

(4) Infection of the skin

4 out of 18 had granulomatous ulcers on their feet in 1988, whereas 20 cases were there in 1989. Since treponema could not be isolated, it could not be 'Yaws'. Fungal infections are very common in Onges.

'Yaws' was ruled out by the clinical Specialists of this Administration. Fungal infections are common. These are being treated. Health education is being carried out to promote personal hygiene which will prevent skin diseases amongst the Onges.

(5) Tuberculosis

There were 6 cases of TB in 1977, 8 in 1983, 1 in 1988. 18 persons had 'Crepitation in their lungs during 1989

18 persons were suspected of Tuberculosis by Dr. IC Verma in 1989. This is contrary to our findings. We have diagnosed two cases of Tuberculosis. Both these cases are sputum Negative and are under treatment. To resolve this controversy, we sent X-rays of these 18 suspects to National Tuberculosis Institute, Bangalore. They have confirmed that only 2 of the 18 suspects were suffering from TB. These two cases were diagnosed by us and are under treatment.

(6) Veneral diseases

Out of 45 Blood samples taken in 1988, one was VDRL positive and 4 were 'Boarder-line positive'. Of these, 3 were from Hut Bay and 1 from Dugong Creek. In 1978 10 out of 38 were VDRL positive; and 10 out of 69 samples analysed were positive in 1983.

All the Onges were tested for veneral diseases during October, 1988 and again July, 1989 no positive case was detected by carrying out VDRL tests.

(7) Infertility

Infertility amongst Onges is considered to be a major problem by Dr. IC Verma.

As per our analysis, infertility is a problem but not of the magnitude depicted by Dr. Verma.