

Subject:

Para
No.

- 118 -

No. 1-467/2001-TW

Ref: - page No. 172-173/c

267

PUC is a letter of Mrs. Aindri Anurag, Director Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs addressed to Chief Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Administration seeking information on various points. The Special Secretary (Home) vide his endt. dated 28/10/2005 has desired to furnish information on point No. 2 (i) which pertains to the Tribal Welfare Department. The Point is reproduced below:

268

"Specific views of the UT Administration on the suggestion for insertion of a provision in the relevant Act to allow the tribal people to utilize the land in their possession in the tribal reserve area for agriculture and residential purposes as and when they join the mainstream society".

269

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.

270

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.

271

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 longtime 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.