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protection and preservation, it stands at 61. They are settled on the Strait Island (North & Middle Andaman District).

**Onges:** Similarly, the Onges have been in contact with outsiders for more than 100 years. They are settled in Dugong Creek (Little Andaman Islands) and presently are numbered at 115.

Both the Andamanese and the Onges have been provided with permanent houses at their settlement areas. The Andaman Aadim Janjati Vikas Samity (AAJVS) takes care of their requirements through involvement of various line departments. Potable water supplies, electrification of their settlements, free medical care, free schooling and other amenities like police wireless for communication, Community Hall, footpath, jetty for berthing of the boats etc. are being provided.

As far as the other three tribes are concerned, there are two schools of thoughts:

- a. To protect and preserve their cultural identity and avoid intermingling with the outside world and allow them to carry out their own activities as per their own terms
- b. To mainstream them into the outside world so that they enjoy the fruits of development.

The Administration has taken the services of best Anthropologists and has taken up the task to determine the will of Jarawa and also the pace by which they would like to interact with the outside world. The Administration has adopted the policy of "listen and provide" what the tribe expressly requires. There is maximum autonomy given to the tribes with minimum intervention by the Administration.

**Shompens:** Shompens live in different bands in thick tropical forests and in coasts of the Great Nicobar Island, and number approximately 220. The ANI