

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 Islands have been provided with the following facilities / infrastructure by the Administration.

- i) Houses
- ii) Safe drinking water
- 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 up with a view to extend all possible medical aid for the survival and the growth of the Onge population. The