

The Onge have been huddled together in settlements and made dependent upon the administration for food. He concludes that rather than bringing succor to the tribals there is incontrovertible evidence to show that the basic motivation is of the exploitation of the natural resources by the outsiders. The tribal society are situated on mineral and forest resources and it is the exploitation of these that is the root the problem

25. The state of the health of the Onge is also a matter of serious concern. A 1988 report prepared by an expert group constituted by the Island Development Authority (IDA) found that 40% of the Onge female were sterile and child mortality was high at 47%.

26. The Petitioner states that the activities going on in the Andaman is contrary to the International Convention on Biological Diversity (IBD) which India has ratified and which explicitly commits every nation to "respect, preserve and maintain knowledge and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage sharing of the benefits arising from the utilisation of such knowledge, innovations and practices"

27. At the second Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention of Biological Diversity at Jakarta, Indonesia 1995, the then Indian Minister for Environment and Forests, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, underscored this point. He said that the local community interests are not protected by existing intellectual property rights regimes (including patents) and that other steps were needed to ensure such protection

28. What is required in the Andamans is an embargo on the transfer of plants and plant material and strict containment of the plant extracts already taken out, publication of the names of all persons / agencies given permits to visit the Little Andamans and steps to