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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.

Notwithstanding the above changes in their living conditions, Onges go for their traditional activities like hunting, food gathering and fishing in the vast forest area and the sea around the Little Andaman Islands. A primary School is functioning at the Dugong Creek Onge settlement with 2 teachers to impart basic education among the Onges. To facilitate this, the Administration had requested the Central Institute of Indian Language (CIIL) to prepare primers in the Onge language which has since been done by them. Due to the efforts of the Administration, some of the Onges are educated, though so far the highest educated Onge has studied upto the Vth standard only.

Some of the Onges have got employment in Govt. Departments like Shipping etc and in other establishment. Onges have their own Co-operative Society known as Onge Multipurpose Co-operative Society through which the coconuts are sold and items for their requirements are provided at their settlement.

Onges have exercised their adult franchise during the Lok Sabha Elections not only in the past but also in the Parliamentary Election which took place on 5.9.99. The Chief of the