

10

A. GENERAL INFORMATION :

Andaman & Nicobar Islands comprises of 572 Islands. A&N Islands is a Union Territory without Legislation there are two districts namely Andamans District and Nicobar District. Population of Andaman District is 24 1453 and population of Nicobar District is 39308 as per 1991 Census. The majority of population in Nicobar District is Tribal only. There are six types of Tribes which include five Primitive Tribes viz Onges, Great Andamanese, Shompens, Jarawas and Sentinelese. The estimated population of Onges is 100, Great Andamanese 39, the Shompens 150, Jarawas 300 and Sentinelese 200.

For the last more than a year one of the Primitive Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands i.e. Jarawas are coming out from their habitats especially from the area of Lakra Lungta, Chottalingbang, Badabalu, Spike Island etc. They are contacting with the local people which causes spread of contagious diseases among the Jarawas. In the recent past, the Administration has to evict a large number of Jarawas from Lakra Lungta and to get them admitted to GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair and some of them have also been admitted in the PHC, Kadamtala. After intensive medical investigation it is revealed that most of them were suffering from Chest infection, Pneumonia, Diarrhea, Dysentery etc. A large number of them were suffering from skin disease like Scabies and ring worms, wounds/ cuts of lower extremities. One of them was also suffering from septicemia. Some of them were also suffering from influenza.

To end perhaps at their journey towards having more disease to be acquired by the primitive tribes by contacting the non-tribals, it is the duty of the Administration to preserves these primitive tribes to survive. In case these primitive tribes are in contact with the non tribals of the local areas and develop certain disease it is feared that the time is not too far when their days will be numbered and it should not be predicted that they will extinct from the lap of the earth.

To prevent their extinction and free them from the contagious diseases it is proposed that two full fledged 10 bedded inpatient Health Centres are to be established with full complement of staff and all other facilities at Bamboo Tikri near Kadamtala and at Middle Strait which are near to their Habitat and will also save time to refer their cases to Port Blair. These centres will exclusively be meant for providing health Care to the primitive tribes viz the Jarawas.