

174

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE
SECRETARIAT COMPLEX

* * * *

Kindly refer to your endt. dated 28/10//2005 seeking information of point No. 2 (i) relating to Tribal Welfare included in the MHA's letter. The views of the Tribal Welfare Department are given below:

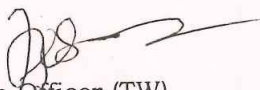
There are six Scheduled Tribes in this Union Territory. Of them the following namely (1) Great Andamanese (2) Onges (3) Jarawas (4) Sentinelese (5) Shompens are classified as Primitive Tribes while remaining one tribe namely - Nicobarese is progressive and advanced and has already joined the mainstream society.

The tribal areas inhabited by the tribals have been declared as reserve area under the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1986. It may also be stated that the tribal reserves in this U.T have also been declared as forest reserves. The tribals have been living in the reserve area from the time immemorial.

The Primitive Tribes largely depend on the forest resources in the reserve area. However, the Great Andamanese and Onges, who have been in contact with the outside world for a long time have come to settled way of life. The Onges have been settled at Dugong Creek while the Great Andamanese have been settled at Strait Island. The Coconut plantation/ orchard has been raised at their respective settlements, which they are using. They have been provided houses in which they are living. As such they are already using the lands in their respective reserve area. Similarly in course of time the Jarawas, Sentinelese and Shompens, who are still nomadic, may need land in their respective reserve area for agriculture & residential purposes.

The Nicobarese have already raised horticulture plantations and built houses including community facilities in the reserved area.

As such it is necessary to include a provision in the relevant Act to allow the tribal people to utilize the land in their possession in the reserve area for agricultural and residential purposes.


Research Officer (TW)
T5-TM-52

*Recd
28/10/05*
Director (TW)

Special Secretary (Home)

U.O. Note No.1-467/2001-TW dated 28/10/2005