

Shompens

23. The Shompens on the Great Nicobar Islands, are, in a bad condition. They are spread throughout the island. They come to Campbell Bay for exchanging whatever they can collect from the forests. It is reported that they are being contacted by the settlers, DRDB men and traders etc. who exchange their commodities at very unfavourable terms. In due course, it may be possible to plan out settlements for them on the same lines as is being envisaged for the Onges. However, it was agreed that the first step will be to have a clear understanding of their present economy. Suitable economic programmes can be prepared for them only after this initial contact and having a clear understanding of their present economic situation. Their health condition, however, needs urgent attention. It was agreed, therefore, that a team of three persons including an Administrator, a Sociologist and a doctor, could visit this area and visit the Shompens in their habitats. The team prepare an action programme after assessing their reaction to the various alternatives.

24. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.