

TRIBAL WELFARE

The Directorate of Tribal Welfare has the mandate to ensure constitutional obligation of the Government for socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes. A separate Tribal Sub-Plan is formulated and fund proportionate to tribal population is allocated.

There are six Scheduled Tribes of which five - (i) Great Andamanese (ii) Onges (iii) Shompens (iv) Jarawas (v) Sentinelese are hunting-gathering Primitive Tribes while the Nicobarese, is known as advanced tribe practicing horticulture.

An autonomous body AAJVS has been constituted under the chairmanship of Lt. Governor, A&N Islands to look after the welfare of primitive tribes of A&N Islands. The welfare programme run by AAJVS for these primitive tribes under special central assistance include the following activities:

- a) Supply of useful articles like horticultural implements, clothes etc. under exchange system to Shompen
- b) Supply of free ration and clothing to Onges and Greta Andamanes
- c) Supply of gifts like bananas and coconut to Jarawas
- d) Supply of rice and dal under BPL scheme to Shompens
- e) Providing medical aid to all the primitive tribes except Sentineles
- f) Development of coconut plantation and other Horticulture activities for Onges, Great Andamanese and Shompens.
- g) Supply of Iron implements, tool kits and fishing equipments to Onges, Great Andamanese and Shompens
- h) Supply of electricity in the settlements of primitive tribes

In addition to above under separate plan schemes formulated under the sector welfare of SC/ST and OBCs , following programs are specifically implemented by the Tribal Welfare Department:

1. Additional scholarship @ Rs. 300/- P.M was granted as an incentive to 90 tribal students undergoing higher/professional education.

2. A&N Commission for OBCs constituted in 1996 to identify the OBCs in respect of A&N Islands got conducted the survey of the OBCs and submitted its report in July 2001.
3. A Vocational Training Centre in computer was set up at Car Nicobar to provide computer education to ST boys & Girls. The Centre started functioning from 1998-99 and two batch comprising 21 tribal boys & girls were imparted computer education on payment of stipend @ Rs. 300/- P.M.
4. One Ashram (guest house) for Nicobares tribal women has been constructed at Kamorta. More such Ashrams are proposed to be constructed at different towns of the Nicobars to provide shelter to the Nicobares women visiting sub-division Tehsil Headquarters.
5. A scheme of setting up of a tribal research and training institute was introduced in the last year (2001-02) of 9th Five Year Plan and this will be implemented in the Xth plan to carry out research in different aspects of tribals and formulate the plan schemes.

Under these schemes in this sector following programmes are envisaged:

- (i) Conducting Socio-economic survey of scheduled tribes.
- (ii) Grant of financial assistance for Vocational/Job training in the institutes of the mainland.
- (iii) Maintenance of the street lights in the tribal area of A & N Islands.
- (iv) Grant of additional scholarship @ Rs. 500/- per month to 30 tribal students for professional/technical education in the mainland.
- (v) Establishment of Transit Tribal Hostel at Port Blair in order to provide accommodation to the tribals visiting Port Blair for attending interview / selection test etc.
- (vi) Providing grant-in-aid to Tribal Councils of the Nicobarese for undertaking development activities in the tribal areas of Nicobar District.
- (vii) Medical treatment of serious tribal patients referred to mainland,

Under the Tribal Sub-Plan which is implemented by the various line departments, developmental programs taken up and achievements made during the IXth Plan in respect of major sectors are as under:

1. Education:

Opening of 3 pre-primary Schools, 2 Primary Schools, 2 NFEC, up-gradation of 2 Middle School to Secondary School, Up-gradation of 1 Primary School to Middle School were achieved, besides, issue of Free School Uniforms upto Class VIII, Free Text Books and stationary articles upto class XII, mid day meals from class I to V and, snacks from class VI to VIII, scholarship to girls students undergoing education in Banasthali Vidhyapith, Rajasthan.

2. Health

One Medical Sub-Centre at Trinket, one at Luxi and one at Arong, one Primary Health Centre at Teressa, one Homeo Dispensary at Nancowry and one at Campbell Bay were established. Construction of one sub-centre at Englei in Nancowry was in progress.

3. Power

Indents for procurement of 2x24 KW DG Sets for Trinket, Strait Island, South Bay in Little Andaman, Shompen Hut Complex in Great Nicobar were placed on DGS&D. Technical approval for establishment of DG set of 3x65 KW capacity for Champion, Katchal, Pillomillow and Kundul was received and necessary steps were taken for procurement of DG Sets.

4. Shipping

One passenger vessel, one Tribal Welfare vessel, one motor launch and one tug were procured and inducted into service in the tribal area. Besides, two passenger vessels were nearing completion. Two passenger vessels, one cargo vessel and two motor launches are at different stages of construction.

5. Port & Light Houses

Construction of jetty at Car Nicobar isw completed and survey and investigation of jetties at following places viz. Pillomillow, Makachua, Munak, Chowra and Safed Balu in Terresa were completed.

6. Water Supply and Sanitation

Augmentation of water supply in 10 villages was completed and rain water harvesting structure at Chowra and Teressa were in progress.

7. Roads and Bridges

The following link roads viz. Kamorta to Pillomillow and Bengali to kalsi were in progress and 2.00 KM roads were completed in tribal areas.