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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 and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). It may be appreciated that 4659 Sq Km has been declared as tribal reserve (56% of UTs total geographical area). For 05 PVTGs, an area of 2818 Sq km has been declared as tribal reserve. Apart from above, central act namely "SCs & STs (POA) Act, 1989 is also strictly enforced by the A&N Administration.

B) Population (region wise)

Sl. No.	Name of tribe	Location	Population	Tribal Reserve (in Sq Km)
1.	Andamanese	Strait Island	61 (as on date)	6
2.	Onges	Little Andaman	116 (as on date)	732
3.	Jarawas	South and Middle Andaman	441 (as on date)	1028
4.	Sentinelese	North Sentinel	50 (estimated)	60
5.	Shompens	Great Nicobar	219 (estimated)	992
6.	Nicobarese	Nicobar District	27676 (as per 2011 census)	1841
	Total	UT of A&N Islands	28556*	4659**

- * 7.5% of UT's population constitutes tribals
- ** 56% of UT's geographical area reserved for tribals

C) Brief about tribes of A&N islands and initiatives taken by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration:

The tribes of the Islands belong to two different races. The Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges and the Sentinelese living in the Andaman group of islands belong to the Negrito group while the Nicobarese and Shompens, living in Nicobar islands belong to the Mongoloid

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