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F.No. 1-949/2013-TW /39  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION  
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE  
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9<sup>th</sup>  
Port Blair, dated 9 January'2014.

To

The Deputy Secretary (IDA),  
A & N Administration,  
Port Blair.

Sub: **Meeting to be chaired by the Secretary, Planning Commission on 9.1.2014 to discuss and finalise Agenda Points for the 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of IDA -reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 3-4(104)/IDA (2013-2014) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2014 on the above cited subject and to furnish the updated status on the **Agenda No. 5 - "Issues concerning the indigenous tribes of ANI i.e. Shompens, Jarawas and Sentinilese and establishment of Tribal Research Institute"** :

**Shompens:**

The Shompens are the nomadic tribe belonging to Mongoloid Race inhabiting in the interior terrain of Great Nicobar Island in the Nicobars District. Shompens practice horticulture, hunting, fishing and gathering. They are very shy in nature and hardly may we find their female folks. The population of Shompens is at present 219. Prior to Tsunami the Shompens inhabited in the nine (09) bands. But since the large part of coastal area has been submerged by sea, they have shifted their residence inside the jungle. The Shompens of 35 km Chingen village has now rehabilitated in the Agriculture farm at 7km. Administration provide free ration, free medical care and iron tool kits etc to Shompens.

In reference to minutes of the meeting of Expert Committee held on 2.2.2012 at New Delhi followed by the decision of the Govt. of India, MoTA authorizing the A&N Admn. to finalise the draft policy for Shompen on the basis of inputs from the Expert Committee's deliberations and comments of various Ministries /Department in the GoI. the draft policy was circulated among the Members of Group of Experts constituted by the Administration to review the Jarawa Policy. Dr. Vishwajit Pandaya, Member of Group of Expert, Honorary Director (ANTRI) suggested that the draft Policy on Shompen prepared by the Administration has to be re-worked and suggested for a study on contemporary situation of the Shompen tribe to understand what they really need instead of imposing some welfare measures on the tribe.