

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.

- i) Houses
- ii) Safe drinking waters
- iii) Electricity
- iv) Medical Coverage
- v) Coconut Plantation
- vi) Free ration articles as supplementary diet
- vii) Primary School with teaching aids including primers developed by CIIL Mysore.

There is a Medical sub-centre with the required staff to provide continuous regular health coverage. A team of medical experts from the G.B. Pant Hospital visits the Onges to have thorough health survey check ups with a view to extend all possible medical aid for the survival and the growth of the Onge population. The last such visit was made by the team during August, 1999. There are power houses one each at Dugong Creek Onge Settlement and South Bay Onge settlement to provide electricity.

An autonomous organisation known as Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor, A&N Islands looks after the welfare of the Onges. Free ration articles are provided to the Onges to supplement their nutrition. Apart from this, coconut plantation have been raised for the benefit of Onges. Onges not only use coconut in their food but also they benefit out of the sale proceeds of the nuts.