

Even in respect of their food habits, the Onges have been readily receiving rations according to the prescribed scales from the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti which supplements their normal diet based on their traditional food habits. Due to this assured supply of food and medical care extended to them by the Administration the life expectancy of the Onges has apparently increased. The Administration has however not interfered in their traditional habits of hunting and food gathering in any way and the Onges enjoy full freedom to forage in the virtually limitless forests besides free access to the sea to cater to their natural talent for turtle hunting etc. As regards the extent of forests areas, out of the total area of 732 sq. kms. of the Little Andaman island around 500 Sq. Kms. is a tribal reserve notified under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956 for the Onges.

Para 18:

It is a fact that Onges have been hunterer and gatherer. Though they are settled at Dugong Creek and South Bay and provided with free ration, they do go for hunting, gathering and fishing activities. As such, Forest operations may affect the Onges. However an area of approximately 500 Sq.Km out of total area, 731.5 sq. km forest area in the Little Andaman Island has been declared as a Tribal Reserve, so that the Onges have exclusive right for the natural resources available there on.

Para 22:

The statement of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India in 1975 is a matter of records.

Para 23:

It is not the fact that Onges were forced to live in small sheds in one area only. Onges have been rehabilitated by the Administration at two places in Little Andaman Island viz. Dugong Creek and South Bay. The purpose of this settlement was to provide necessary medical care and food to the Onges. To facilitate the welfare measures among the Onges ,a jetty was constructed at Dugong Creek.

Para 24:

The Purpose and intention of A&N Administration has been to undertake the developmental measures