

given regular appointment in the Health Department.

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(iii) Onges

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The Onges belong to the Negrito race. They have been in contact with the civilization for over 100 years. The present population of the Onge is 117. Initially the Onges were scattered all over the Little Andaman Island in different bands, but later they have been settled at two places viz. Dugong Creek and South Bay in Little Andaman Island. After Tsunami, 2004, all the Onges have, on their own choice shifted to Dugong Creek, Little Andaman. Onges have been provided with permanent houses. There is an Onge Multipurpose Co-operative Society to collect and sell the coconuts and provide consumer goods to them. All the Onge are members of the Society and the Chief of Onge is the President of the Society. The Administration provides free ration to the Onges. Potable water supply, electrification of Onge settlements, free medical care, school 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 in Great Nicobar Island. A tribal reserve of 992 Sqkm has been declared for their exclusive use. Some of the bands have symbiotic relationship with the Nicobarese. At present the Administration extends health and other welfare support, whenever demanded by the tribe. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has entrusted the task of framing Shompen Policy to the A&N Administration. The draft prepared by the Research Advisory Board of the ANTRI was submitted to the ministry for deliberation by the Expert Committee. The Expert Committee of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has approved the draft policy on 11.3.2015 and presently the same is in the process of notification by the ANI Administration.

(v) Sentinelese

This hunter-gatherer tribe numbering approximately 50, lives in North Sentinelese Island having an extent of 60 Sq Km. The Administration, in the past frequently visited the island on friendly contact by way of extending 'gifts'. a practice which was stopped in 1993. The Defence & Civil Administration keep surveillance and looks out for the foreign poachers, if any. The Administration has adopted an 'eyes-open and hands-off' policy to ensure that no poachers enter into the island. A protocol of circumnavigation of the North Sentinel Island has been made and notified after due deliberation by the Research Advisory Board, ANTRI and based on the suggestions/ inputs received from the various stakeholders and participants of the National Conference, held on 4th -5th December, 2014 at Port Blair and the MoTA's Expert Committee meeting held on 08.01.2015 (order annexed).

(vi) Jarawas