

Great Andamanese has made a definite contribution to their well-being. There has been considerable change in their approach to the life. It appears that a new hope has been engendered in the group and they look forward to a stage where they can regain their lost strength. The community after losing its will to live had adopted almost a suicidal path since it is reported that women amongst Andamanese (and also Onges) were voluntarily resorting to abortion since they had not much hope for their children and their sustenance. The Director, Health Service, Andaman and Nicobar has now been instructed to have a regular medical check up of all Great Andamanese women every two months so that no such attempt may be made in future. The medical doctor is visiting these groups regularly every fortnight and some of their medical problems have been effectively tackled. In specific terms, the opium addicts are being de-addicted, the T. B. and V. D. patients are being adequately attended and it is hoped that they will be cured. Recently a girl suffering from a congenital heart disease was sent to Vellore where she has been operated and cured. There are only 4 youthful adults in the Group who are capable of hard working and the community have been given the task of making canoes. They have already completed one and it is expected that they will complete the other soon. The administration has also given them adhoc assistance of Rs. 50 to 100 per head per month as a subsistence allowance in the beginning of the process of their recovery.

7. The Chairman has visited Onges twice after the last meeting. He was of the view that there is a favourable response from the Group for the new programme which is proposed to be taken up. In fact, the Jackson Creek Group of Onges has also moved of their own to the Dugong Creek. The South Bay group is also reported to be agreeable to move to the Dugong Creek. The earlier suggestion of the Committee that the Onges may be encouraged to build their huts according to their own skills has been followed up. The Onges in pursuance of the suggestion made by the Chief Commissioner constructed some huts following the model of the refugee huts. However, later on they reported that they were rather hot. But they further stated that they do not know the skill of construction of such huts, and therefore, suggested that they should be suitably assisted by the Administration in this regard. The Group is demanding A. C. Sheets etc. and other amenities for their huts.

8. The Committee considered at considerable length the desirability of having one settlement for the entire Onge population. The establishment of refugee re-settlement colonies has already disturbed their political organisation and command over the land area. Attention of the