

18
10th Sept., 1993.

Dear Shri

Kindly refer to your letter No.12019/2/6/92-BC dated 20.7.1993 regarding implementation of special schemes for the development of nomadic, semi-nomadic and other migratory groups in this Union Territory.

Of the six Scheduled Tribes in these islands, the Jarawas and Sentinelese are nomadic and the Shompens are semi-nomadic. The Jarawas and Sentinelese are not only nomadic but also hostile to outsiders. This Administration has constituted official contact teams which go to the Jarawas once in a month and to the Sentinelese once in two months to establish contact and provide gifts of coconut and bananas etc. in order to befriend them and bring into mainstream of civilization. The Jarawas have become friendly to the contact team and shed their hostility to a great extent in recent years, while our contact with the Sentinelese is very minimal. It would be possible to take up any comprehensive development programme for these two tribal groups after we have won their confidence and established full rapport with them.

The Shompens are semi-nomadic. They change their habitats when food resources are exhausted. A scheme is being implemented from the fund of Special Central Assistance under Tribal Sub-Plan to develop plantations of coconuts and other fruits to augment their food resources at Shompen habitats so that they do not change their habitats in search of food resources.

The population and geographical distribution of the Jarawas, Sentinelese and Shompens are given below:-

S.No.	Name of tribe	Population as per 1981 Census.	Area ear- marked.	Inhabited Island.	Main occupation
1.	Jarawa	200 (estimated)	638.86 sq.kms.	Western coast of Middle Andaman & South Andaman	Fishing and Gathering.
2.	Sentinelese	89 (estimated)	59.63 sq.kms.	North Sentinel Island.	-do-
3.	Shompens	223	913.37 sq.kms.	Great Nicobar Island	-do- ..2/-