

4. "Initiatives of ANI Administration towards mainstreaming of Jarawas and Policies for different tribes of A&N Islands"

It is to place on record that no specific decision is sought for.

(i) **Background**

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have originally been the abode of aboriginal tribes. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956, promulgated by the President of India provides for protection of the interests of aboriginal tribes and declaration of the geographical area as reserved areas for the exclusive community ownership of the tribes. Here there are six Scheduled Tribes, viz., Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens notified by the President of India under Article 342 (1) of the Indian Constitution (Andaman & Nicobar Islands Scheduled Tribes Order No. 58, dated 31.03.1959). Except Nicobarese the rest of the 05 tribes are Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

(ii) **Present Status about the tribes of A&N islands and initiatives taken by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration:**

Nicobarese: They are the largest group of tribes, numbering over 27000 and inhabiting the Nicobar District. They are already mainstreamed. The Administration extends benefits of scholarships, medical facilities and other developments through the District Administration and Integrated Tribal Development Project.

Andamanese: They were once a 8000 strong tribal population, however, due to the British policy of friendly contact, their numbers have dwindled to below 20. Today, after much effort by the Administration in terms of