

Comments in respect of paras relating to Tribal Welfare in the interlocutory applications filed by society for A&N Ecology (SANE) Bombay Natural History Society and Kalpavriksha (I.A.No. 502 of 1999) in writ petition NO. 202 of 1995 (Godavarana Thirumalpath \_ Vs- UOI & others.

Para 3:

It is a fact that Onge is a negrito tribe living in the Little Andaman Island. It is one of the isolated tribes and hence there is no possibility of admixture of Onges with others. It is not certain that Onges are living on this earth only for last 70,000 years.

Para 4:

Policy of the A&N Administration towards the Onges and for that matter for all the Schedule Tribes have never been intended to be destructive. What ever policy and programmes undertaken by the Administration are expressly meant for the welfare of the tribes. Onges of Little Andaman have been in contact with outsiders since long past and have totally shunned their hostility towards the outsiders since 1886. The situation, by and large remained unchanged till 1960s when displaced families from erstwhile East Pakistan, Srilanka and a few others were settled in the eastern part of the islands under rehabilitation schemes of the Govt. of India. Pursuant to the change in the general situation of Little Andaman Islands following the rehabilitation of displaced families, a decision was taken by the Administration to provide basic facilities to the Onges for hygienic living and protection against elements of nature. Such decision was taken by the Advisory Committee of the Primitive Tribal group of Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 13.9.1976. The Advisory Committee was constituted for the purpose and comprised of senior officers like Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Medical Experts, Anthropologists and Social Workers headed by the then Chief Commissioner, A&N Islands as its Chairman. Following the said decision, the Onges of Little Andaman Island have been provided with the following facilities / infrastructure by the Administration.