

286

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

A) 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, ~~which are predominantly and exclusively inhabited by these tribes~~. In these islands, there are six Scheduled Tribes i.e., the 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). ~~Central act namely "SCs & STs (POA) Act, 1989 is also strictly enforced by the A&N Administration.~~

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

(i) Nicobarese

The Nicobarese constitute the largest group among the tribals inhabiting 12 of the 22 Islands in the Nicobar District. Population as per 2011 census is 27676. Sizable number of Nicobarese are holding jobs in Government and in private organisations (i.e. Group-A number 25, including 18 Doctors, Group-B : 400 & Group-C number 1179). The department provides for their development in Nicobar district mainly through the Integrated Tribal Development Project, where District Commissioner is the Chairman and also through other Plan Schemes, which covers scholarships for students and free medical coverage.

(ii) Andamanese

The Andamanese belong to the Negrito race and are settled on the Strait Island. They number 61 as on date. The Administration has introduced a few economic activities like rearing of poultry for the tribals to improve their economic condition and the nutritional status. Free rations and other amenities are provided to them through the Andaman Aadim Janjati Samiti (AAJVS). Potable water supply, electrification of Andamanese settlement, free medical care, free schooling and boarding and other amenities like police wireless for communication - Direct Receiving Set for T.V., Community Hall, footpath, jetty for berthing of the boats etc. have been provided at the settlement.

(iii) Onges

Settled in Dugong Creek, the Onges belong to the Negrito race and presently are numbered at 115. They have been in contact with the civilization for just over 100 years. Onges have been provided with permanent houses. AAJVS takes care of their requirements through involvement of various line departments. Potable water supplies, electrification of Onge settlements, free medical care, free schooling and other amenities like police wireless for communication, Community Hall, footpath, jetty for berthing of the boats etc. have been provided at the Onge settlements. 11 Onges are employed in government services e.g., Police, Forest etc. 42 Onge children are studying in Middle School, Dugong Creek.

(iv) Shompens

Shompens live in different bands in thick tropical forests and in coasts of Great Nicobar Island, numbering approximately 220. At present the Administration extends

for the
exclusive
community
ownership
of the Tribes

Particularly Vulnerable

(X)
- 10%
land -
Karni
- 10%
- 10%