

16.08.99	7	-		7
17.08.99	1	-		1
23.08.99	3	3		
24.08.99	6	6		
TOTAL	98	84	2	12

44. That with reference to statements made in para 62, the same does not require any reply as such. However, I may add that patent rights and discovery of the plants for treatment of Malaria and Gastro-intestinal disorders, systematic studies by specialised institutions are required. The indigenous knowledge of the Onges will be taken into consideration in the matter of conferring patent rights.

45. That with reference to statements made in para 63, the same are denied. I say that the population statistics as quoted by the petitioners themselves shows that ever since the Administration introduced tribal welfare measures, the population of Onges has stabilised around 100 and the steep downward trend noticed up to 1950s has been effectively arrested. The allegation against the employees of the Adim Janjati Vikas Samithi that they have scant regard or respect for the Onges is baseless, misinformed and is emphatically denied.