to their own compeers.

1.47 The Committee note that grants are released by the Central Welfare Board, New Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration on year to year basis to meet the expenditure of Mahila Mandals, and that as such no provision has been made by the State

Board to meet such expenditure during the Seventh Plan. The Committee recommend that adequate allocation be made by the Union Territory Social Welfare Advisory Board for the Seventh Plan so that the Mahila Mandals are aware and assured of the money likely to be made available to them. This will give the Mandals more confidence to undertake diversified programmes for the tribal welfare. The Committee note that the Nankori group of Islands are neglected in the matter of development. The Committee recommend that special care should be taken for their upliftment and more funds should be earmarked therefor.

E. Scheduled Castes

1.48. The Committee have been informed by the Ministry through written information that:

“No Community has been specified as Scheduled Caste as per article 341 of the Constitution in relation to the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.”

1.49. When asked whether there was any person known to the Administration who belonged to the Scheduled Castes at some other place but had not been treated so in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the Chief Secretary Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration stated during evidence that once a person migrated there, unless the Union Territory Administration recognised him and notified him as such, he could not be treated as Scheduled Caste. The Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Welfare added as follows:—

“The State Government and the Union Territory administration cannot notify them as such unless they are included in the list through amendment of the same by the Parliament.

1.50. Asked about any re-thinking about recognising any Community as Scheduled Caste, the Chief Secretary Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration stated during evidence that there was no re-thinking at present about the question.

1.51 The Committee are surprised that no community has been specified as Scheduled Castes under Article 341 of the Constitution in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee do not agree with the position taken by the representative of the Ministry of Welfare that “the State Government and Union Territory Administration cannot notify any caste as Scheduled Caste unless the list prepared by Parliament has been amended by the Union Government.” The

Committee are aware that the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are amended by the Union Government on the basis of the representations received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Of course, this requires an amendment of the list through enactment of Parliament. The Committee recommend that after reviewing the position carefully the Union Territory Administration should take up the matter suitably with the Union Government for declaring any deserving caste as Scheduled Caste in the Union Territory.

CHAPTER II

PLAN PROVISIONS

A. Plan Outlay and Expenditure

2.1 According to a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee, "the total plan outlay of the Union Territory during Sixth Plan was Rs. 96.60 crores against which an expenditure of Rs. 100.06 crores was incurred.

The Seventh Plan outlay for the Union Territory is Rs. 285 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 22.65 crores was incurred in the year 1985-86."

2.2 Budget provision for the Union Territory for 1985-86 has been stated to be as follows:—

Year	Revenue	Capital	Total
1985-86	63,72,50	37,11,62	1,00,84,12

2.3. The budget provision for the Tribal Sub-plan was not reflected in the budget of Union Territory for the year 1985-86. However, an outlay of Rs. 354.27 lakhs was earmarked for Tribal Sub-plan for the year 1985-86.

2.4 The Committee have further been informed that out of total outlay of Rs. 354.272 lakhs, Rs. 134.79 lakhs only were spent in Tribal Sub-plan during 1985-86.

2.5 When asked about the basis for allocation of Rs. 3 crore 54 lakhs for Tribal sub-plan, the Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Administration stated during evidence that it was done according to the guidelines issued by the Planning Commission and on the basis of population.

2.6 When asked about the basis of the allocation of funds for plan outlay and tribal Sub-plan during 1985-86 the Chief Secretary Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration stated during the evidence as under:—

"Our State Plan outlay for 1985-86 was of the order of Rs. 33.50 crores out of which Rs. 3.54 crores was allocated for the

Tribal Sub-plan. The budget will reflect the total amount and not the break-up for the Plan and Sub-plan expenditure."

2.7 In reply to a query regarding the actual expenditure during 1985-86 against the budgetary provision and the amount spent on tribal welfare, the Committee have been informed as follows:—

"Year	Revenue	Capital	Total
	(Rs. in thousands)		
1985-86	64,89,47	24,34,72	89,24,19

Expenditure for Tribal Sub-plan (1985-86) is not reflected in the budget."

2.8 The Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration informed the Committee during evidence that the total amount spent on the Tribal Sub-plan during 1985-86 was Rs. 134.79 lakhs out of an allocation in the Tribal Sub-plan of an amount of Rs. 354.27 lakhs. As regards shipping sector, it came to Rs. 101 lakhs.

2.9 Asked about the reasons for shortfall in expenditure during the year 1985-86 on Tribal Sub-plan the Committee were informed subsequently through a note that the shortfall was primarily in the shipping sector as the additional ships for the tribal area could not be procured because of the various procedural and other difficulties.

2.10 In reply to a question regarding the response of the Union Government towards simplification of procedural matters for the full utilisation of funds on various projects, the Chief Secretary, Andaman and Nicobar Administration stated during evidence:

"Normally we send our proposals to the Home Ministry. They have to coordinate with the other Ministries."

2.11 As regards the delegation of financial powers to Andaman and Nicobar Administration, the witness submitted as follows:—

"Our administration does not have the requisite powers with regard to projects and so on. Of late, some more powers have been delegated. Earlier it was limited upto Rs. 50 lakhs only for sanctioning a project. Now a project can be sanctioned up to Rs. 2 crores. This is the latest deve-

lopment. But still, since we have to engage ourselves in developmental activities where a lot of financial powers have got to be delegated. We feel that there is scope for delegation of further financial powers.”

2.12 The Committee regret to note that out of Rs. 285 crores allocated during Seventh Plan only a sum of Rs. 22.65 crores alone has been spent in the first year of the Plan (1985-86). The Committee are not satisfied with such a slow pace of progress. The Committee need hardly emphasise that unless the entire plan allocations are gainfully utilised in an evenly phased manner over the 5 years period, the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes are unlikely to improve. The Committee urge that the factors which hamper the utilisation of plan allocations in an even manner should be identified and corrective measures, as deemed necessary, taken urgently with a view to ensuring that the funds allocated are fully utilised in time.

2.13 The Committee are surprised to note that budget provision for the Tribal Sub-Plan was not reflected in the budget of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the year 1985-86. The Committee recommend that for the remaining years of Seventh Plan, provision should be made for the Tribal Sub-plan in the budget of Union territory under separate heads.

2.14 The Committee have been apprised that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration have the financial powers to sanction a project up to Rs. two crores only which in the opinion of the Committee keeping in view the constant cost escalations is too meagre. They desire that the Ministry of Welfare being the nodal Ministry, should monitor and keep a close watch on the developmental activities going on in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and impress on the sanctioning authorities the need for delegation of more financial powers to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration so that the tribal welfare projects are not bogged down by procedural wrangles.

B. Development Schemes

2.15 As regards the major achievements made for the development of the Islands and the tribal people, the Committee have been

furnished with the following written information by the Ministry of Welfare.

S. No.	Sector	Unit	Year	Achievement whole U.T.	Nicobar district
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1 Agriculture					
	Area under paddy	Hect.	1955-56 1983-86	3750 12000	(20)
	Production of rice	Tonne	1955-56 1985-86	3133 28000	(NA)
	Area under coconuts,	Hect.	1955-56 1985-86	17320 22005	(17200)
	Production of coconuts,	Million nuts.	1955-56 1985-86	55 70	(54.5)
2 Animal Husbandry					
	Veterinary hospitals & dispensaries,	No.	1956-57 1985-86	2 38	(10)
	Total livestock	No.	1956 *1982	29000 201775	(104476)
	Total poultry	No.	*1956 1982	57000 319898	(56687)
3 Cooperation					
	Cooperative Societies,	No.	1957-58 1985-86	62 327	(57)
	Membership of Cooperative Societies,	No.	1957-58 1985-86	5600 42138	(1020)
4. Education					
	Total Educational Institutions,	No.	1955-56 1985-86	41 290	(51)
	Total enrolment	No.	1955-56 1985-86	3134 62091	(7921)
	Total teachers	No.	1955-56 1985-86	115 2919	(372)
Fisheries					
	Fish landed	Tonne	1955-56 1985-86	80 6315	(300)
	Estimated value of fish	Rs. in lakhs	1955-56 1985-86	101 505.2	(N.A.)

(* Figures for 1985-86 are not available)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
6 Forests					
	Outturn of timber	cub. mtr.	1968-69 1985-86	80455 115317	.. (224)
7 Industries					
	(Large and Medium) Registered factories working under Factories Act, 1948	No.	1955-56 1985-86	5 30	.. (N.A.)
	Small Scale Industries.	No.	1955-56 1985-86	32 475	.. (N.A.)
	Average workers employed daily in registered factories.	No.	1955-56 1985-86	1800 4297	.. (N.A.)
8 Medical and Public Health					
	Hospitals	No.	1955-56 1985-86	5 18	.. (2)
	Dispensaries	No.	1955-56 1985-86	21 76	.. (21)
	Bed strength	No.	1955-56 1985-86	378 774	.. (150)
	Doctors	No.	1955-56 1985-86	16 94	.. (11)
	Nurses	No.	1955-56 1985-86	51 177	.. (27)
9 Power					
	Installed capacity of electricity.	KW	1955-56 1985-86	1100 10954.5	.. (986.5)
	Generation of electricity.	KW	1955-56 1985-86	1057204 19570679	.. (1249931)
	Town and village electrified	No.	1955-56 1985-86	1 291	.. (48)
10 Transport and Communications					
	Road length	KMs.	1956-57 1985-86	156 737 76	.. (84)
	Passenger traffic by sea between main-land and islands.	No.	1955-56 1985-86	13984 884017	.. (N.A.)
	Cargo traffic by sea between mainland and Islands.	DMT	1955-56 1985-86	25061 164767	.. (N.A.)
	Total motor vehicles	No.	1955-56 1985-86	158 4294	.. (N.A.)
	Buses	No.	1958-59 1985-86	5 89	.. (4)
	Post Offices. Sub-Post Offices and Branch Post Offices.	No.	1958-59 1985-86	15 78	.. (12)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
11	<i>Water Supply</i>				
	Villages/Towns/provided with water supply.	No.	1955-56 1965-66	5 345	“(110)”

N.B. The figures within brackets represent the position obtaining in the Nicobars District which is predominantly inhabited by the tribals. This Union Territory was divided into two districts viz. Andamans and Nicobars in 1974. Before that it was a uni-district territory.

— The Nicobar district as formed in 1974 only. Hence no separate figure.

2.16 From the information furnished to them, the Committee note that although substantial achievements have been made for the development of the islands and the tribal people in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands yet the progress made in the Nicobar District which is predominantly inhabited by the tribals has been tardy e.g. out of a total area of 12000 hectares under paddy cultivation, the area in Nicobar Islands is only 20 hectares; out of 38 veterinary hospitals and dispensaries there are only 10 in the district, out of 327 cooperative societies there are only 57 in Nicobar district; out of 290 educational institutions there are only 51 in the district and out of a total enrolment of 62091 children in these institutions the enrolment in the district is 7921 and out of 2919 teachers only 372 are available in the district. The Committee also find that in the field of medical and public health facilities, power generation and transport and communication facilities the district is lagging behind in development. The Committee regret the imbalance in the development of the tribal district of Nicobar. They are of the view that this lopsided development at the cost of tribal district of Nicobar should not continue any further and that the Administration should make earnest efforts for the development of this district and allocate adequate funds therefor to bring it at par with the Andaman District.

C. Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP)

(i) Schemes undertaken under IRDP (IRDP)

2.17. In a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare on the Schemes undertaken under IRDP the Committee have been informed as under:—

“Integrated Rural Development Programme, which aims to provide productive assets to rural poor to give them sup-

plemental income to enable them to cross poverty line was taken up in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during 1980-81 by undertaking a baseline survey in 5 villages of Andaman District to identify eligible families. As a result, 17 families were identified and assisted during that year.

Another baseline survey was conducted in all the panchayats during 1982 and 1726 families in the Andaman district and 421 families in Nicobars district were identified as target groups eligible for assistance under the programme. This target group consists of marginal farmers, agriculture and non-agriculture workers and rural artisans. Schemes under different sectors are finalised taking into consideration the infrastructure, marketing facility available in the area and the category of family. The schemes thus drawn up, after technical approval by the concerned department, are forwarded to the financial institutions for sanction of loan. On receipt of requisitions, subsidy amount is made available to the bank by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDAS).

The assistance provided covers sectors like minor irrigation, agricultural implements, poultry farm, fisheries, rural industries, animal husbandry like goatery, piggery and dairy, etc. In addition, the scheme, "Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment", which is a component of the IRDP is also being implemented from 1985-86. Under this scheme, 47 youths in Andamans district and 46 tribal youths in Nicobars district were imparted training in coir making, automobile|sewing machine repairing, tailoring and garment making, cane and bamboo works etc. during 1985-86. This scheme is being continued in 1986-87 and the proposal is to impart training to 50 youths in the Andamans district and 48 youths in Nicobars district."

2.18 Total population of Scheduled tribes is stated to be as under:—

"Scheduled Tribe population		Percentage of Scheduled Tribe population to total population	
1971	1981	1971	1981
18,102	22,361	15.72	11.85"

2.19 The number of families assisted during the 6th Plan period and during 1985-86 under IRDP has been stated to be as under:—

Sixth Plan

(i) Number of families assisted	1052
(ii) Number of S.T. families out of (i) above.	51
(iii) Percentage of (ii) on (i) above	4.85%

Seventh Plan

(i) Number of families assisted	742
(ii) Number of S.T. families out of (i) above.	77
(iii) Percentage of (ii) on (i) above	10.38%

2.20 Through a subsequent note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare, the Committee have been informed that among 47 youths who were imparted training in various trades, the number of tribal youths was nil. The Committee have also been informed that as against the target of 50, 64 tribal youths were proposed to be trained under TRYSEM in 1986-87.

(ii) *Plan outlay for IRDP*

2.21 The Committee have been informed through the written material furnished to them by the Ministry that the Andaman and Nicobar Administration is without legislature, and therefore, the entire fund for the implementation of IRDP is allotted under the Central Sector. Annual allocation is made by the Government of India fixing physical target for each year. Accordingly the target and achievement both physical and financial separately for Scheduled Tribes and others are indicated as under:—

Statement showing target (Physical and financial) under IRDP during 1980-81—1984-85.

Year	Target	
	Financial	physical
	Rs.	
1980-81	2.60 lakhs	N.A.
1981-82	N.A.
1982-83	5.00 lakhs	150
1983-84	5.00 lakhs	150
1984-85	5.00 lakhs	500
Total Vith Plan	17.60 lakhs	800

**Statement showing achievement (Physical and Financial) under IRDP during 1980-81—
1985-86**

	Physical	Subsidy (Rs.)	Loan (Rs.)	Total Loan and subsidy (Rs.)
Others	17	1,05,500	2,20,220	3,25,720
S.T.	Nil			
	17			
Others	105	1,24,856	2,65,100	3,89,956
S.T.	Nil			
	105			
Others	133	2,18,596	2,99,282	5,17,878
S.T.	6	0,05,283	0,05,283	10,566
	139	2,23,879	3,04,565	5,23,444
Others	212	2,32,631	5,15,656	7,48,287
S.T.	45	61,842	61,842	1,23,684
	257	2,94,473	5,77,498	8,71,971
Others	534	6,51,405	14,48,194	20,99,599
S.T.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	534	6,51,405	14,48,194	20,99,599
	1,052	14,00,113	28,15,577	42,15,690

2.22 It has further been stated "that of the six tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, all except Nicobarese are treated as primitive tribes. The assistance under IRDP is, therefore, confined only to Nicobarese tribes. Even in this case also, the Nicobar tribals are very much reluctant to avail loan, grant and subsidy from the bank/Government. Due to backwardness, social and traditional customs, the tribals were not coming forward like others to take financial institutions. In fact, the tribal people were not agreeable to be identified as poor. After continuous persuasion and many motivational programmes only some of the identified families could be assisted during Sixth Plan period. However, the programme is catching up and it is expected that more and more eligible families will be covered under this programme during the Seventh Plan

period. During 1985-86, 77 families could be assisted with an amount of Rs. 2,52,500 as subsidy and with equal amount of bank loan by supply of bullock carts, fishing boats, live-stock etc. During the current year already 50 families have been assisted with subsidy of Rs. 2,33,000 for procuring motor boats, other fishing materials etc."

2.23 As regards the total outlay for the IRDP during the Seventh Plan for the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Committee have been informed that, "the entire fund for IRDP is allotted by the Central Govt. and is not reflected in the Union Territory Plan budget. However, the outlay proposed by the working group of the Planning Commission for IRDP for the period 1985-90 is 58.00 lakhs."

2.24 The Committee have been further informed through a note that "there is no separate scheme under the IRDP exclusively meant for the Scheduled Tribes. The annual allocation of fund under this programme for this Union Territory is distributed among the two districts viz. Andaman district and Nicobar district. Nicobar district is predominant by Nicobarese tribal people, who on the basis of the guidelines are covered under this programme by providing assistance under various sectors. However, the whole requirement of IRDP funds of the tribals is met by the Administration."

2.25 Asked about the reasons for not formulating any specific scheme exclusively for Scheduled Tribes under I.R.D.P., it has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Welfare that "the Nicobare tribals are generally averse to take loans. However, during the current year a beginning has been made to devise and introduce suitable schemes exclusively for them."

2.26 The Committee note that during the Sixth Five Year Plan the number of families assisted under IRDP was 1052. Out of these, the number of Scheduled Tribe families were only 51 i.e. about 4.85 per cent. Similarly during the Seventh Plan, out of 742 families so far assisted the number of Scheduled Tribe families is 77 constituting a percentage of 10.38. The Committee have been informed that the Scheduled Tribes population in the Union Territory was 15.72 per cent according to 1971 census and is estimated to be 11.85 percent according to 1981 census. The percentage of Scheduled Tribe families assisted during the Sixth Plan and Seventh Plan so far under IRDP is considerably less than the percentage of their population in the Union Territory.

2.27 The Committee recommend that earnest efforts should be made to cover more Scheduled Tribe families under IRDP so that their economic condition improves at a brisk pace to enable them to cross the poverty line early.

2.28 The Committee find it highly regrettable that out of the 47 youths imparted training during the year 1985-86 none belonged to the Scheduled Tribes. This shows an in-built apathy towards the Scheduled Tribes on the part of the Administration. The Committee cannot condone such an attitude and expect the Administration to be more responsive to the development of Scheduled Tribes.

2.29 The Committee regret to note that during the years 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1984-85 neither any subsidy nor any loan facility was availed of by any person belonging to Scheduled Tribe. They are not convinced by the plea of the Ministry that it was due to the backwardness, social and traditional customs of the tribals. If it were so, the Administration would not have been able to assist 77 tribal families with an amount of Rs. 2,52,500 as subsidy and with equal amount of bank loan during the year 1985-86 was also 50 families with a subsidy of Rs. 2,33,000. in 1986-87. Had the administration started the motivational programmes at the right time the things would not have drifted thus far. In the opinion of the Committee with continuous persuasion more tribals could have been assisted during the 6th Plan. The Committee recommend that now onwards the Administration should take all necessary steps to motivate the tribals to avail of subsidy and loan facility so that their quality of life improves.

2.30 The Committee regret that no specific scheme exclusively for Scheduled Tribes has been initiated under IRDP so far. Had a suitable scheme been formulated, the possibility of more tribals coming forward for loans could not have been ruled out. The Committee expect that some such schemes for the tribals may be chalked out now which may help the tribals in overcoming their averseness towards taking of loans. This will go a long way in ameliorating the living conditions of the tribals and for their social well being. The Committee will like to be apprised of action taken in this regard within next three months.

D. Integrated Tribal Development Projects

2.31 According to the Preliminary Material furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Welfare "the ITDP Nicobar is yet to start functioning. The ITDP Plan for Nicobar has very recently been prepared by the Tribal Cultural Research and Training Insti-

tute, Hyderabad. The ITDP Plans are under examination. However, the schemes for the Nicobarese tribal are included in the Tribal Subplan and are being implemented by the various Departments concerned. The tribals are gradually coming forward to avail themselves of the benefits of the schemes under Tribal Sub-plan."

2.32 The outlay and expenditure for Tribal Sub-plan during the Sixth Plan had been as given below:—

"Outlay	(Rs. in Lakhs)
	Expenditure
1548.06	1385.243

The expenditure incurred under Tribal Sub-plan is fully for the development of tribals and the tribal areas as the tribal areas (Nicobar District) are predominantly inhabited by the tribals.

The outlay for the Seventh Plan period is Rs. 3410.546 lakhs.

The ITDP Plan for the Nicobarese in Nicobar is under examination."

2.33 The Committee have been informed through a subsequent note that "the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration propose to implement ITDPC prepared by TCR & I, Hyderabad from next year (1987-88). The schemes suggested in the ITDP could not be included in the Annual Tribal Sub-plan for the current year due to their late receipt i.e. on 28-7-1986."

2.34 The Committee are really perturbed to find that no integrated tribal development projects have been initiated in the tribal district of Nicobar so far. It appears that it dawned on the Administration to undertake such projects only after the subject was selected by the Committee for examination. The Committee cannot but express their anguish over such an indifferent attitude of the Administration towards tribal development. Even now it is stated that the schemes in the ITDP could not be included in the Annual Tribal Sub-plan for the year 1985-86 due to their late receipt on 28 July, 1986. In the opinion of the Committee the ITDP is one of the most suited programme for socio-economic betterment of the tribals and schemes thereunder should have been introduced in the Nicobar Island much earlier. They expect that since the administration has taken steps to initiate projects under the I.T.D.P., these will be properly planned and implemented as early as possible so that the condition of the Scheduled Tribes improves in the Nicobar Island. The Committee will like to be kept apprised of the details of the projects initiated by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration in this regard.

CHAPTER III

SCHEME FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Land

3.1 In the written information furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee, it has been stated that "under Section 38 of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Land Reforms and Land Revenue Regulation, 1966, the ownership of all land in the Union Territory vests absolutely in the Government." However, tenancy rights can be given to individuals under the aforesaid regulation and the rules framed thereunder in 1968.

3.2 It has further been stated that the land can be transferred (i) by way of succession, survivorship, inheritance according to personal law of the tenant, and (ii) by way of sale, gift etc. subject to fulfilment of the terms and conditions laid down under section 159 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1966.

3.3 On being asked whether the Administration had taken any action for the identification of villages for survey and settlement work in the Islands, the representative of Andaman & Nicobar Island Administration informed the Committee during evidence that in Andaman district there are 180 villages where survey and settlement has been done. The whole land is vested in Government. Only cultivation right of land is given to a cultivator. The cultivator can if he so likes, sell his cultivation right in the land. The witness further stated that the tribals are selling their occupancy rights to migrants from mainland in Andaman Island.

3.4 When asked whether the Nicobarese cultivators had the customary right in the land cultivated by them, the witness replied that they had full customary rights on the land. The area is reserved for the tribals and nobody can go there. Even if Government takes the land, the compensation has to be paid to the tribals. When asked whether Government was giving permission to private parties to grow red palm oil plantations in the land, the

witness replied that it was grown in a Government farm. As the plantations are likely to spoil the ecology, their plantation had been discontinued since 1977.

3.5 The witness further submitted that as regards speculation in land prices, the pressure on the lands with occupancy rights has increased since the news regarding establishment of a free port on Islands had appeared in the newspapers.

3.6. As regards allotment of unoccupied land, it has been stated that the allotment of unoccupied land is made as per the provisions of Rules 170 and 171 of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1968 read with the guidelines framed by this Administration.

3.7 In reply to a query regarding the details of the allotments of land made to Scheduled Tribes as per the provisions of Rules 170 and 171 of the Andaman and Nicobar Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulation, 1968, the Committee have been informed through a note that no allotment of land has been made to tribals under the above mentioned Regulation. However one group of 165 Nicobar families was allotted 200 hectares of forest land in little Andaman for meeting their additional requirement of land as a special case in early seventies. Remaining 500 acres of land is yet to be allotted to tribals.

3.8 When asked about the land reforms undertaken since the formation of the Union Territory, it is stated in a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare that an enactment called Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Revenue and Land Reforms Regulations, 1966 and the rules framed thereunder in 1968 have been brought into operation with adequate provisions to meet the requirement of tenancies in the Islands.

3.9 The Committee have been informed that the ownership of all the lands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands vests in Government. However, cultivation rights are given to the tribals which can be transferred (i) by way of succession, survivorship or inheritance according to the personal law of the tenant, or (ii) by way of sale, gift etc. with the result that the tribals are transferring their cultivation rights to the migrants from the main land. In Committee's opinion, the existing provisions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Reforms and Land Revenue Regulation, 1966 and the rules framed thereunder may be alright so far as the transfer of land is among the tribals only. "The Committee hope that the rights of the tribals in land

in the Union Territory especially in Nicobar Island which is predominantly inhabited by Tribals are zealously protected by the Administration. In case in the past any tribals has transferred his occupancy right to a non tribal, such rights of land should be restored to the tribal."

3.10 The Committee note that no allotment of land has been made to the tribals under rules 170 and 171 of the 1966 Regulation so far except 260 hectares allotted to 165 Nicobar families to meet their additional requirement of land as a special case in early seventies.

3.11 The Committee recommend that the matter be reviewed by the Administration to assess present requirement of land by the tribals and if need be, more land should be allotted to them to elevate their economic conditions and to improve the standard of their living.

B. Agriculture

3.12 As regards the schemes being implemented under agriculture and allied activities and the targets and achievements thereunder, the Committee have been informed through the written material furnished to them by the Ministry as follows:—

"At the time of achieving Independence, agriculture activities were mainly restricted to some areas in South Andaman, Mayabunder area and natural plantation of coconut, arecanut and fruit in Nicobar Islands. With initiation of settlement programmes in 1949 and onwards, more forest areas were cleared in Middle, North and South Andamans, Campbell Bay for allotting land both for paddy cultivation, plantation, horticulture crops in hilly lands to the settler families. Systematic and planned development of agriculture was initiated from the 2nd Five Year Plan period. More areas were brought under field crops. Productivity of crops was improved by supply of various inputs at subsidised rates, introduction of multiple cropping and rabi cultivation through demonstration, encouraging utilisation of hilly lands by commercialable crops, fruits, spices etc. Cultivators were encouraged to adopt soil conservation and irrigation programme through subsidised inputs and services. Cultivation of spices and coffee, cashew nuts etc. need special mention.

As special measures in the tribal areas, efforts are being made to improve quality of coconut and arecanut cultivation through demonstration. A tuber crop development programme has been initiated at Katchal to improve production and quality

of these crops which are commonly used by Nicobarese. A progeny Orchard of spices has been established at Katchal for encouraging highly commercial spices crops under congenial farms conditions in Nicobar Islands. Demonstration have been set up to encourage the tribals for taking up spices, coconut, arecanut, cashew nut, fruits etc. cultivation on commercial basis by use of optimum inputs. A cashew plantation covering an area of 500 hect. has been established at Kamorta to show utilisation of waste land by a commercial crop.

As a result of various activities mentioned above the area under cultivation and productivity have shown steady progress over the years in respect of paddy, pulses and oil seeds, vegetables, fruits, coconuts, arecanut, spices, cashew nuts etc. Special mention should be made about the cultivation of rubber and red oil palm under Forest Development and Plantation Corporation Ltd. in Katchal and Little Andaman."

3.13 The Committee have been further informed that "the special features about the plan schemes in 7th Five Year Plan are extension of high yielding varieties paddy programme, intensive and multiple cropping programme, development of plantation and spice crops, demonstration in cultivators' field, improvement in distribution of agricultural inputs, with special emphasis on plant protection, development of pine apple and tuber crops, improvement of marketing and fruit preservation demonstration units, expansion of coconut plantation and horticulture crops in the tribal areas, agriculture training programme for development of spices and cashew, cultivation in the tribal areas, supply of tractors and power tillers at subsidised rates, crop insurance, soil conservation and minor irrigation programme.

3.14 During evidence, the Committee desired to know the total cropped area and the different types of crops grown in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The representative of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration stated that total cropped area was 40,000 hectares. Paddy in 12,000 hectares, Coconut in 20826.35 hectares, arecanut in 2620 hectares areas and spices in 597 hectares, were cultivated. The witness added that the production of paddy was 40 metric tonne, that of Coconut was 58 million nuts and the production of arecanut was 1000 metric tonnes while production of fruits was 3600 metric tonnes. The production of tuber crops is 6000 metric tonnes and that of cashew nuts 20 metric tonnes. This was the total production of the Tribal areas.

3.15 On being asked as to whether there were any Government farms, the representative of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration stated during evidence that there were government demonstration farms to educate people e.g. there was multipurpose five hectare Government demonstration farm in the Car Nicobar. The tribals in agriculture had customary, right on their land. They had reserved area and no one could go there.

3.16 The Committee note that in spite of various measures taken by the Administration to improve the agriculture in the Islands, the crop yields are comparatively low e.g. the yield of paddy from 12,000 hectares is 40 metric tonne only; the yield of arecanut is 1,000 metric tonne from 2,620 hectares. Similar appears to be the position in the case of cashewnuts and spices. The Committee are of the opinion that more intensive efforts be made to improve the crop yields in the Islands. They hardly need to stress that introduction of modern techniques in cultivation of high value cash crops is one of the best ways of improving the economic standards of the tribals. The Committee, therefore, recommend that more demonstration farms should be set up in the tribal areas to popularise modern techniques of cultivation and to introduce new high value cash crops like spices, cashewnuts, fruits in the tribal areas.

C. Irrigation

3.17 The Committee have been informed through a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare that "in Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is no major irrigation programme. The Department of Agriculture has provision for digging of individual irrigation ponds and providing pump sets on loan and 33 1/3 per cent of subsidy. The A.P. W.D. has a programme of five irrigation projects at Diglipur, Little Andaman and Campbell Bay to bring about 2000 hecets. under irrigation.

3.18 During evidence, the Committee enquired of the representative of the Ministry about the details of the irrigation programme in the Union Territory. The representative of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration stated that the Government of Andaman and Nicobar have no major programme for irrigation. There are no rivers from where canals can be dug and there is no provision for tubewells also.

3.19 The Committee note that in the absence of any river, there is no major irrigation programme in the Andaman and Nicobar

Islands. They have been informed that the Department of Agriculture has some provision for digging of individual irrigation ponds and for providing pumps sets on loan and gives a subsidy of 33 1/3 per cent on pump sets purchase by the tribals. The Committee recommend that instead of concentrating on digging of individual irrigation ponds, the Administration should explore the possibility of digging community ponds which will be more economic and benefit a larger number of cultivators with water for cultivation from a single source. The Committee will await the outcome of the efforts made by the administration in this regard.

3.20 The Committee also recommend that the subsidy on pump sets be stepped up to encourage tribals to have their own pump sets instead of taking these on loan from the administration. This will help better crop yield and also go a long way to improve the financial condition of tribals.

D. Animal Husbandry

3.21 In the Preliminary Material furnished to the Committee the schemes for the development of animal husbandry in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, are stated to be as follows:—

Animal Health Cover

In order to provide health cover to the animals, there are seven veterinary hospitals, two veterinary dispensaries, five mobile veterinary dispensaries and thirty veterinary sub-dispensaries and four disease investigation laboratories already functioning in this Union Territory. The animal health cover is proposed to be made more extensive by establishing 14 veterinary sub-dispensaries, 4 mobile dispensaries, upgrading two sub-dispensaries to dispensaries and two veterinary dispensaries to hospitals during the Seventh Plan.

Cattle Development

The existing cattle holding farm at Dollygunj will be strengthened by adding 100 heads of high genetic germ plasm heifers with an objective of obtaining progeny from them. The heifers will be distributed among the farmers to upgrade the local breed. In addition, frozen semen technology will be introduced to upgrade all non-descript animals. Under this schemes, 5 artificial semen centre and 17 artificial sub-centres will be opened.

Goat Development

During Seventh Plan, we have schemes to establish a goat breeding unit at Dollygunj and 2 small goat rearing-cum-demonstration units one each at Ramakrishnapuram in Little Andaman and Great Nicobar.

Pig Development

During the Seventh Plan, we have a programme to establish pig breeding units one each at Dollygunj, Harmander Bay and Car Nicobar for introducing white yorkshire breeds. The piglets produced in these units will be distributed to farmers, including tribal farmers.

Poultry Development

There are 4 Government Poultry Farms, one each at Dollygunj, Basantipur, Sitanagar and Car Nicobar in existence. These farms provide reared birds to the interested Poultry Farmers. Further, during the Seventh Plan, the Government's Poultry farm at Dollygunj will be strengthened by establishing one hatchery with incubator of 37,000 eggs. With the establishment of hatchery, the animal Husbandry Department will be able to supply day old chicks to the farmers. Besides, there is a programme to establish on broiler rearing farm at Dollygunj with 20,000 day old chicks. The reared chicks will be distributed to farmers on no profit no loss basis. A poultry marketing centre will also be set up at Port Blair to extend marketing facility for the products of the farmers.

Duck Development

Two duck breeding farms, one each at Little Andaman and Basantipur in Middle Andaman will be established to popularise duck rearing in the Islands.

Fodder Development

A Departmental fodder farm is being maintained at Dollygunj. During the Seventh Plan, Andaman Administration have a programme to establish on research-cum-Demonstration farm on 5 hectare land at Basantipur in North Andaman. In addition, 75 demonstration plots will be laid on the field of farmers to educate them to undertake fodder cultivation.

Training Programme

During the Seventh Plan, 100 progressive farmers including 10 tribals will be deputed to mainland for training in the field of cattle, poultry and piggery breeding to widen their outlook in respect of livestock development. In addition, 500 farmers including 100 tribals will be imparted training in deep litter system of poultry farming at different departmental demonstration farms in these Islands on payment of stipend @Rs. 100/- per trainee.

During the Seventh Plan, the following schemes of the individual benefit of marginal farmers including tribals will be implemented.

- (i) Supply of milch cattle on 50 per cent subsidy of actual cost.
- (ii) Supply of Ducks on 50 per cent subsidy.
- (iii) Supply of pigs on 50 per cent subsidy of the reared cost.
- (iv) Supply of poultry birds on 50 per cent subsidy of rearing cost.
- (v) Supply of broiler on 50 per cent subsidy of the rearing cost.
- (vi) Supply of improved ducks on 50 per cent subsidy of rearing cost."

3.22 Through a subsequent note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare, the Committee have been informed that 122 farmers including 11 tribal farmers were imparted training in deep litter system of poultry farming at different departmental demonstration farms during 1985-86.

3.23 It has further been stated that during 1985-86, 16 farmers including 2 tribal farmers were deputed to mainland for training in the field of cattle, poultry and piggery breeding.

3.24 In the material furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Welfare there is no mention of any Cattle or Livestock Insurance Scheme. Probably no such scheme has been introduced in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is within the knowledge of the Committee that such schemes have been undertaken by four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India since 1974. The Committee recommend that Cattle Livestock Insurance Schemes should be introduced in the Union-territory at the earliest.

This will go a long way in covering the losses due to death of cattle etc. of Scheduled Tribes in the field of animal husbandry and to their economic well-being.

3.25 The Committee note that during the Seventh Plan, scheme have been introduced to supply cattle and other live stock to the tribals at a subsidy cost of 50 per cent of the actual cost. Keeping in view of the economic backwardness of the tribals in the Islands, the Committee recommend that the rate of subsidy should be suitably increased to induce more tribals to opt for animal husbandry.

3.26 The Committee regret that the number of tribals imparted training in animal husbandry is too meagre. Out of 122 farmers imparted training in deep litter system of poultry farming at different Departmental Demonstration Camps in 1985-86 the number of tribals is just 11. Similarly out of 16 farmers deputed to mainland for training in the field of cattle, poultry and piggery farming during 1985-86 the number of tribal is only 2. The Committee recommend that more training facilities should be made available to the tribals in the field of animal husbandry keeping in view their backwardness.

E. Fisheries

3.27 In the written material furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee it is stated:

"The Andaman and Nicobar Islands with a coast line of about 200 kms. with a number of bays and inlets has vast fisheries potential. The estimated exploitable stock of fish from these waters is in the order of 7,40,000 tonnes annually. At present the fishing activity is restricted to areas around Port Blair in South Andaman, Rangat in Middle Andaman, D'gipur and Mayabunder in North Andaman, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Nancowry and Campbell Bay in Southern Group. There is virtually very little deep sea mechanised fishing activities and the above landing is mainly done by the traditional fishermen. The tribal population of Nicobar group of Islands is mostly doing fishing at subsistence level and no commercial fishing activity is undertaken in that area. The Department under various plan programmes implemented tried to improve the fish catch by introducing more fishermen supplying them fishing materials and small inboard/outboard engine fitted boats on subsidy basis and providing them the necessary storage and marketing facilities. Training is

also provided to fishermen and tribals in mechanised fishing so that they can be well equipped to take up mechanised fishing and improve the fish catch."

3.28 It has further been stated that "during the Sixth Plan period the layout was Rs. 203.540 lakhs of which Rs. 112.125 lakhs were incurred. The production of marine fish increased to 4314 tonnes by the end of the 6th Plan period.

During the 7th Five Year Plan a provision of Rs. 405 lakhs is approved by the Planning Commission. The thrust is mainly given for the Development of mechanised fishing in these islands. Under this scheme, it is envisaged to distribute 200 number of O.B./I.B. Engine fitted boats to fishermen and tribals. A provision of 94 lakhs is kept under this scheme for the purpose. Another important scheme is for the development of infrastructure facilities like cold storage, ice plant, freezing and frozen storage."

3.29 In a subsequent note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Welfare have stated that "only 410 (part-time) tribals are engaged in fisheries in Andaman and Nicobar Islands."

3.30 It has further been stated that "tribals are being trained in mechanised fishing. Mechanised boats are being supplied to tribals on 60 per cent subsidy. Fishing materials are being supplied to tribals on 50 per cent subsidy."

3.31 The Committee note that the A&N Islands with a coast line of about 200 kilometres with a number of bays and inlets has a vast fishing potential. The estimated exploitable stock of fish from these waters is to the order of 7,40,000 tonnes annually. However, in the absence of required infrastructure and facilities like mechanised fishing, cold storage, marketing facilities etc. the catch of fish by the end of the Sixth Plan period could only be 4,312 tonnes annually. The Committee regret to say that little has been done so far to check this colossal wastage of natural resources of the country. Had Government made sincere efforts to harness these resources the catch of fish from the Islands could not only have provided food to the people on the main-land as well as in the Union territory but also this source could have been utilised for exports to earn precious foreign exchange which the country need badly. It appears that the approach of the UT Administration has been casual and inept in this regard, more so, in view of the fact that out of an outlay of Rs. 203.540 for the Sixth Plan, Rs. 112.125 only were utilised by the UT Administration. Had the Administration been serious and vigilant, fishing

could have been given a far better boost during the Sixth Plan itself. The Committee recommend that this matter should be gone into depth, responsibility fixed and remedial measures taken. Meanwhile, the A&N Administration should take suitable steps urgently and in right earnestness so that the marine resources around the Union Territory do not remain unexploited.

3.32 The Committee have been informed that at present only 410 tribals are engaged in fisheries on part-time basis in the islands. It is obvious that without making the fishing lucrative and attractive the Administration cannot attract more tribals to take up fisheries. The Committee recommend that apart from other steps marketing facilities should be augmented rapidly so that more tribals are attracted to fishing. This can only be done if the fishermen are assured that their catch will ensure them on the spot payment.

3.33 The Committee also desire that in order to make fishing more popular among tribals, the A&N Administration should take following steps:—

- (i) Organise inter-village fishing competition every year with an alluring prize money to the winner;
- (ii) devise ways and means to make fishing a full time commercial activity in the islands; and
- (iii) as an additional incentive the rate of subsidy should be suitable increased on both mechanised boats and other fishing materials.

F. Forestry

3.34 It has been stated in a note furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Welfare that "the forests occupy 7144 sq. kms. constituting about 86 per cent of the geographical area of the territory. 7 per cent (approximately) of the forest area is unfit for any purpose, being too small and largely rocky; 13 per cent (approximately) forms the coastal belt which has to be preserved for protection against soil erosion, both by sea and rain; 35.5 per cent (approximately) earmarked for the aboriginal tribes under the provisions of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulations, 1956 and 14 per cent (approximately) under the revenue settlement. Remaining area thus available for the forestry is only about 30.5 per cent."

3.35 In reply to a query regarding the Sixth Plan outlay and expenditure incurred on development of forests, the Committee have been informed as follows:—

“The Sixth Plan outlay was Rs. 550 lakhs but as per yearly allotment made the outlay finally allotted comes to Rs. 495.17 lakhs. The expenditure incurred during 6th Plan is Rs. 423.344 lakhs as detailed below:—

Allotted outlay (Rs. in lakhs)	Year	Expenditure incurred (Rs. in lakhs)
115.000	1980-81	62.453
80.600	1981-82	65.644
92.00	1982-83	80.534
105.820	1983-84	99.904
102.350	1984-85	114.809
495.170		423.344

3.36 When asked about the programmes of plantation, the representative of Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration stated during evidence that in Andaman, the Administration was not laying much stress on plantations because it was not required there. At present the foresting was done on the basis of on natural regeneration. The forests were maintained as they existed there.

3.37 It has been stated in a subsequent note furnished to the Committee that “the Forestry schemes proposed for implementation in the tribal areas of the Union Territory, of Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the 7th Five Year Plan and during the Annual Plan for 1986-87 are as follows:—

- (1) Development of Minor Forest Produce like Cane and Bamboo in 20 hectares in Nicobar tribal areas to meet their urgent needs.
- (2) Raising of Social Forestry in tribal areas.

(3) Preparation of working plan for Nicobar Group of Islands.

(1) The main objective of the above schemes in the tribal area are as follows:—

- (1) to raise plantation of important Minor Forest Produce like cane and bamboo for sustained supply of raw materials for small scale industries in the tribal areas. Forestry/ Minor Forest Produce capable of yielding food like pandanus will be accorded priorities in plantation programmes.
- (2) Under Social Forestry Programme the targets proposed for the tribal areas are (1) to bring 20 kms. coastal belt under plantation, (2) 2 kms. road side under plantation, (3) to raise 2 hectares plantation for community garden, and (4) raise plantation in an area of 200 hectares barren land.
- (3) Under working plan, being prepared for Nicobar Group of Islands, emphasis will be laid on creation of tribal working circle for which needs of tribal communities and production in harmony with environment will be ensured in the tribal areas, and thus the precarious resources availability and also ecological insecurity will be saved. The working plan will be protected under scientific methods to improve the quality of tribal environment and improving their resources."

3.38 It has further been stated that "the Nicobar Division of the Forest Department is at present under the charge of Assistant Conservation of Forests with very limited field staff. In order to take up implementation of the scheme effectively in Nicobar a full fledged division under a senior officer with adequate staff is necessary. The proposals for creation of post for the purpose has, however, not been approved.

The outlay recommended by the Working Group under sector 'forestry' for 1986-87 is Rs. 150.00 lakhs of which an amount of Rs. 12.210 lakhs is earmarked as flow of fund for the tribal area which constitute 8.14 per cent of the total U.T. Plan outlay.

The scheme-wise breakup of the outlay is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of Scheme	Proposed outlay for T.S.P. for 1986-87
		(Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Development of Minor Forest Produce	0 210
2.	Social Forestry	10 000
3.	Working Plan	2 000
Total:		12 210

3.39 The Committee note that an outlay of Rs. 550 lakhs was provided for the Forestry Schemes in the A&N Islands by the Planning Commission during the Sixth Five Year Plan. However, the yearly allotments made came to Rs. 495.17 lakhs only. The Committee regret that even out of this reduced plan outlay the Administration was able to utilise Rs. 423.344 lakhs only. This shows that due care was not given to the Forestry Schemes by the Administration viewed against the demand of some of the Ministries for more funds in plan outlays, the Committee cannot reconcile to the non-utilisation of the funds by the Union Territory Administration. The Committee recommend that the Administration should draw proper schemes in time and then vigorously implement them to obviate the possibility of non-utilisation of funds during the Seventh Plan.

3.40 The Committee are surprised to note that Assistant Conservator of Forests has very limited field staff and the proposals for creation of post have been approved. The Committee further note that targets for the social forestry programme could not be achieved mainly due to shortage of staff. The Committee need hardly stress that there is no use in drafting various forestry schemes without having adequate staff for their implementation. The Committee recommend that the administration should realise the gravity of situation and appoint the requisite staff without further loss of time for the successful implementation of various forestry schemes.

G. Small Scale Industries

3.41 In the written material furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee, it has been stated:

“The Directorate of Industries was set up in the year 1978 to provide integrated assistance for the development of

'Village and Small Scale Industries' in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. During the year 1977-78, only 10 small scale industrial units were registered with the Directorate of industries and as on date 487 small scale industries units have been set up and brought under registration formalities for availing all the incentives and other assistance. The SSI sector as on date provides employment to more than 3000 persons."

3.42 It has further been stated that "in order to motivate the tribal population in the Nicobar District, the Department of Industries had set up Training Centres at Car Nicobar which extend training facilities and extension services in the trades of coir processing, carpentry, tailoring and garment making etc. 126 Nicobarese have been trained by these centres between the period 1978-79 to 1985-86. In addition, 5 Nicobarese youths have undergone advance training in mainland institutions in the technical trades of maintenance mechanic and fitter, sheet metalling/welding and coir technology.

3.43 With the extension services and assistance extended by the Directorate of Industries 3 small scale units have been set up by Nicobarese tribals. With the departmental active motivation, 4 Nicobarese have availed of State Aid Loan for setting up various types of small scale units. Effective monitoring is being maintained to provide required assistance to the tribals for taking up self-employment measures."

3.44 In reply to a query regarding number of I.T.Is. in the Island, the Ministry of Welfare subsequently informed the Committee that "there is no I.T.I. in the Islands. However, there is a proposal to set up one during 1987-88."

3.45 The Committee note that only 126 Nicobarese have been given training in trades of coir processing, carpentry and garment making etc. in the Training Centres in Car Nicobar in a span of about seven years i.e. between 1978-79 and 1985-86. The Committee consider this as a meagre achievement and desires that more tribals should be induced and motivated to join the Training Centres at Car Nicobar.

3.46 The Committee are surprised to note that there is not even a single Industrial Training Institute in the Islands. They fail to understand as to how the Administration hopes to build up the Small Scale Industries sector in the Island without the requisite trained manpower. The Committee recommend that the I.T.Is. for

giving training in different trades should be set up in the Islands at the earliest and these should preferably be located in the tribal areas where a considerable number of the trainees can be inducted from amongst the tribals.

H. Transport Facilities

3.47 According to the Preliminary Material furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Welfare, the transport facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands are stated to be as follows:—

“At present there are 4 passenger-cum-cargo ships plying between mainland and island viz. M. V. Andamans, M. V. Harshvardhana, M. V. Akbar and T. S. S. Nancowry. In addition, two cargo vessels M.V. Shompen and M. V. Diglipur are also doing services between mainland and Islands. The passenger and cargo traffic has increased manifold since last few years and the existing ships are not adequate to meet the demand of passenger and cargo traffic between mainland and island.

To meet the increasing demand of passenger and cargo traffic, provision has been made in the 7th Plan for procurement of 3 Nos. passenger-cum-1500 ton cargo ships.

Similarly, there are 5 inter island passenger-cum-cargo vessels between Port Blair and various Islands of the Union Territory which are also insufficient to cope with the increased passenger and cargo traffic of these islands. Accordingly proposal for procurement of one number sentinel type vessel, 300 passenger-cum-100 ton cargo vessel has been included in the 7th Plan.”

3.48 It has been further stated that “during the 6th Plan period proposal for procurement of one Hospital-cum-Banking-cum-supply ship was included and accordingly order for above vessel was placed and upto 4th stage of the vessel was completed by the end of Sixth Plan period. DGS&D is taking action to complete the vessel. The delay in construction of vessel is due to some litigation between the DGS&D and the firm.”

3.49 The Committee note that the shipping facilities between the mainland and Islands and also between the different islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are quite inadequate as stated by the Ministry themselves. The Committee desire that sincere efforts

should be made to procure more ships to facilitate regular and quicker passenger and cargo traffic between the mainland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the islands inter-se.

3.50 The Committee note with concern that the proposal for procurement of a Hospital-cum-Banking-Cum-supply ship in the Sixth Plan has not materialised so far. The Committee recommend that expeditious steps be taken to get the litigation problem between DGS&D and the manufacturing firm resolved expeditiously and the ship in question acquired at the earliest.

3.51 The Committee also like to impress upon the administration that timely action be taken for the procurement of the three ships provision for which has been made in the Seventh Plan so that there are adequate transport facilities available to meet the demands of passenger and cargo traffic.

I. Roads

3.52 In a written note furnished to the Committee, the yearwise road length constructed in Andaman and Nicobar Territory has been stated to as under:—

"Year	Road length (Kms.)
1980-81 588.20 kms.
1981-82 600.84 kms.
1982-83 616.04 kms.
1983-84 627.26 kms.
1984-85 722.69 kms."

3.53 The present road length in the Union Territory is stated to be as follows:—

"Year	Present road length (in Kms.)	
	Metalled	Unmetalled
1985	713.62	27.14

The road length per sq. km. of total area of the Union Territory is 11.81 kms."

3.54 Principal areas covered by the metalled road in these islands has been stated to be as under:—

"(1) *Andamans District*

- (a) South Andaman
- (b) Havelock
- (c) Little Andaman
- (d) Middle Andaman
- (e) North Andaman

(2) *Nicobar Group*

- (a) Nicobar
- (b) Katchal
- (c) Nancowry
- (d) Great Nicobar"

3.55 In reply to a query regarding the Sixth Plan outlay and expenditure on roads, the Committee have been informed as follows:—

"Year	Outlay (Rs. in lakhs)	Expendi- ture (Rs. in lakhs)
1980-81	213.00	147.13
1981-82	239.00	146.19
1982-83	158.00	174.41
1983-84	225.00	274.14
1984-85	432.00	330.94
	1267.00	1072.81"

3.56 The Committee note that out of an outlay of Rs. 1267.00 lakhs for construction of roads in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the Sixth Plan, Rs. 1072.81 lakhs could be utilised by the Administration for the purpose. The Committee need hardly emphasise the importance of roads as an instrument of economic development. The Committee, therefore, recommend that at least in the Seventh Plan period, the Administration should plan properly and ensure to achieve fully the targets fixed by utilising all the funds earmarked for the roads.

J. Electrification

3.57 Through a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare, the Committee have been informed that "Port Blair town has been provided with electricity. According to 1981 census 491 villages are in the Union Territory. Out of 491 villages, 296 villages have been electrified. The approximate number of households in the Union Territory is 40671 and out of this 24660 are having electric connections."

3.58 It has further been stated that "there was a provision for Rs. 12 crores for power development during 6th Plan period and Rs. 8.51 crores was the actual expenditure."

3.59 As regards the reasons for shortfalls in the utilisation of funds earmarked for power development during the Sixth Plan, the Committee have been subsequently informed by the Ministry in writing that "it was due to delay in approval of the schemes by the concerned Ministry and ban imposed by the Union Government on creation of Posts."

3.60 The Committee have also been informed that "out of 296 villages which were electrified during the Sixth Plan 49 villages are tribal villages. During the Seventh Plan (1985—90) the remaining tribal villages have been targeted for electrification and Rs. 25.22 crores have been earmarked in the Seventh Plan for power development."

3.61 The Committee note with concern the tardy progress made by the Administration in the implementation of the Schemes for electrification in the Union territory. Out of 491 villages with 40671 households, electricity has been provided to 296 villages with 24660 households. The Committee find that the number of tribal villages so far electrified is dismally low at 49. The lackadaisical approach of administration is fully reflected by the mere fact that out of Rs. 12 crores provided in the Sixth Plan for the electrification schemes in the Union territory, the Administration could utilise Rs. 8.51 crores only. Had the Administration been vigilant and prompt enough, they could have got cleared the schemes early to ensure full utilisation of these funds, the Committee has been assured that during the Seventh Plan period all the tribal villages will be electrified. The Committee hope that the Administration keep up their promise and make timely efforts to electrify the tribal villages by the end of the Seventh Plan.

CHAPTER IV
OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES

A. Cooperatives

4.1 According to information furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Welfare the number of cooperative societies functioning in October, 1966 in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the number thereof at the end of Sixth Plan was as follows:—

"S.No Type of Societies	No. of Societies at present		No. of Societies	
	Total	Tribal areas	At the end of 5th Plan Total	Tribal areas
1 State Cooperative Bank	1	..	1	..
2 Primary Credit (Agri. & Non-Agri.)	63	2	62	2
3 Marketing Federation	1	..	1	..
4 Central Marketing	2	2	2	2
5 Primary Marketing	32	30	32	30
6 Consumers Stores	2	..	2	..
7 Primary Consumers Stores	36	..	36	..
8 Students Store	11	1	11	1
9 Multi-Purpose	11	9	9	2
10 Plantation	26	..	26	..
11 Industrial	29	3	20	4
12 Labour Contract/Timber Extraction	28	..	25	..
13 Milk and Poultry	32	1	27	1
14 Fisheries Federation]	1	..	1	..
15 Primary Fisheries	33	11	24	4
16 Transport	5	..	5	..
17 Others	27	2	27	2
Total:]	334	57	311	48"

4.2 The activities undertaken by the Cooperative Societies and their viability, is stated to be as follows:—

In the Agricultural credit sector two tier system of credit channelisation is operating in this Union Territory in which at the apex level is Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank and at the lower level the Agricultural credit/service societies are functioning. The Cooperative Bank is covering the rural pockets through 21 branches of which two branches and one pay office is operating in the tribal areas of Nicobar District. The Onge tribe of Little Andaman are sought through the branch at Hut Bay.

The State Cooperative Bank apart from providing agricultural credit to Agricultural Service Cooperative also provides assistance to other types of Cooperatives for meeting working capital need. Under the Banking operations they also covered business houses/enterprises other than cooperatives also. The Bank is a leading financing agency in this union territory in IRDP schemes. The total deposit mobilisation and investment made by the bank is Rs. 429.96 lakhs and Rs. 194.27 lakhs respectively. Under the IRDP programme assistance has also been provided to tribal members through the branches located in the areas.

In the consumers sector, the movement has made quite an impact in this union territory. Mainly two wholesale stores are serving the consumers in the Andamans District through their retail outlets and the tribal areas of Nicobar District are served through the consumers wing and their outlets of the two central Cooperative Societies. The total turn over of the consumer Cooperative during the year 1985-86 is approximately Rs. 12.50 crores.

32 Primary Marketing Societies, two Central Marketing Societies, one Marketing Federation is engaged in Agricultural Marketing in Cooperative Sector. Out of these, Primary Marketing Societies and two Central Marketing Societies are located only in the tribal areas of Nicobar District. These tribal societies are functioning well and are assisting the Nicobarese tribes for ameliorating the economic conditions of the tribal families to a considerable extent. Besides, in these tribal communities about 300 tribal youths including tribal women have got employment opportunity. The total business turn over of these

two central societies is approximately 8 crores. These tribal societies are completely managed by Nicobarese tribes.

The other sectors in which cooperatives are working efficiently are Milk, Dairy and Poultry, Housing, Fisheries, Canteen etc. The tribal areas of Nicobarese District are organising more and more fisheries cooperatives for boosting income by exploiting natural fishing grounds in the coastal areas of the islands in this District."

4.3 As regards the assistance provided by Government in the formation and successful working of these societies, it is further stated:—

"The assistance provided by the Government to various societies are in the form of share capital contributions godown and storage capacity loans, managerial subsidies, grant-in-aid etc. under the plan schemes through which tribal societies are also assisted under the provisions kept in tribal sub-plan. Besides, the members, potential members and the employees of various cooperative societies including those located in the tribal areas are imparted short term training in management and principles of cooperatives with a view to inculcate cooperative spirit and develop managerial cadre under the plan scheme. As a matter of principal, membership of a Cooperative Society is open to all. However, the membership of the tribal Cooperative Society in this union territory has been kept restricted to the tribals only with a view to avoid exploitation by non-tribals.

4.4 The Committee note that in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands that out of 334 cooperative societies of various types only 57 societies are located in the tribal areas for the purpose of providing credit (agricultural and non-agricultural) to the tribal people. The Committee feel that the number of Co-operative Societies in tribal areas is too inadequate. As the tribals are not only backward but are also too weak economically they require better looking after as compared to other communities. The Committee recommend that more Co-operative Societies be set up in tribal areas to cater to the needs of tribals.

B. Education

4.5 In the Preliminary Material furnished to the Committee, by

the Ministry of Welfare, the number of Colleges, High/Higher Secondary Schools, Middle Schools and Primary Schools with enrolment in the Islands is stated to be as under:—

Type of Institution	No.	Enrolment during 1985-86
1. Degree College	1	950
2. B. Ed. College	1	50
3. Polytechnic	1	56
4. Teachers Training Institute	1	126
5. Senior Secondary Schools	26	19222
6. Secondary Schools	23	10831
7. Middle Schools	41	15058
8. Primary Schools	183	14353
9. Pre-Primary Schools	18	1445
Total:	299	62091

4.6. As regards facilities available for technical education it is stated:

“For technical education there is one polytechnic with an intake capacity of 50 students, 30 in Civil Engineering, 10 in Electrical and 10 in Mechanical Engineering. The above Institute was started during 1984-85 and is affiliated to the Board of Technical Education, New Delhi. 10 percent of the seats are reserved for scheduled tribes in this Institute.”

4.7 The growth of Educational Institutes and enrolment from 1983-84 onwards is stated to be as follows:

"E. Institutions

Year	Primary Schools	Middle Schools	Secondary Schools	Senior Secondary Schools	Total
1983-84	84	39	15	19	257
1984-85	183	39	20	22	264
1985-86	183	43	20	24	268

II. Enrolment

"Year	Primary Schools	Middle Schools	Secondary Schools	Senior Secondary Schools	Total
1983-84	15349	13587	7711	14778	51425
1984-85	15122	13604	10081	16654	55461
1985-86	14353	15058	10831	19222	59464

4.8 The number of Government, Government aided and Government not aided educational institutions has been stated to be as under:—

"Institutions	Government	Govt. aided	Govt. not aided
Primary Schools	179		4
Middle Schools	41		..
Secondary Schools	21		2
Senior Secondary Schools	25	1	.."

4.9 The percentage of enrolment in the age groups of 6—11 and 11—14 during 1983-84 is stated to be as "112.35 per cent and 99.56 per cent" respectively.

4.10 The percentage of drop-outs at school level has been stated to be as under:—

*Primary stage (I—V)	3.00%
Middle stage (VI—VIII)	3.33%
Secondary stage (IX-X)	4.13%
S. Secondary Stage (XI-XII)	7.55%

4.11 In reply to a written query by the Committee about the drop-out percentage among the tribals during 1985-86, they were informed as under:—

Primary stage	2.25%
Middle stage	4.36%
Secondary/Senior Secondary stage	2.46%"

4.12 The Committee have further been informed that "a number of steps have been taken to reduce the drop-out rate. Some of these include free education upto class XII, free books and stationery, attendance scholarship upto class VIII, free uniform to poor students, schooling facilities within easy reach, remedial teaching adjustment in school timing, mid-day meals, hostel stipend, effective supervision etc."

4.13 It is stated that "9 students are availing post-matric scholarships, out of which 5 students are studying in the islands and 4 in the mainland."

4.14 The percentage of literacy in general and among the Scheduled Tribes, is stated to be as follows:

I. "General	1971	1981
Male	51.64	58.72
Female	31.11	42.14
Total	43.59	51.56
II. Scheduled Tribes		
Male	24.14	38.43
Female	11.17	23.24
Total	17.85	31.11

4.15 It is stated that "low percentage of literacy among Scheduled Tribes is due to the socio-economic backwardness coupled with inadequate appreciation of the values of formal education."

4.16 It is stated that the following steps have been taken to improve the literacy among Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory:—

(i) Provision of schooling facilities within easy reach of scheduled tribe students.

(ii) Opening of non-formal education centres for those students who are unable to continue their education in the formal system.

(iii) Opening of Adult Education Centres for Adult-illiterate.

(iv) Organisation of enrolment drives.

(v) Organisation of teacher parents meeting to make parents aware of the educational facilities.

- (vi) No detention policy in classes I & II.
- (vii) Supply of financial incentives such as text books uniforms, Stationery, midday meals, hostel stipend, attendance scholarship, travel concession etc."

4.17 In a subsequent note the Committee have been informed that "compulsory education upto primary level has been introduced in the Union Territory including the tribal areas. The proposal to extend this compulsion upto middle stage is under correspondence with the Union Government."

4.18 The educational facilities provided to the Scheduled Tribes are stated to be as under:—

- "(1) Free education upto senior secondary stage.
- (2) Free text books and stationery to all students upto senior secondary stage.
- (3) Midday meals at the rate of 25 paise per pupil per working day from classes I to VIII.
- (4) Free travel concession from classes VI to VIII for attending schools beyond 4 Kms.
- (5) Free set of uniform to those students whose parents annual income is less than Rs. 2,500/-.
- (6) Stipend to hostellers at the rate of Rs. 95/- per month.
- (7) Merit scholarship to eligible tribal students.
- (8) Provision of schooling facilities within easy reach of the scheduled tribe students.
- (9) Post Matric scholarship to the tribal students studying on the mainland.
- (10) Attendance scholarship at the rate of Rs. 10/- for boys and Rs. 15/- for girls per month for students of classes I to VIII.

The facilities mentioned at Sl. Nos 2,7,9 and 10 above are exclusively for tribals. Hostel stipend is provided to non-tribals at the rate of Rs. 75/- per month only as against Rs. 95/- to tribals."

Hostels

4.19 The Committee have been informed that at present there are 15 hostels, 11 for boys and 4 for girls and all are managed by Government.

4.20 The Committee have also been informed that there are no hostels exclusively for Scheduled Tribes. Scheduled Tribe hostellers are admitted in the general hostels. An additional amount of Rs. 20/- is being paid to the Scheduled Tribe hosteller in addition to the monthly stipend of Rs. 75/-.

4.21 The intake capacity of the hostels is stated to be 530. 4 hostels (2 boys and 2 girls) were covered from the year 1980-81 onwards. All students seeking admission in hostels are provided hostel accommodation."

4.22 The facilities provided to hostel inmates are as under:—

- "(a) Hostel stipend at the rate of Rs. 75/- per month to all hostellers.
- (b) Additional stipend of Rs. 20/- for all scheduled tribe hostellers.
- (c) One cook for every 20 hostellers and one attendant for every 40 hostellers.
- (d) Furnished hostel accommodation.
- (e) Ration at subsidised rate.
- (f) Free lodging."

4.23 Lodging in hostels is stated to be free for all students in Union territory. Boarding is not free. Diet is supplied at subsidised rate."

4.24 The provision and expenditure on education during Sixth Plan is stated to be "Rs. 700.00 lakhs and Rs. 1161.65 lakhs" respectively. The amount provided for education in the Seventh Plan is "Rs. 1840.00 lakhs and Rs. 441.32 lakhs have been spent upto June, 1986."

4.25 The Committee note that in Andaman & Nicobar Islands the percentage of literacy as per 1981 census is 51.56 in general and 31.11 for Scheduled Tribes.

4.26 The Committee need hardly stress that education is the most effective instrument in raising the social and economic status of the Scheduled Tribes in the Islands. The Committee suggest that more and more Scheduled Tribe students should be encouraged to become teachers after attaining necessary qualifications. They further suggest that special syllabus and curricula of studies be laid down according to the needs of the tribal students and special techniques

for imparting education to the tribals be worked out for spreading education among them.

4.27 The Committee note that the facilities available for technical education viz., one polytechnic with an intake capacity of 50 students is quite inadequate. The Committee recommend that the intake capacity of the polytechnic should be increased to at least 100, 50 in civil engineering and 25 each in electrical and mechanical engineering. They also recommend that more polytechnics and IIs should be opened in the islands and new disciplines such as electronics and computer engineering should be introduced in the technical institutes.

4.28 The Committee note that in the hostels lodging is free for all the students while boarding is not free. However, an additional stipend of Rs. 20 is given to all Scheduled Tribe students staying in hostels. The Committee recommend that keeping in view the present rise in prices the amount of this stipend should be suitably enhanced so that no economic burden is felt by the tribals in sending their children to schools.

4.29 The Committee note that one of the educational facilities provided to students in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is mid day meals at the rate of 25 paise per pupils for working days from Classes I to VIII.

4.30 The Committee cannot but express their surprise on the paltry amount of 25 paise allocated per pupil for mid day meals upto class VIII. It is beyond their comprehension as to what type of meal could 25 paise fetch for a student studying in class VIII. While deprecating the mockery of this facility the Committee strongly recommend that the rate of mid day meal provided to students should be suitably raise without any further loss of time.

4.31 The Committee would also like to be apprised as to when the rate of 25 paise per student for mid day meal was fixed by the Administration and the reasons why it has not been revised till date when the prices of food stuff and other essential commodities have reached rocket-high.

C. Public Health

4.32 According to Preliminary material furnished to the Committee there are "18 hospitals, 6 Primary Health Centres and 32 sub-centres" in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

4.33 The existing facilities compared with the Sixth Plan targets under the Minimum Needs Programme are stated to be as under:—

"Sixth Plan	Target	Achievement
1. Establishment PHC	6	4
2. Establishment Sub-Centres.	34	38
<i>Present position:</i>		
PHCs		6
Sub-Centres		3

In addition to 18 hospitals, 5 Primary Health Centres and 32 sub-centres and 34 dispensaries also are included, 4 dispensaries and one urban health care centre and one Homeo dispensary at Port Blair."

4.34 It is further been stated:

"During the Seventh Plan, it is proposed to strengthen two district hospitals by providing additional beds, medical staff and para medical staff. One District hospital at Port Blair and another at Car Nicobar, in tribal areas, is proposed to be strengthened.

Rural hospitals will be converted into Community Health Centres. There is one each at Rangat, Diglipur and Nancowry, 2 existing Civil Hospitals in the Rural areas will be converted to Primary Health Centres, besides two sub-centres will raised to the status of Primary Health Centres.

Target for 2 Primary Health Centres for 85-86 will also be achieved during 86-87 as the Primary Health Centres could not be started for want of creation of posts. 11 new sub-centres will be established during 7th Plan.

Existing dispensaries shall be converted into sub-centres by posting ANM. MPW scheme will be implemented in the 7th Plan."

4.35 As regards the staffing of the hospitals, PHCs and sub-centres etc., it is stated:

"All the hospitals, PHCs are manned by qualified personnel except two district hospitals, where medical and para

medical staff is slightly short due to non-creation of posts. Efforts are being made to get the posts created in the 7th plan and the required staff will be provided as early as possible.

The posts of JMOs and Specialists are included in the CHS. There is shortage of doctors in Pathology, Ophthalmology, medicine specialists. There is shortage of J.M.Os. besides trained and registered Pharmacists in the territory. Necessary proposal has been made to convert unregistered experienced pharmacists to MPWs in the 7th plan."

4.36 In a subsequent note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare, the Committee have been informed that "total number of doctors sanctioned in tribal areas is 18 and total number of doctors in position is 15 in tribal areas."

4.37 As regards the major diseases prevalent in the Islands and steps taken to eradicate them it is stated:

"Major diseases are gastroenteritis and malaria. Specific steps taken are (1) General public has been advised to consume purified water, (2) dispose off excreta in a scientific way and (3) Intensive anti-larval activities have been carried out to prevent breeding of mosquitoes."

4.38 It is further stated that the following programmes/schemes have been undertaken to eradicate major diseases:—

- "(a) Malaria eradication programme and Filaria control programme.
- (b) National Tuberculosis Programme for control of T.B.
- (c) Leprosy Eradication Programme.
- (d) Extended Programme of immunisation.
- (e) Integrated Child Development Scheme for pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers.

Medical Component

- (f) Expansion of primary health care facilities.
- (g) Strengthening of district hospitals of Carnicobar.
- (h) Health education to tribals.
- (i) control of blindness.
- (j) School health programme.
- (k) M.C.H. services."

4.39 The Committee need hardly point out that on account of the long distances between the mainland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Islands inter-se, the provisions of adequate medical facilities assumes considerable importance. The Committee would like the Union Territory Administration to pay special attention to the provision of adequate medical facilities in the remote areas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that at least two well equipped mobile dispensaries may be opened to cater to the needs of the tribal people living in remote areas.

4.40 The Committee regret to observe that a number of posts of doctors and para medical staff are lying vacant in two district hospitals in tribal areas. The Committee do hope and recommend that the posts of doctors/medical staff are created and filled up without any loss of time as assured by the representative of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.

D. Water supply

4.41 According to information furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee it is stated:

"As per 1981 census there are 491 villages inclusive of 197 problem villages (150 in Andamans District and 47 in Nicobar District). Out of these 345 villages have been covered with water supply upto 31st March, 1986.

180 villages are to be covered during the 7th plan. During 1985-86 APWD has covered 34 villages against the target 32. Target for 1986-87 is 35 villages against which 13 have already been covered up to June 1986.

390 villages have been identified as problem villages for purpose of drinking water supply at the commencement of the Sixth Plan. Out of these, 311 villages have already been covered with water supply at the end of the Sixth Plan."

4.42 It is further stated that "all the remaining 79 villages will be covered with drinking water supply during the 7th Plan period."

4.43 It is also stated that "all the Scheduled Tribe villages are not provided with drinking water supply facilities."

4.44 In a subsequent note it is stated that "by the end of Sixth Plan 53 tribal villages remained to be covered. During 7th Plan

out of the 53 villages, 14 villages had been covered upto December, 1986 and the remaining villages will be covered by the end of 1989-90."

4.45 The Committee are constrained to note that all the Scheduled Tribe villages in the Union Territory have not been covered to provide with drinking water facilities. The Committee note that by the end of Sixth Plan, 53 tribal villages remained to be covered and during Seventh Plan upto December, 1986 only 14 villages have been covered. 29 more villages are yet to be given drinking water supply facilities in tribal areas. The Committee hope that all the remaining tribal villages will be provided with water supply facilities on a priority basis and in no case the period of coverage will extend beyond the stipulated period i.e. end of 1989-90 as has been assured to them.

E. Housing

4.46 In the preliminary material furnished to the Committee it is stated:

"The schemes drawn up for implementation in the tribal areas of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands envisages supply of building materials to individual Nicobarese families for construction of their houses on 50 per cent subsidy and 50 per cent loan recoverable in 20 years and also supply of building materials to Nicobarese on transport subsidy during 1986-87. These schemes are considered imperative to improve the living condition of tribal people in the Nicobar Islands. This scheme will be beneficial to 50 Nicobarese families for construction of their houses in phased manner of 10 families annually. The per capita expenditure will be Rs. 10,000/-. The scheme relating to Special Housing Programme for Nicobarese (supplying building materials to Nicobarese for construction of the houses at ex-Port Blair rates by subsidising transport and handling charges) will benefit 6 families."

4.47 In a subsequent note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee it is stated that all the Andamanese comprising 8 families have been provided with permanent houses free of cost by Government. These houses are also maintained by Government

4.48 The Committee have been further informed that the role of nationalised banks in extending loans for the construction of house is marginal.

4.49 The Committee note that all the eight families of Andamanese tribals have been provided with permanent houses free of cost. The Committee are however, concerned to note that the scheme relating to Special Housing Programme for Nicobarese, after supplying building materials at ex-Port Blair rates by subsidising transport and handling charges will benefit only 6 families. The Committee desire that the scheme should be geared up to cover more Nicobarese families. The Committee recommend that the Administration should try to cover other small tribal groups also with housing facility.

4.50 The Committee note that the role of nationalised banks in extending loans for construction of houses for tribals is marginal. They recommend that Ministry of Finance, Banking Division should be approached to instruct the branches of nationalised banks located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to augment credit facilities for construction of houses for the tribals.

F. Tourism

4.51 The Committee have been informed by the Ministry that "in Andaman and Nicobar Islands there is a proposal to develop Cinque Islands in the Andaman Group of Islands, as a Modern Beach Resort. The Resort will be developed by the Department of Tourism, Government of India. A feasibility study for construction of a jetty in Cinque Island will be undertaken very soon."

4.52 The Committee hope that the feasibility study for construction of a jetty in Cinque Islands must have been undertaken by now. They would like to be apprised of the final outcome and the progress, if any, made in the construction of the jetty. The Committee further recommend that the proposal to develop Cinque Islands in the Andaman Group of Islands, as a modern Beach Resort should be given a concrete shape immediately to encourage/attract tourist traffic in the Islands which will automatically become additional source of income for tribals and broaden their horizon through interaction with tourists.

CHAPTER V

RESERVATION IN SERVICES

5.1 According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee, the percentage of reservation for STs in direct recruitment to groups 'C' and 'D' Posts in Andaman and Nicobar Administration is 16 per cent. In promotions the reservation is 7½ per cent.

5.2 In a subsequent note furnished by Andaman and Nicobar Administration it is stated that Directorate of Tribal Welfare in the Union Territory is the machinery available to ensure that the reservation orders in favour of STs are actually implemented.

5.3 It has further been stated that the reservation in Government Services for the STs has been enforced since 1976 when a Tribal Welfare Unit in the Administration was created.

5.4 The Committee have been furnished with a statement showing the present employment of STs in the services of the Union Territory Administration as under:—

Total No. (Group) of Employees	No. of Scheduled Castes.	No. of Scheduled Tribes	Percentage of Scheduled Castes	Percentage of Scheduled Tribes.
A 238	There is no Scheduled Castes in this territory.	2	..	0.84
B 307		2	..	0.65
C 9204		322	..	3.49
D 4479		164	..	3.66
(Excluding Scavengers)				

5.5 As regards the reasons for the low representation of STs and the steps taken to increase their representation in all categories of the Services, it is stated that "the representation of STs in group 'C' and 'D' depends on the availability of eligible STs candidates. However, adequate education facilities are available for the tribal people to enable them to seek Government Service."

5.6 It is also stated that 'the posts of Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner and Secretaries to the Administration are held by mainlanders who belong to the IAS. The aforesaid posts are included in the UT cadre of the IAS. Some Administrative posts are included in the DANI Civil Service. These posts are partly held by mainlanders and partly by local persons. Many senior posts of Doctors in the Medical Department are held by mainlanders. These officers belong to the Central Health Service. The posts of Doctors are included in the Central Health Service. For the posts of Junior Medical Officer against which the Central Health Services Officers have not been posted, appointments are made on *ad-hoc* basis. Wherever local officers are available they have been selected and posted as Junior Medical Officers. Certain posts of Heads of Departments/Offices like Harbour Master, Director of Transport, Principal, Engineer, Director of Fisheries, Labour Commissioner, Director of Accounts and Budget, Accounts Officers etc. are held by Deputationists due to want of suitable local persons with the requisite background and qualifications. Some posts of Engineers in the APWD|Electricity Department are also held by deputationists as per the Recruitment Rules.

For all Groups 'C' and 'D' posts, which are not technical in nature, local candidates have to be appointed. Only where local candidates are not available to man these posts, non-locals can be considered for appointment. Non-locals are not regularised if local candidates are appointed on 'ad hoc' basis only for one year. The posts are notified|advertised subsequently to check-up whether local candidates have become available in the mean-while. If, after, a period of two years, still local candidates are not available, the non-locals can be regularised. A quarterly returns is furnished to the Home Ministry regarding such regularisations. Further, more and more educational facilities are being provided to the islanders. Seats in Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges, Agricultural Colleges, etc. in the mainland are being reserved for them. It is thus ensured that more and more local candidates qualify for different technical|professional courses."

5.7 The Committee note that out of 238 employees in Group A posts, only 2 belong to Scheduled Tribes. In Group B posts also out of 307 employees, 2 are Scheduled Tribes. Thus the percentage of Scheduled Tribes in both Groups is less than even 1 percent.

5.8 In Group 'C' and 'D' also the picture is quite dismal, the percentage of Scheduled Tribes being 3.49 and 3.66 respectively against the prescribed percentage of 16 percent.

5.9 The Committee recommend that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration should make concerted efforts to improve the representation of Scheduled Tribes in all the Groups particularly in Groups 'C' and 'D' and bring it to the prescribed level of 16 percent. The Committee feel that the target can be achieved by resorting to special recruitments and by relaxing the eligibility criteria in case of Scheduled Tribe candidate. Another aspect which has not been taken care of is, training of Scheduled tribes and bringing them up to the levels laid down for recruitment Job oriented courses should be organised in all Schools and Colleges so that Scheduled tribe candidates passing out those institutions can straight away be absorbed and provided employment.

5.10 The Committee also recommend that while deputing Officers from the mainland or recruiting non-locals to the posts in the Union Territory, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration should ensure that there is a good mix-up of officers belonging to the Scheduled Tribes at their places of origin because they will have better understanding and be more responsive to the problems faced by the Tribals in the Union Territory from their own personal experiences and will help more energetically to bring the local tribals into the mainstream of life.

NEW DELHI;
November 12, 1987

Kartika 21, 1909 (Saka)

RAM RATAN RAM,
Chairman,
Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

APPENDIX

(Vide Para 1.44 of the Report)

Total expenditure incurred on Mahila Mandals and Border Area Project during the Sixth Five Year Plan:

PART I

Sl.No. Name & address of the organisations	Grand given during the sixth plan period
	Rs.
1 Mahila Mandal Kimus, Car Nicobar	7,726
2 Mahila Mandal, Kakane	8,420
3 Mahila Mandal, Chuchuka	13,370
4 Mahila Mandal, Arrong	14,913
5 Mahila Mandal, Tapoming	7,608
6 Mahila Mandal, Sawai	8,249
7 Mahila Mandal, Kinmal	6,554
8 Mahila Mandal, Jayanti	7,060
9 Mahila Mandal, Kinuka	6,922
10 Mahila Mandal, Teetop	6,597
11 Mahila Mandal, Perka	23,666
12 Mahila Mandal, Malacca	7,842
13 Mahila Mandal, Tamalu	7,172
14 Mahila Mandal, Small Lapatl	7,859
15 Mahila Mandal, Mus	16,822
16 Mahila Mandal, Nicobarese Settlement	9,838
Grand Total :	1,67,618

PART II

Border Area Project Nancowry	<i>Provision made during Seventh Plan</i>				Year
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90
	66,000	Rs. 62,590.56	Rs. 83,468	Rs. 1,38,889	Rs. 107085
	66,0061	Rs. 590.56	Rs. 83,468	Rs. 38,889	Rs. 1M7085
Total		Rs. 4,58,032.56			

APPENDIX II

(Vide para 4 of Introduction)

SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT

Sl. No.	Reference to Para number in the Report	Recommendations
1	2	3
1	1.8	The Committee note that besides the Chief Secretary there are 5 Secretaries excluding the Secretary to the Lt. Governor to assist him in the administration of the Union Territory. The Committee are surprised to note that there is no Secretary exclusively in charge for Tribal Welfare who could devote his whole time and energy to the vital task of ameliorating the social and economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands who are inhabited at distant places in different islands, speak different languages and have varied customs and way of living. In view of the peculiar geographical factors and special tribal problems there, the Committee, recommend that there should be a separate Secretary exclusively in-Charge of Tribal Welfare activities and other socio-economic problems of Scheduled Tribes of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2	1.30	The Committee note that two contact parties one for the Jarawas Tribe and another for Sentenelese Tribe have been making visits to their areas once a month since 1975 and to their utter dismay these parties have so far made neither any dent in winning the confidence of these tribes nor have those been able to establish any rapport with them. The visits of these contact parties have more or less assumed the nature of rituals

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		and their only purpose is to give some gifts to these tribes once a month which in the opinion of the Committee is not going to help the tribals to improve their quality of life and they will continue to be as primitive as ever. The Committee will like to impress upon the Administration not only to increase the frequency of such visits but also send persons dedicated to motivate the tribals to extend their hands of friendship to these parties.
3	1.31	The Committee have been informed that the reason for extinction or decrease in the number of certain tribes is the spread of diseases among them because of outside pressure and that the Administration has set up a Scheduled Tribe Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor to curb the outside pressure spreading diseases among tribals.
4	1.32	The Committee note that a doctor has been posted in Jarva to look after the health problems of tribals. However, the Administration gets no feed back from the doctor in regard to the patients treated by him and the value of medicines disbursed. The Committee are surprised that no separate provision is made in the budget of the Union Territory for the medical facilities to be provided to the tribals. The expenditure is incurred under the Social Welfare Scheme which in the Committee's opinion is far from satisfactory. The Committee recommend that sufficient funds should be earmarked for the medical facilities to be provided to the tribals under a separate head of account in the Union Territory Budget.
5	1.33	It has also been brought to the notice of the Committee that the number of Andaman and Onge Tribes is declining very fast due to the peculiarity in their life style. The Committee have been informed that a special long term

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study has been undertaken about their living style activities and health conditions specifically by the Anthropological Survey of India and as and when their Report is available the Administration will certainly take action. The Committee feel that it may take a long time before the results of the Study undertaken are known. The Committee are of the opinion that in the meantime the Administration should take interim measures to ensure that fall in the number of these tribes is arrested and their extinction averted.

- 6 1.34 The Committee regret to note that the project undertaken by Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry was discontinued. However, this project has since been revived in November, 1986. The discontinuing of the project is an enigma to the Committee. However, they hope this project which has already been revived will not be discontinued till such time the conditions of the tribals improve on permanent footing.
- 7 1.35 The Committee have been informed that Jarwas are facing acute food shortage. The Committee recommend that steps should be taken to lay orchards in those areas so that the fruits grown there are available to them. Further pigs should be left in those areas as Jarwas eat pig meat. This may help them in having piggeries in the Islands.
- 8 1.42 The Committee desire that the composition of the Pradeh Council should be made more broad-based by giving adequate representation to different tribes in the Island. The Committee further recommend that the meetings of the Pradeh Council should be held more frequently in order to create sense of involvement among the tribals, to make assessment of their problems and
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to devise ways and means for improving the socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants of the Islands.

- 9 1.46 The Committee feel that voluntary organisations can play a vital role in improving the social, educational and environmental conditions of Scheduled Tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee therefore, recommend that dedicated voluntary organisations should be encouraged to work among the Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory and necessary grant-in-aid provided to them. The Administration should keep a close watch on their functioning so as to ensure that the money given to them is gainfully spent for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and there is no misuse of funds. In the opinion of the Committee it would be better if the social workers are drawn from amongst the various tribes themselves as the tribals are more likely to listen to their own compeers.
- 10 1.47 The Committee note that grants are released by the Central Welfare Board, New Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration on year to year basis to meet the expenditure of Mahila Mandals, and that as such no provision has been made by the State Board to meet such expenditure during the Seventh Plan. The Committee recommend that adequate allocation be made by the Union Territory Social Welfare Advisory Board for the Seventh Plan so that the Mahila Mandals are aware and assured of the money likely to be made available to them. This will give the Mandals more confidence to undertake diversified programmes for the tribal welfare. The Committee note that the Nankori group of Islands are neglected in the matter of development. The Committee recommend that special care should be taken for their upliftment and more funds should be earmarked therefor.
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11	1.51	<p>The Committee are surprised that no community has been specified as Scheduled Castes under Article 344 of the Constitution in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Committee do not agree with the position taken by the representative of the Ministry of Welfare that "the State Government and Union Territory Administration cannot notify any caste as Scheduled Caste unless the list prepared by Parliament has been amended by the Union Government." The Committee are aware that the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are amended by the Union Government on the basis of the representation received from the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Of course, this requires an amendment of the list through enactment of Parliament. The Committee recommend that after reviewing the position carefully the Union Territory Administration should take up the matter suitably with the Union Government for declaring any deserving caste as Scheduled Caste in the Union Territory.</p>
12	2.12	<p>The Committee regret to note that out of Rs. 225 crores allocated during Seventh Plan only a sum of Rs. 22.65 crores alone has been spent in the first year of the Plan (1985-86). The Committee are not satisfied with such a slow pace of progress. The Committee need hardly emphasise that unless the entire plan allocations are gainfully utilised in an evenly phased manner over the 5 years period, the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Tribes are unlikely to improve. The Committee urge that the factors which hamper the utilisation of plan allocations in an even manner should be identified and corrective measures, as deemed necessary, taken urgently with a view to ensuring that the funds allocated are fully utilised in time.</p>
13	2.13	<p>The Committee are surprised to note that budget provision for the Tribal Sub-plan was not</p>

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		reflected in the budget of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the year 1985-86. The Committee recommend that for the remaining years of Seventh Plan, provision should be made for the Tribal Sub-plan in the budget of Union territory under separate heads.
14	2.14	The Committee have been apprised that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration have the financial powers to sanction a project up to Rs. two crores only which in the opinion of the Committee keeping in view the constant cost escalations is too meagre. They desire that the Ministry of Welfare being the nodal Ministry, should monitor and keep a close watch on the developmental activities going on in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and impress on the sanctioning authorities the need for delegation of more financial powers to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration so that the tribal welfare projects are not bogged down by procedural wrangles.
15	2.46	From the information furnished to them, the Committee note that although substantial achievements have been made for the development of the islands and the tribal people in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands yet the progress made in the Nicobar District which is predominantly inhabited by the tribals has been tardy <i>e.g.</i> out of a total area of 12000 hectares under paddy cultivation, the area in Nicobar Islands is only 20 hectares; out of 38 veterinary hospitals and dispensaries there are only 10 in the district; out of 327 cooperative societies there are only 57 in Nicobar district; out of 290 educational institutions there are only 51 in the district and out of a total enrolment of 62091 children in these institutions the enrolment in the district is 7921 and out of 2919 teachers only 372 are available in the district. The Committee also find that in the field of medical and

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public health facilities, power generation and transport and communication facilities the district is lagging behind in development. The Committee regret the imbalance in the development of the tribal district of Nicobar. They are of the view that this lopsided development at the cost of tribal district of Nicobar should not continue any further and that the Administration should make earnest efforts for the development of this district and allocate adequate funds therefor to bring it at par with the Andaman District.

- 16 2.26 The Committee note that during the Sixth Five Year Plan the number of families assisted under IRDP was 1052. Out of these, the number of Scheduled Tribe families were only 51 *i.e.* about 4.85 per cent. Similarly during the Seventh Plan, out of 742 families so far assisted the number of Scheduled Tribe families is 77 constituting a percentage of 10.38. The Committee have been informed that the Scheduled Tribes population in the Union Territory was 15.72 per cent according to 1971 census and is estimated to be 11.85 per cent according to 1981 census. The percentage of Scheduled Tribe families assisted during the Sixth Plan and Seventh Plan so far under IRDP is considerably less than the percentage of their population in the Union Territory.
- 17 2.27 The Committee recommend that earnest efforts should be made to cover more Scheduled Tribe families under IRDP so that their economic condition improves at a brisk pace to enable them to cross the poverty line early.
- 18 2.28 The Committee find it highly regrettable that out of the 47 youths imparted training during the year 1985-86 none belonged to the Scheduled Tribes. This shows an in-built apathy towards

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the Scheduled Tribes on the part of the Administration. The Committee cannot condone such an attitude and expect the Administration to be more responsive to the development of Scheduled Tribes.

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The Committee are really perturbed to find that no integrated tribal development projects have been initiated in the tribal district of Nicobar. So, it appears that it dawned on the Administration undertake such projects only after the subject was selected by the Committee for examination. The Committee cannot but express their anguish over such an indifferent attitude of the Administration towards tribal development. Even now it is stated that the schemes in the ITDP could not be included in the Annual Tribal Sub-plan for the year 1985-86 to their late receipt on 28 July, 1986. In the opinion of the Committee the ITDP is one of the most suitable programme for the socio-economic betterment of the tribals and schemes thereunder should have been introduced in the Nicobar Island much earlier. They expect that since the administration has taken steps to initiate projects under the I.T.D.P., these will be properly planned and implemented as early as possible so that the condition of the Scheduled Tribes improves in the Nicobar Island. The Committee will like to be kept apprised of the details of the projects initiated by the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration in this regard.

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3.9

The Committee have been informed that the ownership of all the lands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands vests in Government. However, cultivation rights are given to the tribals which can be transferred (i) by way of succession, survivorship or inheritance according to the personal law of the tenant or (ii) by way of sale, gift etc. with the result that the tribals are

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		transferring their cultivation rights to the migrants from the main land. In Committee's opinion, the existing provisions in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Land Reforms and Land Revenue Regulation, 1966 and the rules framed thereunder may be alright so far as the transfer of land is among the tribals only. "The Committee hope that the rights of the tribals in land in the Union Territory especially in Nicobar Island which is predominantly inhabited by Tribals are zealously protected by the Administration. In case in the past any tribal has transferred his occupancy rights to a Man tribal, such rights of land should be restored to the tribal."
21	3.10	The Committee note that no allotment of land has been made to the tribals under rules 170 and 171 of the 1966 Regulation so far except 200 hectares allotted to 165 Nicobar families to meet their additional requirement of land as a special case in early seventies.
22	3.11	The Committee recommend that the matter be reviewed by the Administration to assess present requirement of land by the tribals and if need be more land should be allotted to them to elevate their economic conditions and to improve the standard of their living.
23	3.16	The Committee note that in spite of various measures taken by the Administration to improve the agriculture in the Islands, the crop yields are comparatively low e.g. the yield of paddy from 12,000 hectares is 40 metric tonne only; the yield of arocanut is 1,000 metric tonne from 2,620 hectares. Similar appears to be the position in the case of cashewnuts and spices. The Committee are of the opinion that more intensive efforts be made to improve the crop yields in the Islands. They hardly need to stress that introduction of modern techniques in cultivation of

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		high value cash crops is one of the best ways of improving the economic standards of the tribals. The Committee, therefore, recommend that more demonstration farms should be set up in the tribal areas to popularise modern techniques of cultivation and to introduce new high value cash crops like spices, cashewnuts, fruits in the tribal areas.
24	3.19	The Committee note that in the absence of any river, there is no major irrigation programme in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They have been informed that the Department of Agriculture has some provision for digging of individual irrigation ponds and for providing pump sets on loan and gives a subsidy of 33 1/3 per cent on pump sets purchased by the tribals. The Committee recommend that instead of concentrating on digging of individual irrigation ponds, the Administration should explore the possibility of digging community ponds which will be more economic and benefit a larger number of cultivators with water for cultivation from a single source. The Committee will await the outcome of the efforts made by the administration in this regard.
25	3.20	The Committee also recommend that the subsidy on pump sets be stepped up to encourage tribals to have their own pump sets instead of taking these on loan from the administration. This will help better crop yield and also go a long way to improve the financial condition of tribals.
26	3.24	In the material furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Welfare there is no mention of any Cattle or Livestock Insurance Scheme. Probably no such scheme has been introduced in Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is within the knowledge of the Committee that such schemes have been undertaken by four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of

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		<p>India since 1974. The Committee recommend that Cattle Livestock Insurance Schemes should be introduced in the Union-territory at the earliest. This will go a long way in covering the losses due to death of cattle etc. of Scheduled Tribes in the field of animal husbandry and to their economic well-being.</p>
27	3.25	<p>The Committee note that during the Seventh Plan, scheme have been introduced to supply cattle and other livestock to the tribals at a subsidy cost of 50 per cent of the actual cost. Keeping in view of the economic backwardness of the tribals in the Islands, the Committee recommend that the rate of subsidy should be suitably increased to induce more tribals to opt for animal husbandry.</p>
28	2.26	<p>The Committee regret that the number of tribals imparted training in animal husbandry is too meagre. Out of 122 farmers imparted training in deep litter system of poultry farming at different Departmental Demonstration Camps in 1985-86 the number of tribals is just 11. Similarly out of 16 farmers deputed to mainland for training in the field of cattle, poultry and piggery farming during 1985-86 the number of tribal is only 2. The Committee recommend that more training facilities should be made available to the tribals in the field of animal husbandry keeping in view their backwardness.</p>
29	3.31	<p>The Committee note that the A&N Islands with a coast line of about 200 kilometers with a number of bays and inlets has a vast fishing potential. The estimated exploitable stock of fish from these waters is to the order of 7,40,000 tonnes annually. However, in the absence of required infrastructure and facilities like mechanised fishing, cold storage, marketing facilities etc. the catch of fish by the end of the Sixth Plan</p>

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period could only be 4,312 tonnes annually. The Committee regret to say that little has been done so far to check this colossal wastage of natural resources of the country. Had Government made sincere efforts to harness those resources the catch of fish from the Islands could not only have provided food to the people on the mainland as well as in the Union Territory but also this source could have been utilised for exports to earn precious foreign exchange which the country need badly. It appears that the approach of the UT Administration has been casual and inept in this regard, more so, in view of the fact that out of an outlay of Rs. 203,540 for the Sixth Plan, Rs. 112,125 only were utilised by the UT Administration. Had the Administration been serious and vigilant, fishing could have been given a far better boost during the Sixth Plan itself. The Committee recommend that this matter should be gone into depth, responsibility find and remedial measures taken. Meanwhile, the A&N Administration should take suitable steps urgently and in right earnestness so that the marine resources around the Union Territory do not remain unexploited.

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3.32

The Committee have been informed that at present only 410 tribals are engaged in fisheries on part-time basis in the Islands. It is obvious that without making the fishing lucrative and attractive the Administration cannot attract more tribals to take up fisheries. The Committee recommend that apart from other steps marketing facilities should be augmented rapidly so that more tribals are attracted to fishing. This can only be done if the fishermen are assured that their catch will ensure them on the spot payment.

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The Committee also desire that in order to make fishing more popular among tribals, the

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A&N Administration should take following steps:—

- (i) Organise inter-village fishing competition every year with an alluring prize money to the winner;
- (ii) devise ways and means to make fishing a full time commercial activity in the islands; and
- (iii) as an additional incentive the rate of subsidy should be suitably increased on both mechanised boats and other fishing materials.

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3.39

The Committee note that an outlay of Rs. 550 lakhs was provided for the Forestry Schemes in the A&N Islands by the Planning Commission during the Sixth Five Year Plan. However, the yearly allotments made came to Rs. 495.17 lakhs only. The Committee regret that even out of this reduced plan outlay the Administration was able to utilise Rs. 423.344 lakhs only. This shows that due care was not given to the Forestry Schemes by the Administration viewed against the demand of some of the Ministries for more funds in plan outlays, the Committee cannot reconcile to the non-utilisation of the funds by the Union Territory Administration. The Committee recommend that the Administration should draw proper schemes in time and then vigorously implement them to obviate the possibility of non-utilisation of funds during the Seventh Plan.

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The Committee are surprised to note that Assistant Conservator of Forests has very limited field staff and the proposals for creation of post have been approved. The Committee further note that targets for the social forestry programme could not be achieved mainly due to shortage

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		of staff. The Committee need hardly stress that there is no use in drafting various forestry schemes without having adequate staff for their implementation. The Committee recommend that the administration should realise the gravity of situation and appoint the requisite staff without further loss of time for the successful implementation of various forestry schemes.
34	3.45	The Committee note that only 126 Nicobarese have been given training in trades of coir processing, carpentry and garment making etc. in the Training Centre in Car Nicobar in a span of about seven years i.e. between 1978-79 and 1985-86. The Committee consider that as a meagre achievement and desires that more tribals should be induced and motivated to join the Training Centres at Car Nicobar.
35	3.46	The Committee are surprised to note that there is not even a single Industrial Training Institute in the Islands. They fail to understand as to how the Administration hopes to build up the Small Scale Industries sector in the Island without the requisite trained manpower. The Committee recommend that the ITIs for giving training in different trades should be set up in the Islands at the earliest and these should preferably be located in the tribal areas where a considerable number of the trainees can be inducted from amongst the tribals.
36	3.49	The Committee note that the shipping facilities between the mainland and islands and also between the different islands of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are quite inadequate as stated by the Ministry themselves. The Committee desire that sincere efforts should be made to procure more ships to facilitate regular and quicker passenger and cargo traffic between the mainland and Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the islands <i>inter-se</i> .

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37	3.50	The Committee note with concern that the proposal for procurement of a Hospital-cum-Banking-cum-supply ship in the Sixth Plan has not materialised so far. The Committee recommend that expeditious steps be taken to get the litigation problem between DGS&D and the manufacturing firm resolved expeditiously and the ship in question acquired at the earliest.
38.	3.51	The Committee also like to impress upon the administration that timely action be taken for the procurement of the three ships provisions for which has been made in the Seventh Plan so that there are adequate transport facilities available to meet the demands of passenger and cargo traffic.
39	3.56	The Committee note that out of an outlay of Rs. 1267.00 lakhs for construction of roads in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands during the Sixth Plan, Rs. 1072.81 lakhs could be utilised by the Administration for the purpose. The Committee need hardly emphasise the importance of roads as an instrument of economic development. The Committee, therefore, recommend that at least in the Seventh Plan period, the Administration should plan properly and ensure to achieve fully the targets fixed by utilising all the funds earmarked for the roads.
40	3.61	The Committee note with concern the tardy progress made by the Administration in the implementation of the Schemes for electrification in the Union territory. Out of 491 villages with 40671 house-holds, electricity has been provided to 296 villages with 24660 households. The Committee find that the number of tribal villages so far electrified is dismally low at 49. The lackadaisical approach of Administration is fully reflected by the mere fact that out of Rs. 12 crores provided in the Sixth Plan for the electrification

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schemes in the Union territory, the Administration could utilise Rs. 8.51 crores only. Had the Administration been vigilant and prompt enough, they could have got cleared the schemes early to ensure full utilisation of these funds. The Committee has been assured that during the Seventh Plan period all the tribal villages will be electrified. The Committee hope that the Administration keep up their promise and make timely efforts to electrify the tribal villages by the end of the Seventh Plan.

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4.4

The Committee note that in the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands that out of 334 cooperative societies of various types only 57 societies are located in the tribal areas for the purpose of providing credit (agricultural and non-agricultural) to the tribal people. The Committee feel that the number of Co-operative Societies in tribal areas is too inadequate. As the tribals are not only backward but are also too weak economically they require better looking after as compared to other communities. The Committee recommend that more Co-operative Societies be set up in tribal areas to cater to the needs of tribals.

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4.25

The Committee note that in Andaman & Nicobar Islands the percentage of literacy as per 1981 census is 51.56 in general and 31.11 for Scheduled Tribes.

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4.26

The Committee need hardly stress that education is the most effective instrument in raising the social and economic status of the Scheduled Tribes in the Islands. The Committee suggest that more and more Scheduled Tribe students should be encouraged to become teachers after attaining necessary qualifications. They further suggest that special syllabus and curricula of studies be laid down according to the needs

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		of the tribal students and special techniques for imparting education to the tribals be worked out for spreading education among them.
44	4.27	The Committee note that the facilities available for technical education viz., one polytechnic with an intake capacity of 50 students is quite inadequate. The Committee recommend that the intake capacity of the polytechnic should be increased to at least to 100, 50 in civil engineering and 25 each in electrical and mechanical engineering. They also recommend that more polytechnics and ITIs should be opened in the Islands and new disciplines such as electronics and computer engineering should be introduced in the technical institutes.
45	4.28	The Committee note that in the hostels lodging is free for all the students while boarding is not free. However, an additional stipend of Rs. 20 is given to all Scheduled Tribe students staying in hostels. The Committee recommend that keeping in view the present rise in prices, the amount of this stipend should be suitably enhanced so that no economic burden is felt by the tribals in sending their children to schools.
46	4.29	The Committee note that one of the educational facilities provided to students in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is mid-day meals at the rate of 25 paise per pupil for working days from Classes I to VIII.
47	4.30	The Committee cannot but express their surprise on the paltry amount of 25 paise allocated per pupil for mid-day meals upto class VIII. It is beyond their comprehension as to what type of meal could 25 paise fetch for a student studying in class VIII. While deprecating the mockery of this facility, the Committee strongly recommend that the rate of mid-day

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		meal provided to students should be suitably raised without any further loss of time.
48	4.31	The Committee would also like to be apprised as to when the rate of 25 paise per student for mid-day meal was fixed by the Administration and the reasons why it has not been revised till date when the prices of food stuff and other essential commodities have reached rocket-high.
49	4.39	The Committee need harly point out that on account of the long distances between the mainland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the Islands <i>inter-se</i> , the provision of adequate medical facilities assumes considerable importance. The Committee would like the Union Territory Administration to pay special attention to the provision of adequate medical facilities in the remote areas. The Committee, therefore, recommend that at least two well equipped mobile dispensaries may be opened to cater to the needs of the tribal people living in remote areas.
50	4.40	The Committee regret to observe that a number of posts of doctors and para medical staff are lying vacant in two district hospitals in tribal areas. The Committee do hope and recommend that the posts of doctors medical staff are created and filed up without any loss of time as assured by the representative of the Andaman and Nicobar Administration.
51	4.45	The Committee are constrained to note that all the Scheduled Tribe villages in the Union Territory have not been covered to provide with drinking water facilities. The Committee note that by the end of Sixth Plan, 53 tribal villages remained to be covered and during Seventh Plan upto December, 1986 only 14 villages have

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been covered. 39 more villages are yet to be given drinking water supply facilities in tribal areas. The Committee hope that all the tribal villages will be provided with water supply facilities on a priority basis and in no case the period of coverage will extend beyond the stipulated period, i.e., end of 1989-90 as has been assured to them.

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4.49

The Committee note that all the eight families of Andamanese tribals have been provided with permanent houses free of cost. The Committee are however, concerned to note that the scheme relating to Special Housing Programme for Nicobarese, after supplying building materials at ex-Port Blair rates by subsidising transport and handling charges will benefit only 6 families. The Committee desire that the scheme should be geared up to cover more Nicobarese families. The Committee recommend that the Administration should try to cover other small tribal groups also with housing facility.

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The Committee note that the role of nationalised banks in extending loans for construction of houses for tribals is marginal. They recommend that Ministry of Finance, Banking Division should be approached to instruct the branches of nationalised banks located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to augment credit facilities for construction of houses for the tribals.

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4.52

The Committee hope that the feasibility study for construction of a jetty in Cinque Islands must have been undertaken by now. They would like to be apprised of the final outcome and the progress, if any, made in the construction of the jetty. The Committee further recommend that the proposal to develop Cinque Islands in the Andaman Group of Islands, as a modern Beach Resort should be given a concrete

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		shape immediately to encourage attract tourist traffic in the Islands which will automatically become additional source of income for tribals and broaden their horizon through inter action with tourists.
55	5.7	The Committee note that out of 238 employees in Group A posts, only 2 belong to Scheduled Tribes. In Group B posts also out of 307 employees, 2 are Scheduled Tribes. Thus the percentage of Scheduled Tribes in both Groups is less than even 1 per cent.
56	5.8	In Group 'C' and 'D' also the picture is quite dismal; the percentage of Scheduled Tribes being 3.49 and 3.66 respectively against the prescribed percentage of 16 per cent.
57	5.9	The Committee recommend that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands Administration should make concerted efforts to improve the representation of Scheduled Tribes in all the Groups particularly in Groups 'C' and 'D' and bring it to the prescribed level of 16 per cent. The Committee feel that the target can be achieved by resorting to special recruitments and by relaxing the eligibility criteria in case of Scheduled Tribe candidate. Another aspect which has not been taken care of is, training of Scheduled tribes and bringing them up to the levels laid down for recruitment. Job oriented courses should be organised in all Schools and Colleges so that Scheduled tribe candidates passing out those institutions can straight away be observed and provided employment.
58	5.10	The Committee also recommend that while deputing Officers from the mainland or recruiting non-locals to the posts in the Union Territory, the Andaman and Nicobar Administration should ensure that there is a good mix-up of

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officers belonging to the Scheduled Tribes at their places of origin because they will have better understanding and be more responsive to the problems faced by the Tribals in the Union Territory from their own personal experiences and will help more energetically to bring the local tribals into the mainstream of life.
