

**INDIA. STUDY TEAM ON TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMMES : REPORT**

**L.M. & A. ISLANDS**

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# **Report of the Study Team on Tribal Development Programmes**

**L. M. & A. ISLANDS**

**Committee on Plan Projects  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

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### ANNEXURES

## P R E F A C E

0.1 At the instance of the Planning Commission, the Committee on Plan Projects constituted in its Resolution No. COPP/Adm/16(1)/66 dated 26th October, 1966, (Annexure I), a Study Team on Tribal Development Programmes with the object of giving practical effect to the recommendations made in the Original Fourth Five Year Plan Draft Outline for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and for assisting State Governments in evolving concrete schemes of development specially adapted to the needs and conditions of tribal communities and areas. The Team, as originally constituted, consisted of Shri P. Shilu Ao as Chairman and Sarvashri L.M. Shrikant and B. Mehta as Members. Shri B. Mehta resigned the membership of the Team on February 20, 1967, and Shri T. Sivasankar was appointed as Member in his place.

0.2 This report is based on an on-the-spot study of the various tribal development programmes undertaken in Laccadive, Minicoy & Amindivi Islands. The report was discussed with the Administration at the draft stage and their suggestions and comments have been duly taken into consideration while finalising it. The Study Team wishes to thank the Administration for the facilities provided by them for the conduct of the study.

## CHAPTER I

### THE AREA AND THE PEOPLE

1.1 The Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands consists of a group of 10 inhabited and 9 uninhabited coral islands which lie scattered in the Arabian Sea about 200 KMs. - 280 KMs. from the West Coast of Kerala between 8° and 12° North Latitude and 71° and 74° East Longitude. In addition to these islands, there is a bird island, called Pitty near Kavaratti which is uninhabited. Two sand banks, Cheriya Panyam and Baliyapanyam to the north west of Bitra island, complete the group. The islands lie almost parallel to the West Coast. All of them are very small in size, Minicoy one of the biggest in the group being hardly 15 miles in circumference and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  sq. miles in area. The total area of all the islands is 10.76 sq. miles. Till 1956 the islands formed a part of the composite State of Madras. The five northern islands of Amini, Kadmat, Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra were then attached to the district of South Kanara (now in Mysore) while the five southern islands, namely Agatti, Androth, Kalpeni, Kavaratti and Minicoy were attached to the district of Malabar (now in Kerala). After the reorganisation of the States, these islands were grouped together and constituted into a Union Territory w.e.f. November 1, 1956.

1.2 According to the 1961 Census, the total population of the Territory was 24,108 of which the local Muslim population, classified as tribal, was 23,391 or 97.03% of

the total population of the islands. The following table gives detailed information about the inhabited islands regarding the area, total population, population of Scheduled Tribes etc.

Table 1

Area, Total Population and Scheduled Tribes  
Population

(1961 Census)

Island	Area in sq. miles	Total Population	Density per sq. mile	Scheduled Tribes Population	%age of ST population to total population
1	2	3	4	5	6
Minicoy	1.75	4138	2365	4012	96.9
Kalpeni	0.77	2613	3394	2561	98.0
Androth	1.67	4183	2505	3897	81.3
Agatti	1.08	2411	2232	2374	98.5
Kavaratti	1.35	2828	2095	2779	98.6
Amini	0.97	3531	3639	3415	96.5
Kadmat	1.17	1851	1584	1819	97.7
Kiltan	0.62	1520	2452	1505	99.0
Chetlat	0.40	953	2383	949	99.6
Bitra	0.04	80	2000	80	100.0
Total	10.76	24108	2241	23391	97.03

The islands constitute some of the most thickly populated bits of territory in the Indian Union with a density of

\*Includes area of uninhabited islands.

population ranging from 2000 to over 3600 per square mile. None of them has been declared as a Scheduled Area.

1.3 The inhabitants of the islands are all Muslims. Until their formation as Union Territory the only means of communication with the mainland was through primitive country boats or 'Oddams' which, to complete the voyage one way under favourable weather conditions, took over a week. For six months in the year, after the onset of the South West monsoon in June, the islands, even to-day are cut off altogether from the outside world. The inspecting parties from the former Madras State, who used to visit the islands once in a year or two years as it suited them, were concerned mainly with the maintenance of law and order and took little or no initiative in promoting the material welfare of the people. Isolation and absence of intercourse with the mainlanders over the years account for their present backwardness.

1.4 Ethnically there is little to distinguish the islanders from the Muslims of Malabar. With the solitary exception of Minicoy, the southernmost island where 'Mahl' the language of the Maldive group of islands is spoken, the islanders speak Malayalam, the language of the mainland and follow like the mainlanders the matrilineal law of inheritance known as the Marumakattayam law. While the social life of these islands is akin to the social life of the Muslims of the Malabar Coast Minicoy has a separate

culture marked by close communal bonds and a social discipline reminiscent of tribal discipline enforced by their chiefs (Athiri Moophans).

1.5 Although wholly Muslim the islands suffer from the disability of caste. The islanders are divided into three social classes, Koyas, Malmis and Melacheris. The Koyas are the traditional landed class, the Malmis are sailors and the Melacheris are the labouring class. Inter-marriages between these classes are forbidden.

1.6 The inhabitants of Minicoy island belong to a different stock. They are darker and of smaller build and are divided into four social classes, namely, Manikfan, Thakrufan, Thakru and Raveri. Manikfan and Thakrufan constitute the aristocracy, representing social power and wealth. They hold Government offices and also own shops. The Thakrus are sailors and fishermen, while the Raveris are either oarsmen of the fishing boats or agricultural labourers. The people live in compact villages which are divided into 9 sections known as Athiris. Each Athiri has a leader or Moophan elected by the village assembly. The village assembly takes decisions regarding the general management of the affairs of the village. As a rule the Moophan's word is law and is rarely defied. The dominance of women in all walks of life is a peculiar aspect of the community life of Minicoy.

1.7 Economically and socially the inhabitants of Minicoy are more advanced than the other islanders,



economically because they are more hardworking and unlike their counterparts in the rest of the Union Territory, depend less on the coconuts than on the exploitation of the limitless fisheries wealth round their island which abounds in Tuna fish and socially because their menfolk who are born sailors have found employment on the shipping lines of Western and other countries and have long been in touch with the outside world.

1.8 Literacy: According to the 1961 Census, the literacy percentage among the Scheduled Tribes is 22.20 against 23.27 for the Territory as a whole. The percentage of literacy amongst tribal males and females is 34.28 and 10.61 respectively. Particulars regarding the levels of education and percentage of literacy among the Scheduled Tribes and the total population are given in Annexure II.

1.9 Occupational Distribution: Out of the total population of 23,391, 49%<sup>(11464)</sup> are non-workers. Out of the remaining 51% who are workers, 0.50% are engaged as cultivators, 43.4% are engaged in fishing and other allied activities. Details regarding the distribution of workers are given in Annexure III.

1.10 Classification of the inhabitants as tribals: There are no principles or clearly defined criteria governing the classification of communities as tribes. Generally speaking, the original inhabitants of an area who have their own social organisation, customs, superstitions and pattern of living, in other words, their

own distinctive culture and who, by reason of their isolation have retained their primitive characteristics are designated as tribes. As already stated the islanders (excluding those living in Minicoy) are ethnically of the same stock as the mainlanders and their social organisation, in essentials, follows the same pattern as that prevailing amongst the Muslims on the mainland, circumstances which lend support to the local tradition that the islanders were originally Hindus who migrated from the mainland many centuries ago and were later converted to Islam. In trying to see whether there were any adventitious factors in the history of the islands which led to the inhabitants being 'scheduled' in the category of 'tribes' the Study Team came across a passage in a classic account, written in the early twenties, by Ellis, a former Collector of Malabar, - whose book on Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi islands is still regarded as an authority on the islands, which seemed to throw some light on the subject. Enumerating the changes made in the administrative set up from time to time he says that "it was pointed out by Mr. Hall in his report for 1874 that the monegar's duties were so multifarious and he was required by custom to exercise authority in so many ways outside the scope of the Civil Procedure Code and the Regulations that the result of binding him down to laws would be to curtail his powers to the verge of uselessness and upset the form of Government which the people were

accustomed to and found sufficient. The Scheduled Districts Act (XIV of 1874) was extended to Laccadives by Notification No.83 Judicial dated 19.2.1889." The Study Team has no doubt that the accident of extending the Scheduled Districts Act to the islands on grounds of administrative expediency to suit the requirements of a backward population, has after the lapse of years, resulted in the inhabitants themselves being considered as members of a Scheduled Tribe. But even so the Study Team does not recommend an immediate descheduling of the population not only because of the strong opposition voiced against such a step by responsible leaders of the community including a former Member of Parliament representing the islands but also because descheduling at this stage would slow down the development effort whose impressive pace and progress, built up by the patient efforts of the Administration after the constitution of the islands into a Union Territory, bid fair to take the inhabitants to the stage of equality or near equality with the population on the mainland within the next 10 or 15 years.

1.11 Land Utilisation: Land utilisation in the islands is given in the following table:-

Table - 2

Land Utilisation Statistics

Sl. No.	Items	Estimated area (in Hectares)
1.	Total geographical area	2800.00
2.	Forests	-
3.	Not available for cultivation	
	i) Land put to non-agricultural use	159.04
	ii) Barren and uncultivable land	-
	iii) Total (i) and (ii)	159.04
4.	Other uncultivated lands:	
	i) Permanent pastures	-
	ii) Land under miscellaneous tree crops and groves not included in the net area sown	14.44
	iii) Culturable waste	-
	iv) Total (i + ii + iii)	14.44
5.	Fallow lands	1.62
6.	Total cropped area	2753.46
7.	Area sown more than once	128.56
8.	Net area sown (6 - 7)	2624.90

There are no forests, barren, uncultivated lands, permanent pastures, and culturable waste land in the islands. Almost the entire area in the islands is planted with coconut trees, certain other trees and crops occupying 14.44 hectares.

Chapter II  
ADMINISTRATION

2.1 The Territory is directly administered by the President of India through the Administrator who is the head of the Administration. Among the more important officers who assist him in administering the Territory are the Development Commissioner, Secretary (Administration), the Secretary to the Administrator, the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, the Education Officer and two Special Officers, one for agriculture and the other for fisheries. The Territory is divided into tehsils for revenue and administrative purposes. Each tehsil is placed in the charge of a tehsildar.

2.2 The entry of outsiders to the Union Territory is restricted. Outsiders desiring to visit the islands should obtain a permit from the Administration.

2.3 There is a Development Committee in every island. The members of these committees are mostly chosen by the people, but a few of them are nominated by Government.

2.4 The Administrator is in overall charge of the development activities of the islands. All the Development Departments have been placed directly under the Development Commissioner.

2.5 Till 1964, Calicut on the mainland was the headquarters of the Union Territory. To meet the wishes of the islanders the Administrator and the Secretariat



moved from Calicut to Kavaratti island which is now its headquarters. The Secretary to the Administrator is stationed at Calicut and is in charge of transport, communications and marketing.

2.6 Advisory Committee: The Fifth Schedule to the constitution provides for the establishment of a Tribes Advisory Council for advising the State Government on matters of tribal welfare. This Schedule does not apply to the Union Territories. However, under the orders of the President, an Advisory Committee is constituted every year by the Ministry of Home Affairs for the Union Territory. It consists of the Administrator of the islands, Member of Parliament representing the Territory and 5 non-official members including one representing the interests of the Cooperative Societies in the Territory. The non-official members are nominated every year. This Committee is consulted in regard to:-

- i) General questions of policy relating to the administration of the Territory in the State field;
- ii) all legislative proposals concerning the Territory in regard to matters in the State List;
- iii) such matters relating to the annual financial statement of the Union in so far as it concerns the Territory and such other financial questions as may be referred to it by the President; and
- iv) any other matter on which it may be considered necessary or desirable by the Minister of Home Affairs that the Advisory Committee should be consulted.

The Committee meets at intervals of not more than 6 months and is presided over by the Minister of Home Affairs.

2.7 Voluntary Agencies: There are no voluntary organisations working in the Territory

Chapter III  
DEVELOPMENT PLANS

3.1 It is no reflection on the work done in the field of tribal welfare on the mainland to say that, notwithstanding long years of neglect under the British rule and a late start even after the attainment of independence the islands have shown a rate of progress, particularly in the spheres of education, cooperation and land reforms more rapid than that seen in most other tribal areas of the country. This is attributable partly to the ease in the identification of needs of a population living in compact groups in restricted areas and principally to the efforts made by the Administration to enlist the cooperation of the inhabitants in the implementation of measures undertaken for their benefit.

3.2 As in the case of Nagaland the population is almost entirely tribal. The Tribal Development Programme of the Union Territory is, therefore, the same as its General Development Programme.

3.3 During the First Five Year Plan period the islands were administered as a part of the composite State of Madras. The Government of Madras did not earmark any funds for the development of the islands out of the First Plan provision and although they tried to make amends by settling apart a sum of Rs.31.55 lakhs in the Second Plan the occasion for utilising it did not arise as the islands were taken out of their administrative control following the reorganisation of the States and constituted into a separate Territory in November 1956.

The new Administration drew up a plan of development involving an outlay of Rs.73.85 lakhs but owing to difficulty of communications and the absence of an adequate implementing machinery which needed time to build up the actual expenditure incurred was only Rs.40.28 lakhs.

3.4 In the Second Plan - for the Union Territory its First Plan - special attention was paid to Education, Communications, Fisheries and Health. Against 1520 pupils on the rolls in 9 primary Schools there were at 16 schools of which 4 were exclusively for girls, with the end of the Second Plan Period 3700 pupils on the

olls - an increase of 144%. To improve communications a motor vessel with a capacity of 100 tons was chartered, initially on an experimental basis for service between the mainland and the islands and as the experiment proved a success a bigger vessel was chartered in 1959 with a cargo carrying capacity of 300 tons and a passenger carrying capacity of 12. To augment the supply of fish 10 mechanised pablo boats were purchased and pressed into service and a number of islanders were trained in modern methods of fishing. A centre for extracting Shark Liver Oil was also started at Kavaratti. Among the other more important schemes undertaken during the Second Plan period may be mentioned the building of a sea wall at Minicoy, the construction of a light house tower at Amini, the taking over of the leper colonies started by the islanders at Androth and Kadmat, the

conversion of the dispensary at Minicoy into a hospital and the opening of a new dispensary in Kiltan.

3.5 The Third Five Year Plan was an integrated Plan intended to achieve an all-round economic development of the islands. The emphasis in the Plan was on the removal of difficulties of transport, promotion of education, strengthening of medical facilities, formation of Cooperative Societies and development of fisheries. The expenditure incurred during the Plan period was Rs.108.51 lakhs against an approved provision of Rs.98.38 lakhs, Fisheries, Education, Cooperation, Power, and Agriculture accounting for the bulk of the excess expenditure. The schemewise details of approved outlay and actual expenditure in the Third Plan are given in the following table:-

Table - 3

Outlay and actual Expenditure in the  
Third Five Year Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Scheme	Outlay	Actual Expenditure
1. Agriculture	2.4500	3.0520
2. Animal Husbandry	2.5000	2.3935
3. Fisheries	18.0000	28.1311
4. Cooperation including Warehousing and Marketing	8.0000	9.4564
5. Power	5.5570	7.1514
6. Industries	6.0200	3.6114
7. Metric System	1.2000	0.6729
8. Transport and Communication	17.5000	7.2783
9. Education	18.8300	35.8945
10. Health	10.3600	7.8450
11. Housing (Loan)	2.0000	0.6456
12. Welfare of backward classes (Housing subsidy)	5.0000	0.9749
13. Information and Publicity	0.8400	1.3376
14. L.D. Schemes	0.1200	0.0674
<b>Total:</b>	<b>98.3770</b>	<b>108.5120</b>



3.6 The heavy shortfall under Transport and Communications was attributable to the fact that a cargo-cum-passenger vessel for which an order had been placed was not completed before the close of the Plan period.

3.7 The progress in nearly all the sectors of developmental activity was generally satisfactory and in the fields of education and cooperation was particularly impressive. There were 5200 pupils on the rolls in the primary schools against 3700 at the end of the Second Plan. The enrolment of girls showed a steady improvement. The increase in the percentage of literacy, which rose from 23 in 1960-61 to 32 in 1965-66, was striking.

3.8 Nine Cooperative Supply and Marketing Societies were organised, one in each of the islands except Bitra whose inhabitants number less than a hundred. The sale of all rationed commodities and consumer goods is made through them. The societies also market the entire copra produce of the islands.

3.9 31 mechanised fishing boats were added to the indigenous fishing fleet and a pilot plant for the canning of Tuna fish was established at Agatti. Coconut being the backbone of the islands' economy, special attention was paid to the growing and distribution of improved varieties of coconut seedlings and distribution of fertilisers and insecticides.

Annual Plans

3.10 Against an outlay of Rs.62 lakhs provided for in the Annual Plan for 1966-67 the expenditure incurred amounted to Rs.44.56 lakhs and against the approved provision of Rs.49.58 lakhs for the Annual Plan for 1967-68 the expenditure is expected to exceed the provision.

Fourth Five Year Plan

3.11 The Team was struck by the care and thoroughness with which the Draft Fourth Plan for the Union Territory had been prepared in the expectation that there would be no break in the continuity of planning. It trusts that those schemes which have not already been implemented in the Annual Plans will be taken up for execution in the Fourth Plan period commencing from the year 1969.

## Chapter - IV

### LAND PROBLEM

4.1 Land is divided into two classes, Jenmam and Pandaram. Jenmam lands are privately owned and pay no tax or revenue to Government. Pandaram lands are owned by Government and given ordinarily on lease to individuals on rent fixed on the basis of coconut trees. In Minicoy, however, these lands are leased collectively hamletwise. Leases are granted in respect of Pandaram lands in Kalpeni on the result of auctions which are conducted annually.

4.2 The ownership is absolute in respect of Jenmam lands subject to such rights as may be claimed by the tenants of the owner. The Government have absolute rights in Pandaram lands subject to such rights as may be allowed to lease holders under the terms of the lease.

#### Land Reforms

4.3 Far reaching reforms were introduced by the Land Revenue and Tenancy Regulation, 1965. A striking feature of the reforms was the abolition of the Nadapu tenancy under which a tenant had to do manual service for the Jenmi in addition to payment of rent. Although the rent in most cases was nominal and the tenant had full occupancy rights in respect of the land and trees of which he was the lessee the stigma of service often led to strained relations between him and the Jenmi.

Under the Land Revenue and Tenancy Regulation, 1965 the Nadapu tenancy was abolished. The tenant became the owner of 3/4th of the lands and trees under the tenancy, the remaining 1/4th falling to the share of the Jeni. Fixity of tenure was also assured for landless tenants. Thus a person having no land either as owner or tenant but owning only a homestead erected by him in the land of another man with his permission could not be evicted from his homestead or hut. While the rest of the country has been somewhat halfhearted in the introduction of land reforms the Team is happy to observe that the fact that basic changes in tenancy have been brought about without any acrimony either on the side of the landlord or of the tenant in so short a period is a tribute to the tactful and imaginative approach of the Administration to the problem.

4.4 A cadastral survey of the islands which was undertaken some time ago is nearing completion while the settlement is being done on the lines laid down by the L.M.&A. Survey Boundaries' Regulation, 1959. The Settlement will cover all islands in the Union Territory whether Jeni or Pandaram, and will deal with the following matters:-

- (a) Assessment of private Jenman lands.
- (b) Abolition of tree tax on Pandaram lands and fixing assessment on such lands.
- (c) Issue of pattas to landholders.

- (d) Preparation of registers including settlement register islandwise for purposes of revenue collection and revenue administration.
- (e) Preparation of a Record of Rights - showing the rights and liabilities of landholders and their tenants.



## Chapter - V

### AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

#### Agriculture

5.1 The only agricultural crop of economic significance in the islands is coconut for which the soil and climatic conditions are ideal. With the possible exception of South Pandaram lands in Minicoy where the wild screw pine bush competes with coconut, the entire area in the Territory has been covered with coconut trees and there is very little scope for further expansion. The total area under coconut cultivation is estimated at 2738.9 hectares. During the year 1966-67, the production of coconuts was valued at Rs.163 lakhs.

5.2 Besides coconut a few other crops or trees are grown either as inter-crops or scattered crops but they are of little or no economic importance. Among these are cholam, ragi, tapioca, chillies, sweet potatoes, yam, bread fruit, papaye, drumsticks, lime and bananas. Betelvine has also been raised on a small scale in some islands, while tobacco has been experimented successfully at Kavaratti. In Androth and Kalpeni islands, paddy cultivation was taken up on an experimental basis. As extension of coconut cultivation is more profitable paddy cultivation is likely to be restricted to lowlying areas. Since foodgrain production is negligible in the Territory, practically the entire foodgrain requirements of the islands have to be obtained from the mainland.

5.3 Agriculture is confined mainly to coconut cultivation. Till recently the islanders were not aware of the modern techniques of coconut cultivation. Efforts have been made under the Five Year Plans to introduce scientific methods by issuing to the islanders quality coconut seedlings, fertilizers and modern agricultural implements, vegetable green manure and cereal seeds, root crop cuttings and pump sets at subsidized rates.

5.4 About 30% of the total coconut crop is destroyed by rats. To combat the rat menace, 21 tons of galvanised iron sheets were distributed at subsidized rates during the Third Plan period for banding coconut trees to prevent the rats from climbing them. This method, although effective, has been found to be very expensive. Rat traps have made little or no impression on the rat menace while the mongoose, an enemy of the rat, introduced some years ago showed a preference for the local poultry and left the rats alone. The importing of owls into the islands was also tried but without success. Pesticides are distributed free for the killing of rats but there has been no significant reduction in the rat population as the scale of distribution of rat poison is somewhat limited. The traditional practice of annual rat-hunt is still resorted to but participation in this event is not as enthusiastic as it used to be.

Here is a field for research to evolve an effective method, biological or other, to keep down the population of rats. But until such time as a more effective remedy is in sight the methods now employed, namely, banding of trees, distribution of rat poison and rat hunts will have to be continued.

5.5 It was represented to the Team that while the Cooperative Societies were supplying G.I. Sheets of the correct guage the Agriculture Department was trying to force on the islanders thick sheets of non-standard size which did not quite go round the trees and left gaps through which the rats could make their way to the coconut bunches. The Team in discussion with the Administrator, suggested that the money collected in advance from the islanders for the supply of G.I. Sheets should either be refunded or steps taken urgently to supply sheets of the proper specifications.

5.6 Wells are the only source of irrigation in the islands. To encourage irrigation, pump sets are sold to the islanders at 50% of the cost. The trial cultivation of paddy in Androth and Kalpeni islands has proved successful and is proposed to be expanded. A scheme is under consideration for the purchase of small power tillers to be used in Government farms and for hiring out to local farmers.

5.7 Departmental demonstration farms, orchards and model vegetable gardens have been started in the islands.

Vegetable seeds are sold at reduced rates and kitchen gardens are becoming increasingly popular.

5.8 The departmental agricultural farms have succeeded in demonstrating the feasibility of growing vegetables and raising fruit trees like Papaya and Jack. While the diversification of crops to make available to the people vegetables and fruits in an area where malnutrition is common is to be welcomed it should be recognised that in view of the non-availability of land for large scale cultivation, these crops are not likely to make any significant impact on the economy of the islands. Although this was not their proximate purpose, the farms, which in view of the paucity of land had, of necessity, to carry on their operations within the existing coconut plantations, have, by the discovery of the extremely beneficial effect of inter-cultivation on the yield of the coconut trees, achieved a result immeasurably more important to the economy of the islands than the mere demonstration of the feasibility of growing some subsidiary crops. Whereas trees a few yards away from the inter-cultivated area were practically bare, those within the area presented a striking contrast with their full and sagging bunches of coconuts. In the opinion of the Study Team the output of coconuts in the Union Territory can be doubled within a period of five years if a determined effort is made and encouragement given to extend inter-cultivation to cover all the

islands. To this end, as sub-soil water is available within easy reach, pumps, power tillers, and agricultural implements may be either sold at subsidized rates or hired out to the islanders. The islanders are now aware of the value of fertilizers. To make the scheme a success the distribution of fertilizers should be intensified.

5.9 The Study Team was perturbed to learn that the subsidy on agricultural implements had not been continued during 1967-68 and 1968-69. In the opinion of the Study Team it was wrong and illtimed to have withdrawn the concession when the islanders were beginning to appreciate the value of inter-cultivation and were ready and willing to try it out on their plantations. The Team strongly supports the demand made at the time of its visit to the islands for the restoration of the subsidy.\*

5.10 Unlike the inhabitants of the other islands the islanders of Minicoy depend less on coconut than on fishing to sustain their economy. To them fishing is a full-time occupation and they have little time to give to agriculture. Coconut plantations in Minicoy have not therefore received the attention that they should have received to get the best out of them and no serious attempt has been made to plant coconut trees on the Pandaram lands. Even the few coconut trees that lie interspersed among the screw pine bush show signs of complete neglect.

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\*The Administration has since intimated/proposed to give 50% subsidy during the Fourth Plan.



5.11 The resistance to the clearance of the screw pine bushes to which the islanders seem to have developed an emotional attachment presumably because they provide the fuel necessary for the smoking of Tuna fish, goes back to the days of the British regime. Nor is it necessary to disturb the equanimity of the islanders by insisting on their immediate clearance as there are vacant spaces all over the Pandaram lands where coconut trees can be planted. Clearance need only be gradual and so phased as to ensure that there is no scarcity of fuel for the smoking of Tuna fish. The programme of planting coconut trees in Pandaram may, - until the islanders are persuaded to see the wisdom of utilising the Pandaram lands more economically than they are doing now, be limited to the planting of coconut trees in the vacant places in between the screw-pine bushes.

#### Fisheries

5.12 Surrounded as they are by some of the finest fishing grounds in the Arabian Sea there is a vast potential for the development of fisheries in all or nearly all the islands comprising the Union Territory. The Administration has rightly given high priority for the development of fisheries in the Five Year Plans. An attempt was made in the Second Plan period to introduce mechanised fishing. Exploratory fishing was carried out by the Fisheries Department with 9 mechanised fishing boats during the Second Plan. There were 42 mechanised

boats at the end of the Third Plan period, of which 28 were issued to fishermen on a subsidized hire-purchase basis. Due attention was paid to the training of staff and 97 fishermen were trained in mechanical fishing during the Third Plan.

5.13 To popularise modern methods of fishing, fisheries requisites like nylon yarn and hooks were supplied by the Department at subsidized rates and to demonstrate modern methods of fish processing 'smoke kilns' were established at Kavaratti and a pilot plant was started for canning Tuna fish at Agatti. Two units for the extraction of shark oil were also started, one at Kavaratti and the other at Agatti. Provision was made for the starting of a fairly modern factory for the canning of Tuna fish at Minicoy with a cold storage and ice making plant and a quality control laboratory as its adjuncts. At the time of the Team's visit the construction of the factory was nearing completion. Other activities during the Third Plan included the starting of a Boat Building Yard at Kavaratti and the setting up of a workshop for the repair and reconditioning of mechanized fishing boats. Of the 51 mechanised fishing boats now in service 12 have been built in the Boat Building Yard at Kavaratti, an impressive performance. Steps are being taken to add to the fleet by purchases from the mainland.

5.14 The Team was disappointed to observe that notwithstanding the steps taken by the Administration to encourage and popularise fishing as a means of improving the economic condition of the islanders the impact has not been commensurate with the effort. Fishing is still confined to subsistence fishing in the islands with the exception of Minicoy where professional fishing has been the traditional occupation of the islanders. The love for sea so conspicuous in the Minicoy islanders appears to be totally absent amongst the inhabitants of the other islands; and combined with a disinclination to exert they have found it more convenient and profitable to use the pablo boats for the inter-island transport of passengers than for fishing - a flagrant abuse of the concession of subsidized sale of the boats. The Team understands that the Administration has recently stepped in and stopped this practice.

5.15 The Team feels that the present inertia amongst the islanders can be overcome if steps are taken to demonstrate in a practical manner that the training imparted could be put to profitable use. To convince them that they can add appreciably to their income by taking to fishing, fishing operations may first be started departmentally, utilising, as far as possible, the services of the men already trained and any others who may offer themselves for training. Wages offered to the

fishermen should be attractive. Arrangements should be adequate for the marketing of fish. A system of profit-sharing may be introduced as soon as the scheme begins to pay. When the utility of the scheme is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the islanders a Cooperative Society may be formed of the men engaged in the fishing operations and any others who may wish to join.

5.16 The marine fisheries round the islands are particularly rich in Tuna fish, which is already popular in U.S.A. and for which it should not be difficult to find a ready market in several other European countries. In Minicoy where Tuna is the mainstay of the islanders' economy the traditional method of catching is by the pole and line method, using indigenous canoes locally called 'mas odies'. The initial resistance to mechanise the 'odies' has now been overcome and there is a growing demand for mechanised boats, built preferably to the design of the indigenous canoes. The fish is smoked and processed and sold as 'mas' to middlemen in Cannanore on the mainland. 'Mas' is popular in Ceylon and Burma. The Team understands that Ceylon has stopped buying 'Mas' from India as it finds the price charged by the Indian traders unattractive. So long as there is no difficulty in marketing the quantity produced at present this need not cause us concern. But when production increases, as it is bound to increase with the incentives offered to augment the catches, the islands may have to face the

problem of overproduction unless steps are taken in advance to popularise its use in Burma and other adjoining countries. The cooperation of the State Trading Corporation may be enlisted to revive exports of 'mas' to Ceylon and to find new markets for it. For the time being, however, the canning factory started in Minicoy will take care of any production in excess of the demand for 'mas'.

5.17 A serious limiting factor to Tuna fishing is the availability of live bait. What is available from the lagoons has to be supplemented by live bait fisheries. One live bait fishery was established in Minicoy some years ago. Steps have been taken during the Third Plan to start similar fisheries in the other islands. Tuna fishing needs intensive training, and there is no indication that islanders outside Minicoy who have been given the training, have taken to Tuna fishing in a big way. Their fishing activity is confined to a few miles from the shore and mostly to lagoons.

5.18 A comprehensive plan for the all-round development of fisheries in Minicoy is under the consideration of the Administration. The scheme should take full advantage of the potentialities of the surrounding fisheries and preliminary arrangements completed in time for its introduction in the first year of the Fourth Plan.

5.19 In the work undertaken so far to promote the development of fisheries in the islands the aim, broadly speaking, has been to augment the catches by the introduction of mechanised fishing while adhering to indigenous techniques. No scientific survey has been made to locate deep sea shoals and to explore the possibilities of deep sea fishing although it is generally known that the deep sea surrounding the islands teems with fish. The traditional rod and line technique for the catching of Tuna fish, as pointed out already, has serious limitations and can hardly do more than scrape the surface of the tremendous potential which exists for the development of Tuna fisheries in the area. New techniques of fishing will have to be evolved and new biological methods found for a fuller utilisation of these magnificent fisheries which should be treated as a natural resource and exploited for the benefit of the islands in a big way, if necessary as a State enterprise. To this end it may be necessary to enlist the cooperation of countries like Norway and Japan who have considerable experience of modern fishing techniques and who have been assisting us elsewhere, in the development of our marine fisheries.

5.20 The following representations were made to the Team during its visit to the islands:

(1) While under the hire purchase system as originally introduced the subsidy on mechanised boats

had been given at the rate of 100% on the cost of engine and 25% on the cost of the hull the present pattern was to allow a subsidy equivalent to 75% of the cost of the engine and 25% of the cost of the hull. The islanders desired that the old rates of subsidy should be restored.

The Team is unable to support the demand of the islanders as there is no indication to show that a serious effort is being made by them, outside Minicoy, to use the boats for the development of fishing. As observed earlier the concession of subsidy has been abused by pressing these boats for service as carriers of passengers between the islands.

(2) According to the islanders the insistence that payments for the pablo boats should be made in cash in monthly instalments was operating as a hardship. In lieu of the monthly payment they desired that the Administration should take 50% of the fish caught by them towards the cost of the pablo boats. The Team is unable to recommend their request as the recovery of the cost of boats would then depend on the whims of the islanders who have shown no great enthusiasm in using the boats for fishing. It is however open to them, for good and sufficient reasons, to ask for an extension of time to make the payments.

(3) It was pointed out that the practice of supplying spare parts with the engines had been stopped and that there was a serious shortage of spare parts with

the result that boats had been lying idle for months. The problem of procurement of spare parts has been complicated by the fact that engines of diverse makes have been imported from foreign countries from time to time. The present practice of indenting for spare parts through the D.G.(S&D) has also made for delay. The Team suggests that powers should be delegated by the DG.(S&D) to the Administration to make direct purchases of spare parts from the manufacturers, placing at its disposal a reasonable amount of foreign exchange for the purpose.

(4) Oil was being supplied to islanders at concessional rates applicable to Government consumers. As the special rates quoted by the Indian Oil Company were not applicable to private consumers the islanders are now required to pay for the oil supplied to them at market rates. The islanders desired that oil should be supplied to them at the old rates. It is for the Administration to persuade the I.O.C. to make an exception in the case of supply made by the Administration to the pablo boat owners in this backward area and to obtain their concurrence to the resumption of supply at the rates applicable to Government consumers\*.

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\*The Administration has intimated that oil is procured on rate contract and supplied to islanders on a 'no profit no loss' basis.



5.21 It was brought to the notice of the Team at Minocoy that pablo boats had not been issued to any of the 9 villages in the island. Minicoy, an island of professional fishermen, can make the best use of the pablo boats and in the opinion of the Team, can, on merits, lay a claim for preferential treatment. The Team was informed that the boats now under construction in the Boat Building Yard at Kavaratti would be issued to the Minicoy islanders as soon as they were ready for delivery.\*

Adminis-  
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\*The  $\angle$  has since intimated that three boats have been given to individuals and 10 boats to the Fishermen Cooperative Society in Minicoy.

## Chapter VI

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PANCHAYATI RAJ AND COOPERATION

#### C.D. Programmes & Panchayati Raj

6.1 The Community Development programme and the Panchayati Raj have not been introduced in the Territory.

#### Cooperation

6.2 In 1960, the L.M.&A. Islands Cooperative Societies Regulation was promulgated to give a legal basis to the cooperative movement. In order to eliminate middlemen in the marketing of agricultural produce and supply of consumer goods, cooperative supply and marketing societies were organised in all the nine inhabited islands during the Third Five Year Plan. Bitra which has a very small population is served by a branch of a society in one of the adjoining islands. Government has advanced working capital amounting to Rs.1.50 lakhs to these cooperatives. This loan is interest-free and repayable in a period of 10 years. In addition to this loan, the societies have been granted a loan of Rs.15,000 and a grant of Rs.5,000 for the construction of godowns. Managerial subsidy is also given to the cooperatives.

6.3. So successful has been the working of these societies in the marketing of the agricultural produce that Odam owners and the middlemen who exploited the islanders in the sale of copra and the local merchants who fleeced them during the monsoon months when consumer goods were in short supply have been virtually eliminated.

The societies have also started subsidiary industries like the extraction of coconut oil, running of bakeries, etc. In 1965-66, they marketed agricultural produce worth Rs.40.12 lakhs and consumer goods worth Rs.37.01 lakhs.

A cooperative marketing federation has been established which is supplying goods needed by the primary societies. Copra is sold by auction in the mainland by the federation and the best prices possible are obtained for the islanders.

6.4 The striking success of the cooperative movement in this backward area is mainly due to the active association of the departmental staff with the working of the cooperative societies. While the official element may be withdrawn gradually over a period of years the islanders themselves are strongly against the dissociation of Government staff from the management of the societies.

6.5 There are difficulties of a religious character in the way of starting credit societies.\* The islanders are opposed to the charging of interest as usury is anti-Islamic.

6.6 An apex society has been registered at Kavaratti to coordinate the activities of the various primary Cooperative Societies. They have 2 forwarding depots at Mangalore and Calicut which purchase all the consumer goods required by the societies and they also market their agricultural produce, copra.

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\*The Administration has since intimated that credit society has been started in Kalpeni.

6.7 A Fishermen's Cooperative Society has been formed in Minicoy with 3 mechanized boats. A labour contract society with 352 workers has also been formed in Minicoy to take up small construction works and also for loading and unloading cargo from ships. An industrial cooperative has been formed in Chetlat island for handloom weaving.

#### Indebtedness

6.8 Indebtedness is not a serious problem with the islanders. Credit is not very much in demand for agricultural purposes and most of the loans come under the category of unproductive loans for marriages and other social rituals. In some islands, loans have been given to ~~tribals~~ against the security of coconut trees assessed at the absurdly low rates of 2-4 annas per tree. Such trees have been in the possession of creditors for a long time in the island of Kalpeni. Cooperative Societies have advanced loans to such debtors for repayment of debts, hypothecating the coconut trees as security.

6.9 To tackle the problem of indebtedness the L.M.&A. Islands (Debt Conciliation and Grant of Loans) Regulation was promulgated in 1964. It provides for the settlement of old debts by conciliation through the agency of a tribunal. During the Fourth Plan period, it is proposed to organise rural cooperative banks under the cooperative sector to meet the small credit requirements of the people.

6.10 At present the alienation of land by the tribals is prohibited under the law. The Team recommends that the law should be amended to enable the tribals to mortgage their lands to Cooperative Societies should they be in need of credit. In the event of default the land may be sold to another tribal or the land may be managed by another tribal or even by the debtor himself and the loan recovered in easy instalments.

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## Chapter - VII

### INDUSTRIES, MINERALS AND POWER

#### Industries

7.1 There are no large scale industries in the Territory. The following are some of the traditional cottage industries:-

1. Coir twisting,
2. Copra making, and
3. Mas fish making.

7.2 43.4% of the total working population is engaged in house hold industries like coir spinning, copra making and fish preservation, etc. From the point of view of employment potential, coir spinning is by far the most important amongst the cottage industries. According to the 1961 Census, 7240 persons out of the total working population of 11,927 are engaged in this industry. Since it is essentially an occupation of the poorer classes (Melcheris), the coir industry is maintained as a Government monopoly from very early times. Fibre extracted from coconut husks are spun into loose yarn by hand and exchanged for rice at the Government godowns located in each island at the commutation rates fixed by Government. The present commutation rate is 1 kg. of rice for 1 kg. of coir yarn. The Team understands that there is a proposal to end the Government monopoly and transfer it to the Cooperative Societies. As it is difficult for the

Cooperative Societies to run the business on a 'no profit no loss' basis the Team feels that the Government monopoly which has sustained the poor islanders' economy over the years should not be given up.

7.3 From the economic point of view, copra-making is a far more important industry. It is a seasonal industry confined to fair weather months. The entire quantity of copra produced in the islands is exported to the markets on the mainland. During 1966-67, the total exports of copra were valued at Rs.28 lakhs.

7.4 Among the food processing and preservation industries are gur and vinegar making and fish drying. Gur and vinegar are mainly produced for local consumption, though small quantities are exported to the mainland. Drying of fish, specially 'masmeen' or Bonito is an important industry in the island of Minicoy. During 1966-67, exports of 'masmeen' came to 51 tons from the Minicoy island alone, valued at Rs. 3 lakhs.

7.5 Apart from these cottage industries, other small industrial units mentioned below have been set up during the Second and Third Plan periods. Among them are a handloom weaving unit at Chetlat island, a hosiery weaving unit at Kalpeni island and curled fibre unit at Androth island. The Fisheries Department has established a Tuna canning unit at Agatti while a more modern unit is being set up at Minicoy.

7.6 The canning unit at Agatti has come up against the difficulty of getting cans of proper specifications. In the absence of bulk orders the Metal Box Company seems to have stopped the supply of cans. The Administration is considering a relaxation of specifications if firms are reluctant to supply cans of the prescribed specifications. As Tuna fish has an international market the Team is not in favour of relaxing the specifications as such a step may militate against its popularity in foreign markets. As a bigger canning unit is shortly going into production at Minicoy it should be possible for the Fisheries Department to place bulk orders on the manufacturers for the supply of cans in accordance with international specifications.

7.7 A decorticating plant for the manufacture of bristle and mattress fibre is under installation in the Androth island.

7.8 For the development of technical skills, training has been imparted to islanders to fit them for such trades as carpentry and blacksmithy and also to turn out mechanics and drivers to handle the mechanized fishing boats.

7.9 420 islanders were given training in coir and carpet making. Training was given to islanders in gur and vinegar making and mat-weaving. A training centre in tailoring was also started at Kavaratti. A hosiery factory was set up at Kalpeni.



### Minerals

7.10 A survey of mineral resources has been conducted by the Indian Bureau of Mines in the Territory. The results are awaited.

### Power

7.11 The importance of electrification as a factor in improving the living standards of the people has been recognized and six out of the ten inhabited islands have already been electrified - Minicoy during the Second Plan and Amini, Androth and Kavaratti during the Third Plan. Kalpeni and Agatti were electrified in 1968. Diesel generating sets have been installed in all these islands. The electrification of the remaining islands will be taken up in the Fourth Plan.

7.12 The Team fears that diesel power may prove to be somewhat expensive for use in an industry like the fish canning industry set up in Minicoy which needs a fairly large block of power for its refrigerator and ice-making plants. As the islands are flat and lie exposed to the winds blowing from the sea all the year round the question of harnessing wind power for the generation of electricity may be examined. If the Central Water and Power Commission does not have the expertise necessary to give them constructive advice - the Administration appears to have consulted that body - the Team suggests that foreign experts may be consulted after collecting data on the wind velocities in the islands at different times of the year.

## Chapter VIII

### TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

8.1 The transport problem of the Territory relates mainly to mainland-island travel on the one hand and inter-island travel on the other. The average area of the island being about a sq. mile, they have no serious internal transport problems. There are no pucca roads for vehicular traffic. Small tractors and hand-drawn trolleys are used on katcha roads for transporting goods in some islands. Coral makes an excellent road surface and there is need for improving and extending the roads in some of the islands.

8.2 For inter-island communications and (till a few years ago) for communications between the mainland and the islands the traditional mode of transport was the sailing vessel known as "Odi" in the Minicoy island and "Odam" in other islands. The "Odi" is a big sailing craft with a capacity of over 80 tons built on the model of the Arab sailing vessels whereas the "Odam" is smaller craft with a cargo capacity ranging from 15 to 40 tons. There were 3 "Odis" and 109 "Odams" in the Territory in 1966-67. These are however fair weather vessels and are now purely cargo carriers, their passenger certificates having been withdrawn a few years ago. For passenger traffic between the mainland and the islands the people now depend entirely on motor vessels. Two passenger-cum-cargo vessels and a third vessel exclusively for the transport of cargo ply at

△passenger  
cum-cargo  
one -

present between the mainland and islands. Of the two  
'M.V. Laccadives', is owned by the Administration and  
the other 'Raja Lakshmi' is chartered from a private  
company. The cargo vessel, 'Sahakari', <sup>is</sup> owned by a  
cooperative organisation. For inter-island  
communication a motor launch owned by the Administration  
is being used.

8.3 Transport service between the mainland and the  
islands is suspended during the monsoon from June to  
September. An attempt made in 1965-66 to run a non-stop  
shipping service between the islands and the mainland could  
not be maintained during 1966-67 as the weather conditions  
were unfavourable. The Team understands that an order  
has been placed with an East European Country for an  
all-weather ship. When this ship is commissioned, there  
will be a noticeable improvement in the transport position  
as 'M.V. Laccadives' which now plies between the mainland  
and the islands will become available for inter-island  
service.

8.4 The coral banks which rise sheer from the bed  
of the sea and lie concealed within a few feet of its  
surface make navigation particularly hazardous and the  
treacherous waters round the islands have been the scene  
of many ship-wrecks in the past. The sea surrounding the  
islands should be properly charted to show the coral banks  
and the depths at which they lie hidden and modern  
navigational aids should be provided to make navigation

in these waters safe, especially during bad weather. The Team was surprised to learn that 'M.V. Laccadives', although constructed in 1966 in Calcutta, was running without any of the elementary navigational aids such as echo sounders and marine radars.

8.5 One jetty has been constructed at Kavaratti. There are no jetties in the other islands. The Team trusts that the Harbour Department will lose no time in providing the navigational accessories and facilities necessary to make navigation safe and will not wait for a shipwreck to force it into action. The Team is constrained to make this observation as even after the recommendation of the Director of Shipping made over a year ago, nothing has been done to fit M.V. Laccadives with the navigational aids which it badly needs.

8.6 All the islands, with the exception of Androth, have lagoons and a lagoon, if deepened, can serve as a natural harbour for small ships.

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## Chapter IX

### TOURISM

9.1 So complete has been the isolation of the Union Territory that few, if any, even in India, who have read about the South Sea islands are aware that off the West Coast, and within an overnight's run by a fast motor launch, lie a group of coral islands in the Arabian Sea which reproduce, though not in the character of its inhabitants, many of the characteristics of the famed coral islands in the Pacific. Sheltered by the encircling arms of the coral reefs, calm and placid beside the turbulent waters of the deep blue sea, in the morning sun a limpid expanse of shimmering emerald of the softest hue, delightful to the eye and soothing to the spirit there is nothing more beautiful in Nature than the lagoon of a coral island. And in Bitra, a small and sparsely populated island we find enclosed by an atoll one of the largest and most beautiful lagoons to be found anywhere in the Laccadives and Amindives group. Six miles long and two miles wide, its floor of white sand dotted with coral formations of fantastic design visible to the naked eye through its pellucid waters hardly two fathoms deep, and its astonishing variety of multicoloured fish scintillating in the sun as they dart in and out of their coral hideouts, the lagoon is the glory of Bitra - an island untouched hitherto by the hectic hurry and bustle of modern life and which can be developed into a haven of peace and

tranquillity for those who wish to get away from the dust and tumult of towns and cities. The absence of good drinking water, which accounts for the sparseness of its population, need not stand in the way of its being developed as tourist resort as the technique of desalination of sea water has sufficiently advanced to make sea water potable at moderate cost. There is not enough land on the island for the construction of an air strip. The lagoon is, however, an ideal place for a seaplane to land and it should be easy to operate a seaplane service between the Cochin harbour and the island. About twelve hours run by sea it is an hour's flight from Cochin or Mangalore.

## Chapter - X

### EDUCATION

10.1 Education has made considerable progress under the Five Year Plans. When the new Administration took over in 1956, there were 8 primary schools and an incomplete school with a skeleton staff of 28 teachers, many of whom were unqualified. The schools were ill-equipped and housed in thatched sheds. The total enrolment in the schools was 1,521 which represented a bare 24% of the children of the school going age between 6 and 17 years. The parents took little or no interest in the education of their children who often stayed away from school. The highest priority was given by the Administration - and rightly - to education during the Second Plan and nearly 30% of the entire Second Plan provision was spent on educational schemes. At present, the Territory has 39 institutions which include one Higher Secondary School, 3 High Schools, 10 senior basic schools, 19 junior basic schools, and 6 nursery schools. The total enrolment during 1966-67 was 5,497 with 285 teachers on the rolls. The number on the rolls at the time of the Team's visit in January 69 was 6384 of which 2400 were girls.

10.2 All the educational institutions are run by Government. There is a primary school in every island. Although primary education has not been made compulsory almost all children of the school-going age now attend

schools. The medium of instruction is Malayalam. As there were very few trained teachers amongst the islanders, teachers had to be recruited from the mainland.

10.3 To make the conditions of service attractive teachers from the mainland are given free unfurnished residential accommodation and where such accommodation is not available, a house-rent allowance. In addition to a special pay of 40% of the basic pay they are entitled to a free passage to the mainland and back once a year for themselves and their families.

10.4 Education is free at all stages. Students are given text-books, writing material and other accessories free of cost. The girl students are provided with two sets of uniform. Free mid-day meals are served to all the students in the primary classes. Students who go out to the mainland for study, are put up in hostels where lodging and boarding are free. All students studying in high schools are eligible for scholarships.

10.5 Students who pursue their studies on the mainland for collegiate and post-graduate courses are given scholarships. Their tuition fees, examination fees, and hostel expenses are met by Government. The Administration runs a hostel for island students studying in the colleges at Calicut\*.

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\*The Administration has since intimated that this hostel is not functioning at Calicut now and that students are being accommodated in hostels attached to the colleges in which they are studying.



10.6 The prevalence of early marriages and prejudice against the education of girls are responsible for the poor attendance of girls in schools. The prejudice is gradually breaking down and even married girls are now taking to education. To overcome the objection of the inhabitants to co-education the Administration opened separate schools for girls with women teachers. The Team came across a number of bright girls in the higher secondary school at Kavaratti, a co-educational institution.

10.7 No better testimony to the progress made in the field of education is necessary than the impressive increase in the percentage of literacy from 23 to 32 in the Third Plan period. There are now 130 students from the islands studying in different parts of the country for M.B.B.S., Engineering and other technical courses. What is needed at present is not large scale expansion but consolidation and improvement in enrolment at the primary stage, particularly of girl students. According to the Education Officer of the Territory, although enrolment was as high as 90% in Kelpeni and 80% on an average the attendance of students was irregular, especially during the fair season.

10.8 The medium of instruction in the higher secondary school at Kavaratti is English. Admission to the school is restricted to students who are above the average. Those who do not make the grade have to seek admission in the high schools at Ameni or Kalpeni where the medium of

instruction is Malayalam. The islanders desired that a high school should be opened at Kavaratti for the convenience of students who do not qualify for admission to the higher secondary school. The Team suggests that while the case for opening a full-fledged high school for such students is weak the Administration may consider the question of opening a Malayalam medium section as an adjunct to the higher secondary school.

10.9 It was brought to the notice of the Team that the higher secondary school did not have teachers with post-graduate qualifications to impart instruction in such subjects as Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology and that the standard expected of a higher secondary school could not be maintained if the teaching was entrusted to ordinary graduates as at present. The Team was glad to learn that notwithstanding the difficulties in recruiting qualified teachers from the mainland the Administration had taken vigorous steps to recruit them and that appointment orders were under issue.

10.10 After passing the S.S.L.C. examination students have to undergo the pre-degree course in colleges on the mainland. Scholarships are given to students for study in pre-degree and degree courses in mainland colleges and seats are reserved for them by the Administration. A student who fails in the pre-degree final examination loses his eligibility for scholarship till he passes that examination and joins a degree course in a recognised college. It

was represented to the Team that scholarships should be continued in such cases until such time as the students pass the examination. The Team feels that at least two chances should be given to the students to pass the examination even when they join a non-recognised coaching college on the mainland for want of seats in<sup>a</sup> recognised college. In the alternative the Team suggests that steps may be taken to open a pre-degree class in the higher secondary school at Kavaratti which may be raised to the status of a collegiate high school.

10.11 There was a general demand for an increase in the value of the scholarships. In view of the steep increase in the cost of living the case for an increase is strong.

Education and Employment.

10.12 The employment opportunities in the islands are limited. Educated islanders consider it infra dig to climb the coconut trees and work on the plantations and look about for white collared jobs as clerks and assistants in Government offices. And even those who have been educated in the medical, engineering and other technical colleges on the mainland are averse to accepting employment outside the Union Territory and press for a posting in their own islands, carrying their preference for such a posting to the point of demanding 40% of the

basic pay now admissible to mainlanders serving in the Union Territory for service outside their islands.

10.13 When the islands were constituted into a Union Territory the number of qualified islanders available for appointment to the clerical and other posts was negligible and the Administration had, of necessity, to recruit them from the mainland. The grievance voiced now by the islanders that outsiders have usurped the positions which are justly their due has, therefore, no substance. Nor is it in the interests of efficiency to deprive the Administration over-night of the assistance of its trained and experienced staff by asking them to make way for the local men. It is, however, open to the Administration to draw up a phased programme of transfer of the mainlanders, over a period of years, to the Central Government offices on the mainland, a programme so phased as to cause the minimum dislocation of the work of the Union Territory.

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## Chapter - XI

### HEALTH AND HOUSING

11.1 Medical and Public Health: The major diseases in the Territory are leprosy, filariasis and T.B. Leprosy is endemic in Minicoy and Androth and the incidence of T.B. in the former island is high. Among the other diseases prevalent in the islands are ringworm, bacillary dysentery, conjunctivitis and trachoma.

11.2 Before the constitution of the islands into a Union Territory, there were 6 ill-equipped dispensaries and all of them were housed in thatched buildings. At the end of the Second Plan, there were 6 dispensaries, 2 maternity centres and one hospital. During the Third Plan, 5 dispensaries and two maternity centres were converted into primary health centres and the dispensary at Kavaratti was up-graded into a hospital with 30 beds. The primary health centres have 10 beds each. Medical aid is free. Patients requiring specialised treatment are provided facilities for medical aid on the mainland.

11.3 Steps have been taken during the last two Plan periods to control the spread of leprosy and filaria. In addition to the antifilaria measures undertaken to prevent its spread, medicines are distributed free to control filariasis. Leprosy patients are segregated and housed in separate colonies where medical aid is free. There are, at present 3 leprosy colonies run by Government.

Teams of polio and eye specialists have also visited the islands.

Study

11.4 The Team came across a large number of pits full of water dug within a few yards of each other in Minicoy. Similar pits were found in the other islands visited by the Team. Oil spraying is resisted by the islanders as they are soak pits for the coconut husks from which fibre is extracted. The pits are notorious breeding places for mosquitoes which are the carriers of filaria. As the water in the lagoon is equally good for the extraction of fibre, the Team suggests that steps may be taken by the Administration to compel the owners to close the pits and transfer the venue of the soaking operations to the lagoons.

11.5 There is an acute shortage of doctors. Although the incentives offered are liberal and include free quarters, a non-practising allowance of 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the pay subject to a minimum of Rs.150/- and a special pay of 40% of the basic pay doctors from the mainland are reluctant to serve in the islands. A Senior Medical Officer's post has been lying vacant for the last 9 years and 7 posts of doctors have not been filled for some considerable time. Although the hospital at Kavaratti the headquarters of the Union Territory, has a sanctioned staff of two doctors the only doctor incharge at the time of the Team's visit was a lady doctor who had been recruited as a touring doctor.

11.6 It was brought to the notice of the Team that there was a proposal to send a doctor from Delhi to the Union Territory and that unless the doctor knew Malayalam the islanders would not be able to describe their ailments to him. There is considerable force in the representation of the islanders and the Team suggests that if Malayalam knowing doctors are not readily available, it should be made obligatory on the part of doctors posted to the Union Territory to pass a conversation test in Malayalam within 6 months of their posting. A suitable reward may be offered as an incentive for passing the test.

11.7 Malnutrition appears to be the principal cause of T.B. It was stated that a B.C.G. Survey had been conducted and that necessary measures were being taken to prevent its spread. At present there is no T.B. Clinic in any of the islands. T.B. patients are taken to the mainland for treatment. The Team understands that the question of opening a T. B. Clinic in one of the islands is under the consideration of the Administration.

11.8 Drinking Water Supply: Under a subsidised scheme drawn up by the Administration 362 wells and 634 latrines were constructed during the Second and Third Five Year Plans. The scheme for the construction of drinking water wells envisages a subsidy of Rs.50 in cash and 6 bags of cement per well. The scheme is proposed to be continued during the Fourth Plan period.

11.9 Housing: Most of the houses in the islands are unhygienic and have no proper ventilation. Two schemes have been introduced in the Union Territory - the Village Housing Project Scheme and the Welfare of Backward Classes Housing Scheme. Under the first of these schemes villagers are granted loans for the construction of new houses and for the repair of existing houses. The amount of loan advanced is restricted to 80% of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs.3000/-. The borrower is expected to meet the rest of the cost from his own resources. Under the Welfare of Backward Classes Housing Scheme the cost of the house is estimated at Rs.1600/- and 75% of the cost, subject to a maximum of Rs.1200/-, is given as subsidy.

11.10 During the Third Plan 43 islanders were given loans amounting in the aggregate to Rs.0.65 lakh. The loan scheme evidently was not popular. The Welfare of Backward Classes Housing Scheme seems to have been introduced recently and in the absence of data no evaluation of its working is possible.

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## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

### Chapter - I

#### THE AREA AND PEOPLE

1. The study Team has no doubt that the accident of extending the Scheduled Districts Act to the islands on grounds of administrative expediency to suit the requirements of a backward population, has after the lapse of years, resulted in the inhabitants themselves being considered as members of a Scheduled Tribe. But even so the Study Team does not recommend an immediate descheduling of the population not only because of the strong opposition voiced against such a step by responsible leaders of the community including a former Member of Parliament representing the islands but also because descheduling at this stage would slow down the development effort whose impressive pace and progress, built up by the patient efforts of the Administration after the constitution of the islands into a Union Territory, bid fair to take the inhabitants to the stage of equality or near equality with the population on the mainland within the next 10 or 15 years. (para 1.10).

### Chapter - V

#### AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND FISHERIES

2. The traditional practice of annual rat-hunt is still resorted to but participation in this event is not as enthusiastic as it used to be. Here is a field for research to evolve an effective method, biological or other, to keep down the population of rats. But until such time as a more effective remedy is in sight the methods now employed, namely, banding of trees, distribution of rat poison and rat hunts will have to be continued. (para 5.4).
3. It was represented to the Team that while the Cooperative Societies were supplying G.I. Sheets of the correct gauge the Agriculture Department was trying to force on the islanders thick sheets of non-standard size which did not quite go round the trees and left gaps through which the rats could make their way to the coconut bunches. The Team in discussion

with the Administrator, suggested that the money collected in advance from the islanders for the supply of G.I. Sheets should either be refunded or steps taken urgently to supply sheets of the proper specifications. (para 5.5).

4. The departmental agricultural farms have succeeded in demonstrating the feasibility of growing vegetables and raising fruit trees like papaya and jack. While the diversification of crops to make available to the people vegetables and fruits in an area where malnutrition is common is to be welcomed it should be recognised that in view of the non-availability of land for large scale cultivation, these crops are not likely to make any significant impact on the economy of the islands (para 5.8).
5. Inter-cultivation has beneficial effects on the yield of coconut trees. Whereas trees a few yards away from the inter-cultivated area were practically bare, those within the area presented a striking contrast with their full and sagging bunches of coconuts. The output of coconuts in the Union Territory can be doubled within a period of five years if a determined effort is made and encouragement given to extend inter-cultivation to cover all the islands. To this end, as sub-soil water is available within easy reach, pumps, power tillers and agricultural implements may be either sold at subsidized rates or hired out to the islanders. The islanders are now aware of the value of fertilizers. To make the scheme a success the distribution of fertilizers should be intensified. (para 5.8).
6. The subsidy on agricultural implements had not been continued during 1967-68 and 1968-69. It was wrong and ill-timed to have withdrawn the concession when the islanders were beginning to appreciate the value of inter-cultivation and were ready and willing to try it out on their plantations. The Team strongly supports the demand made at the time of its visit to the islands for the restoration of the subsidy. (para 5.9).
7. The islanders in Minicoy resist the clearance of the screw pine bushes on the Pandaram lands presumably because they provide the fuel necessary for the smoking of Tuna fish. It is not necessary to disturb the equanimity of the islanders by insisting on their immediate clearance as there are

vacant spaces all over the Pandaram lands where coconut trees can be planted. Clearance need only be gradual and so phased as to ensure that there is no scarcity of fuel for the smoking of Tuna fish. The programme of planting coconut trees in Pandaram may, - until the islanders are persuaded to see the wisdom of utilising the Pandaram lands more economically than they are doing now, - be limited to the planting of coconut trees in the vacant places in between the screw pine bushes. (para 5.11).

8. Fishing is still confined to subsistence fishing in the islands with the exception of Minicoy where professional fishing has been the traditional occupation of the islanders. The present inertia amongst the islanders can be overcome if steps are taken to demonstrate in a practical manner that the training imparted in fishing could be put to profitable use. To convince them that they can add appreciably to their income by taking to fishing, fishing operations may first be started departmentally, utilising, as far as possible, the services of the men already trained and any others who may offer themselves for training. Wages offered to the fishermen should be attractive. Arrangements should be adequate for the marketing of fish. A system of profit-sharing may be introduced as soon as the scheme begins to pay. When the utility of the scheme is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the islanders a Cooperative Society may be formed of the men engaged in the fishing operations and any others who may wish to join. (para 5.15).
9. Ceylon has stopped buying 'mas' from India as it finds the price charged by the Indian traders unattractive. So long as there is no difficulty in marketing the quantity produced at present this need not cause us concern. But when production increases as it is bound to increase with the incentives offered to augment the catches, the islands may have to face the problem of over-production unless steps are taken in advance to popularise its use in Burma and other adjoining countries. The cooperation of the State Trading Corporation may be enlisted to revive export of 'mas' to Ceylon and to find new markets for it. (para 5.16).

10. Tuna fishing needs intensive training; and there is no indication that islanders outside Minicoy who have been given the training, have taken to Tuna fishing in a big way. Their fishing activity is confined to a few miles from the shore and mostly to lagoons. (para 5.17).
11. A comprehensive plan for the all-round development of fisheries in Minicoy is under the consideration of the Administration. The scheme should take full advantage of the potentialities of the surrounding fisheries and preliminary arrangements completed in time for its introduction in the first year of the Fourth Plan (para 5.18).
12. In the work undertaken so far to promote the development of fisheries in the islands the aim broadly speaking has been to augment the catches by the introduction of mechanised fishing while adhering to indigenous methods. No scientific survey has been made to locate deep sea shoals and to explore the possibility of deep sea fishing although it is generally known that deep sea surrounding the islands teems with fish. New techniques of fishing will have to be evolved and new biological methods found for a fuller utilisation of these magnificent fisheries which should be treated as a natural resource and exploited for the benefit of the islands in a big way, if necessary as a State enterprise. To this end it may be necessary to enlist the cooperation of countries like Norway and Japan who have considerable experience of modern fishing techniques and who have been assisting us elsewhere in the development of our marine fisheries. (para 5.19).
13. It was pointed out that the practice of supplying spare parts with the engines had been stopped and that there was a serious shortage of spare parts with the result that boats had been lying idle for months. The problem of procurement of spare parts has been complicated by the fact that engines of diverse makes have been imported from foreign countries from time to time. The present practice of indenting for spare parts through the D.G.S.&D. has also made for delay. The Team suggests that powers should be delegated by the D.G.S.&D. to the Administration to make direct purchases of spare parts from the manufacturers, placing at its disposal

a reasonable amount of foreign exchange for the purpose. (para 5.20).

14. Minicoy, an island of professional fishermen, can make the best use of the pablo boats and can, on merits lay a claim for preferential treatment. (para 5.21).

#### Chapter - VI

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PANCHAYATI RAJ AND COOPERATION

15. The striking success of the cooperative movement in this backward area is mainly due to the active association of the departmental staff with the working of the Cooperative Societies. While the official element may be withdrawn gradually over a period of years the islanders themselves are strongly against the dissociation of Government staff from the management of the societies. (para 6.4).
16. At present the alienation of land by the tribals is prohibited under the law. The law should be amended to enable the tribals to mortgage their lands to Cooperative Societies should they be in need of credit. In the event of default the land may be sold to another tribal or the land may be managed by another tribal or even by the debtor himself and the loan recovered in easy instalments. (para 6.10).

#### Chapter - VII

#### INDUSTRIES, MINERALS AND POWER

17. The Team understands that there is a proposal to end the Government monopoly in the coir industry and transfer it to the Cooperative Societies. As it is difficult for the Cooperative Societies to run the business on a 'no profit no loss' basis the Team feels that the Government monopoly which has sustained the poor islanders' economy over the years should not be given up. (para 7.2).
18. In the absence of bulk orders the Metal Box Company seems to have stopped the supply of cans of proper specifications. The Administration is considering a relaxation of specifications if firms are reluctant

to supply cans of the prescribed specifications. As Tuna fish has an international market the Team is not in favour of relaxing the specifications as such a step may militate against its popularity in foreign markets. As a bigger canning unit is shortly going into production at Minicoy it should be possible for the Fisheries Department to place bulk orders on the manufacturers for the supply of cans in accordance with international specifications. (para 7.6).

19. The diesel power may prove to be somewhat expensive for use in an industry like the fish canning industry set up in Minicoy which needs a fairly large block of power for its refrigerator and ice-making plants. As the islands are flat and lie exposed to the winds blowing from the sea all the year round the question of harnessing wind power for the generation of electricity may be examined. If the Central Water and Power Commission does not have the expertise necessary to give them constructive advice - the Administration appears to have consulted that body - the Team suggests that foreign experts may be consulted after collecting data on the wind velocities in the islands at different times of the year. (para 7.12).

### Chapter - VIII

#### TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

20. There are no pucca roads for vehicular traffic in any of the islands. Small tractors and hand-drawn trolleys are used on kutchra roads for transporting goods in some islands. Coral makes an excellent road surface and there is need for improving and extending the roads in some of the islands. (para 8.1).
21. The sea surrounding the islands should be properly charted to show the coral banks and the depths at which they lie hidden and modern navigational aids should be provided to make navigation in these waters safe, especially during bad weather. The Team was surprised to learn that 'M.V. Laccadives', although constructed in 1966 in Calcutta, was running without any of the elementary navigational aids such as echo sounders and marine radars. (para 8.4).

22. One jetty has been constructed at Kavaratti. There are no jetties in the other islands. The Team trusts that the Harbour Department will lose no time in providing the navigational accessories and facilities necessary to make navigation safe and will not wait for a shipwreck to force it into action. The Team is constrained to make this observation as even after the recommendations of the Director of Shipping made over a year ago, nothing has been done to fit M.V. Laccadives with the navigational aids which it badly needs. (para 8.5).
23. All the islands, with the exception of Androth, have lagoons and a lagoon, if deepened, can serve as a natural harbour for small ships. (para 8.6).

#### Chapter - IX

#### TOURISM

24. Bitra, a small and sparsely populated island, has one of the largest and most beautiful lagoons to be found anywhere in the Laccadives and Aminidives group. The lagoon is the glory of Bitra island, untouched hitherto by the hectic hurry and bustle of modern life which can be developed into a haven of peace and tranquillity for those who wish to get away from the dust and tumult of towns and cities. (para 9.1).
25. The absence of good drinking water in the Bitra island which accounts for the sparseness of its population, need not stand in the way of its being developed as tourist resort as the technique of desalination of sea water has sufficiently advanced to make sea water potable at moderate cost. (para 9.1).
26. There is not enough land on the Bitra island for the construction of an air strip. The lagoon is, however, an ideal place for a seaplane to land and it should be easy to operate a seaplane service between the Cochin harbour and the island. About twelve hours' run by sea it is an hour's flight from Cochin or Mangalore. (para 9.1).

Chapter - X

EDUCATION

27. The islanders desired that a high school should be opened at Kavaratti for the convenience of students who do not qualify for admission to the higher secondary school at Kavaratti. The Team suggests that while the case for opening a full-fledged high school for such students is weak the Administration may consider the question of opening a Malayalam medium section as an adjunct to the higher secondary school. (para 10.8).
28. The higher secondary school did not have teachers with post-graduate qualifications to impart instruction in such subjects as Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology and that the standard expected of a higher secondary school could not be maintained if the teaching was entrusted to ordinary graduates as at present. The Team was glad to learn that notwithstanding the difficulties in recruiting qualified teachers from the mainland the Administration had taken vigorous steps to recruit them and that appointment orders were under issue. (para 10.9).
29. Scholarships are given to students for study in pre-degree and degree courses in mainland colleges. A student who fails in the pre-degree final examination loses his eligibility for scholarship till he passes that examination and joins a degree course. The Team feels that at least two chances should be given to the students to pass the examination even when they join a non-recognized coaching college on the mainland for want of seats in a recognized college. In the alternative the Team suggests that steps may be taken to open a pre-degree class in the higher secondary school at Kavaratti which may be raised to the status of a collegiate high school. (para 10.10).
30. There was a general demand for an increase in the value of the scholarships. In view of the steep increase in the cost of living the case for an increase is strong. (para 10.11).
31. When the islands were constituted into a Union Territory the number of qualified islanders available for appointment to the clerical and other posts was negligible and the Administration had, of necessity, to recruit them from the mainland. The grievance



voiced now by the islanders that outsiders have usurped the positions which are justly their due has therefore no substance. Nor is it in the interests of efficiency to deprive the Administration overnight of the assistance of its trained and experienced staff by asking them to make way for the local men. It is, however, open to the Administration to draw up a phased programme of transfer of the mainlanders, over a period of years, to the Central Government offices on the mainland, a programme so phased as to cause the minimum dislocation of the work of the Union Territory. (para 10.13).

### Chapter - XI

#### HEALTH AND HOUSING

32. The Team came across a large number of pits full of water dug within a few yards of each other in Minicoy. Similar pits were found in the other islands visited by the Team. Oil spraying is resisted by the islanders as they are soak pits for the coconut husks from which fibre is extracted. The pits are notorious breeding places for mosquitoes which are carriers of filaria. As the water in the lagoon is equally good for the extraction of fibre, the Team suggests that steps may be taken by the Administration to compel the owners to close the pits and transfer the venue of the soaking operations to the lagoons. (para 11.4).
33. It was brought to the notice of the Team that there was a proposal to send a doctor from Delhi to the Union Territory and that unless the doctor knew Malayalam the islanders would not be able to describe their ailments to him. There is considerable force in the representation of the islanders and the Team suggests that if Malayalam knowing doctors are not readily available, it should be made obligatory on the part of doctors posted to the Union Territory to pass a conversation test in Malayalam within 6 months of their posting. A suitable reward may be offered as an incentive for passing the test. (para 11.6).

ANNEXURES

Annexure I

Copy of Government of India, Planning Commission, Committee on Plan Projects, Resolution No. COPP/Adm/16(1)/66 dated the 26th October, 1966, setting up the Study Team on Tribal Development Programmes, and incorporating change in composition of the Study Team made subsequently.

STUDY TEAM ON TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

No. COPP/Adm/16(1)/66: Programmes for the welfare and development of scheduled tribes form an integral part of the Five Year Plans. Although significant progress has been achieved in several directions, it is important that during the Fourth and Fifth Plan periods the process of economic and social development among tribal communities should be greatly accelerated. Rising levels of well-being, growing economic opportunities and greater integration with the rest of the population are essential both for the welfare of tribal communities and the progress of the country as a whole.

2. The Draft Outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan provides substantial resources for special programmes for the welfare of tribal communities and indicates a number of directions in which current development programmes should be reoriented. In the light of past experience, it has become essential that the schemes formulated should enable the tribal communities to secure an adequate share in the benefits of general development programmes and speed up their economic and social advance. With the object of giving practical effect to these recommendations and assisting State Governments in evolving concrete schemes of development which are specially adapted to the needs and conditions of tribal areas, at the suggestion of the Planning Commission, the Committee on Plan Projects have set up a Study Team on Tribal Development Programmes composed of the following:

(1) Shri P. Shilu Ao  
Former Chief Minister  
of Nagaland

Chairman

- (ii) Shri L.M.Shrikant, Secretary, Bharatiya Adimjati Sewak Sangh and ex-Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Member
- (iii) Shri T.Sivasankar, formerly Secretary in the Union Ministries of Irrigation and Power and Works, Housing and Supply and later Lt. Governor of Goa. Member  
(Appointed from April 12, 1967, in place of Shri B.Mehta, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Rajasthan who left the Study Team on February 20, 1967, consequent on his appointment as Member, Official Language (Legislative) Commission.

3. The Study Team will work in close cooperation with the Planning Commission, the Department of Social Welfare, the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Department of Community Development and other Central Ministries concerned. In consultation with the Chief Ministers of States, the Study Team will co-opt one or more members in each State to function as members of the Team in relation to tribal development programmes in respect of that State.

4. The Study Team, thus enlarged, will acquaint itself first hand with the problems and needs of tribal communities in each State, appraise the working of tribal development programmes, specially during the Third Five Year Plan, and make detailed and specific recommendations regarding programmes of development to be carried out during the Fourth Five Year Plan. Particular emphasis will be given to devising measures for carrying the benefits of development in different sectors as effectively as possible to tribal communities and to the building up of the economy of tribal development blocks and tribal areas. The Study Team will give special attention to measures for strengthening the personnel and machinery for implementing programmes for tribal development in each State. It will also

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suggest steps for harnessing the leadership and institutions among tribal communities so as to ensure their fullest participation in the tasks of economic and social development.

5. The Study Team is expected to complete its work over a period of one year.

6. The headquarters of the Study Team will be at New Delhi.

7. Ordered that the RESOLUTION be published in the Gazette of India for general information.

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(Reference para 1.8)  
EDUCATIONAL LEVELS AND PERCENTAGE OF LITERACY AMONG SCHEDULED TRIBES, NON-TRIBAL POPULATION AND TOTAL POPULATION BY SEX

Scheduled Tribes

Levels of Literacy	Males		Females		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1. Total Population	11,466	100.00	11,925	100.00	23,391	100.00
2. Illiterate	7,522	65.72	10,660	89.39	18,182	77.80
3. Literates (Without level of Education)	3,185	27.77	1,178	9.88	4,363	18.65
4. Primary or Junior Basic	742	6.20	86	0.72	828	3.41
5. Matriculation or above	17	0.13	1	0.01	18	0.07
Total Literates						
%age of Literacy	3,944	34.28	1,265	10.61	5,209	22.20

2. Non-Tribal Population

1. Total Population	469	100.00	248	100.00	717	100.00
2. Illiterate	140	28.63	176	70.97	316	42.88
3. Literates (Without level of Education)	137	28.02	18	7.26	155	21.03
4. Primary or Junior Basic	94	39.67	38	15.32	132	31.47
5. Matriculation & above	98	20.04	16	6.45	114	15.47
Total Literates and %age of literacy	329	71.37	72	29.03	401	57.12

3. Total population

1. Total population	11,935	100.00	12,173	100.00	24,108	100.00
2. Illeterate	7,662	64.20	10,836	89.02	18,498	76.73
3. Literates (Without level of Education)	3,322	27.83	1,196	9.83	4,518	18.74
4. Primary or Junior basic	836	7.00	124	1.02	960	3.98
5. Matriculation & above	115	0.97	17	0.13	132	0.55
Total Literates						
%age of Literacy	4,273	35.80	1,337	10.98	5,610	23.27

Source: Census of India 1961.

OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF WORKERS AMONG  
SCHEDULED TRIBES AND GENERAL POPULATION SEX-WISE

Sl. No.	Economic Classification	Scheduled Tribes			
		Male	Female	Total	%age
1.	Total Population	11,466	11,925	23,391	100.00
2.	Non Workers	5,695	5,769	11,464	49.00
	Workers Total	5,771	6,156	11,927	51.00
	i) As Cultivator	126	4	130	0.50
	ii) As Agricultural labour	-	-	-	-
	iii) Household Industry	4,065	6,083	10,148	43.40
	iv) Mining, Quarrying, Forestry Fishing, Livestock, Hunting, Orchards, plantation and allied.	553	4	557	2.40
	v) Manufacturing other than House-hold industry	313	31	344	1.50
	vi) In Construction	132	2	134	0.60
	vii) In Trade & Commerce	88	3	91	0.40
	viii) Transport Storage Communication	120	2	122	0.50
	ix) Other Services	374	27	401	1.70
<u>General Population</u>					
1.	Total Population	11,935	12,173	24,108	100.00
2.	Non Workers	5,777	5,882	11,659	43.86
	Workers Total	6,158	6,291	12,449	51.64
	i) As Cultivator	135	4	139	0.58
	ii) As Agricultural Labour	-	-	-	-
	iii) House-hold Industry	4,120	6,185	10,035	42.75
	iv) Mining, Quarrying, Forestry Fishing, Livestock, Hunting, Orchards, plantation and allied.	579	4	583	2.42
	v) Manufacturing other than House-hold industry	343	31	374	1.55
	vi) In Construction	224	10	234	0.97
	vii) In Trade and Commerce	109	3	112	0.46
	viii) Transport Storage Communication	147	2	149	0.50
	ix) Other Services	501	52	553	2.39

Source: Census of India 1961.