

This is the only tribe probably in the world, which professes hostility towards outsiders and remain in total isolation. The friendly contact expeditions of the Administration continued their contact missions as a result of which the first friendly contact with the Sentinelese was established in 1991 when they accepted gifts of coconut. Administration is not in favour of continuing the regular contact expeditions as the contacts of Sentinelese with outsiders may lead to spread of foreign diseases among Sentinelese. Their hostility towards all others is an effective safeguard for their well-being. However, a constant vigil through Police and Coast Guard is kept so that no unauthorized non-tribals reach North Sentinel Island.

SHOMPEN

The Shompens are the nomadic tribe belonging to Mongoloid race inhabiting the interior terrains of Great Nicobar Island in the Nicobars District. Shompens practice horticulture, hunting, fishing and gathering. The Population of Shompens is approximately 350. In order to implement the welfare schemes for Shompens, the Administration has established a Shompen Hut Complex, which is located at 27 KM on East-West Road. It is a central place for carrying out welfare activities for the Shompens.

To assist the Shompens economically, an Exchange system has been introduced. Under this system the Shompens bring the forest produces such as areca nuts, resins, lemon, *Rudraksha* and artifacts such as bark clothes, spears etc. The forest produces are sold under the supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Great Nicobar Island and the Shompens are supplied with iron implements, rice and other items required by them at the highly subsidized rate.

NICOBARESE

The Nicobarese constitute the largest group among the tribals. They inhabit 12 of the 22 Islands in the Nicobars District. The major concentration of the Nicobarese is at Car Nicobar Island while the other Islands are sparsely populated. Nicobarese are the advanced Mongoloid tribe. They have coconut plantations apart from the vegetable and pandanus gardens. Coconut and its produce i.e. copra is the mainstay of their economy. Nicobarese are getting the modern education and hence, they are entering into the Government Service also.

The Nicobarese have their *Tuhet* i.e. joint family system. They have the traditional ways of social control through the Captain system. Each village has a headman known among the Nicobarese as "Captain" who is responsible for well-being and social order in the village. There are second and third captains also in the village to assist the First Captain. The Captains are chosen by the people themselves in a democratic fashion.

Tribal Development Activities

Main activities of the Tribal Welfare Department are formulation of the Tribal Sub-Plan, co-ordination with the various departments of the Administration for implementing various schemes. The proposed outlay for the Annual Tribal Sub-Plan (2003-2004) from UT flow of funds is of the order of Rs.6425.40 lakh, which constitute 15.37% of the total UT plan outlay of Rs.41,000 lakh. In addition, an amount of Rs. 255.75 has been proposed for the general welfare of Primitive Tribes under different schemes of Andaman Admi