

As per the direction of Govt. of India, the Administration had taken up a survey on contemporary situation of the Shompens to understand the social, political and economic principles by which the Shompen social structures maintained various forms of distance among themselves as well as with the outsiders. The contemporary survey was carried out by the field officials of AAJVS under the guidance of the Group of Experts. The Team Members Prof. Vishvajit Pandaya, Honorary Director, ANTRI, Shri Manish Chandi, Member RAB (ANTRI) and Dr. Bisweswar Das, Tribal Welfare Officer, AAJVS has submitted a final Implementable Report on Shompen Policy. The Report was placed before the Executive Council of AAJVS in its meeting held on 21.8.2014 and a resolution was taken to obtain the suggestions/views of the Members on the report.

The Sentinelese, who belongs to Negrito race, inhabits in the North Sentinel Island of the South Andaman District. This is the only tribe probably in the world which still professes active hostility towards outsiders and remains in total isolation. However, the friendly contact expeditions of the Administration continued their contact missions, as a result of which the first friendly contact with the Sentinelese was established in 1991 when they accepted gifts of coconut. However, after 1993, the Administration followed 'hands-off' policy.

Now the Experts have suggested to have 'eyes-on' policy, to prevent poaching as this land is situated at a distance of 35 km (approx) from the nearest jetty at Wandoor and to meet their livelihood and health needs. The issue was taken up in the 44th General Body meeting of the AAJVS and it was decided that in order to ensure the protection and the well-being of the Sentinelese tribe, the circumnavigation of North Sentinel Island should be carried out atleast once in three months, strictly following the protocol prepared by the Expert members/Research Advisory Board (RAB), ANTRI and approved by Administration.

Consequent upon the decision taken in the 44th General Body meeting of the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands has constituted a protocol team to Circumnavigate the North Sentinel Island for the protection and well being of the Sentinelese tribe with the following: Secretary (TW) as Chairman, Director (TW), Director (ANTRI), Divisional Forest Officer nominated by PCCF, Dy Superintendent of Police nominated by SP (District), Deputy Director (Tribal Health) and Head of Office, AnSI as member; Executive Secretary, AAJVS as Member Secretary. The Protocol team shall function on the recommendation as accepted by the Administration.

Agenda Point: Ministry of Tribal Affairs to kindly look into tribal related issues of ANI and Lakshadweep and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to finalise the Cabinet Notes on the Tribal Councils in the ANI within one month.

No change in the status.

12th IDA Meeting:

Agenda Point : Sixth Schedule status to Tribals of Nicobar Group of Islands.

The Nicobarese tribal are not included under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. However, in order to provide greater autonomy to the traditional to the traditional Tribal Councils of