Jane

Totanagae is working as medical attendant. Apparently the population of the Onges is getting stabilised around 100 as could be seen from the Statistics, indicated by the petitioners themselves. The Writ petitioners above named have sought to attribute the decline of Onge Population to the opening up of the forests in the said Islands for logging operations and developmental activities carried out during the last 30 years. statistics so quoted by them in their Writ Petition do not bear this out. For instance the population of Onges declined from 692 in 1901 to 150 in 1951, a decline of 522(about 77%). Their population however, declined from 150 in 1951 to 101 in 1998. Thus the population of Onge tribe has shown a decline of 522 during the first half of this century when there were no developmental schemes under implementation in Little Andaman and no forest working had started. The trend however, seems to have got reversed during the last 15-20 years and the Onge population has now stabilised around 100. Therefore to attribute the decline in the Onge population to forest harvesting and colonisation is absolutely incorrect as the same also goes contrary to the statistics as mentioned in the writ petition.

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