

them over here. In so far as tribal passes for the Onge settlement are concerned, under section 7 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 the Deputy Commissioner is empowered to grant such passes. The Deputy Commissioner exercises this power very carefully and issues passes only in very deserving cases. During the last 5 years he has issued only 17 passes as shown below:-

AREA	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	TOTAL
Dugong Creek	4	Nil	7	2	2	15
South Bay	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2

It is pertinent to note that yet another writ petition has already been filed by Ms. Shyamali Ganguly against the Union of India, Union Territory Administration and others in connection with Jarawas another indigenous tribes located in substantial numbers in South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands. In that writ petition, the main thrust of the petition has been that the Jarawas are to be extended further amenities so as to bring them on par with the modern society and ensure their place in the mainstream. In the present writ petition concerning Onge, the reverse is the case in respect of a tribe who are relatively more advanced than the Jarawas and who are certainly in need of further assistance leading to their gradual integration as distinguished from assimilation. It is the firm view of the Administration