

The other category of people who are non-tribal are the Sri Lankan settlers of Tamil origin rehabilitated at Katchal during the period from 1974 to 1976. Their presence in this island has been resented by the local tribal population particularly after tsunami of 2004. The Administration is examining the issue of shifting them out of the tribal areas. Similar is the case with the illegal residents in Nancowry Group, who have encroached without any valid permits and are settled there. They are considered criminal offenders under the Protection of Aboriginal Tribes (PAT) Regulation, 1956 and stringent action is under way to evacuate these people from Nicobar District. All these people have voting rights in the Parliamentary elections.

[It is further pointed out that an analogous situation exists even in the A&N Islands (Panchayat) Regulation, 1994, which does not provide franchise to the encroachers in the forest areas of Andaman District. Though they have the right to vote in the Parliamentary Constituency of the A&N Islands, yet they are debarred from exercising their franchise under the Panchayat Regulation, 1994.]

In view of the above background there is sufficient justification for enacting the draft Andaman and Nicobar (Tribal Council) Regulation as per the copy already forwarded to you.

Yours faithfully,

Arvind Ray

(Arvind Ray)
Chief Secretary (i/c)

o/c