

Shompens: The Shompens live in different bands in thick tropical forests and in coasts of the Great Nicobar Island, and number approximately 238. The ANI Administration has notified the Policy for Shompens of Great Nicobar Island on 22.05.2015 prepared in consultation with subject experts and the Expert Committee of Ministry of the Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India. An area of 853.19 Sqkm of Great Nicobar Island has been declared as Tribal Reserve A&N (PAT), Regulation 1956.

Sentinelese: This hunter-gatherer tribe numbering approximately 50, lives in North Sentinelese Island having geographic area of 59.67 Sq Km.

Jarawas: The protection and welfare measures are extended to the Jarawas as per the Jarawa Policy framed in the year 2004. The extent of Jarawa reserved area is 1028 SqKm, meant exclusively for them. The Administration, through AAJVS, extends health and other calibrated amenities preferably in-situ. Due to the constant efforts, today the population has reached upto 505, which had once plummeted to around 200.

The lands inhabited by the aboriginal tribes have since been declared as "reserved area" under the provisions made in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 where the tribal communities enjoy unfettered right of meeting their day-to-day requirement for their sustenance and transfer, acquisition etc. of land in Tribal Reserved areas are strictly prohibited. As per the amendment brought out in the said Regulation in the year 2012 and 2013 further provides for declaration of Buffer Zone where any commercial/tourism activity is strictly prohibited and the Regulation provides for imposition of penalty has been made for any attempt of exploitation like photo/videography, introduction of intoxicants and poaching etc as well as unauthorised entry into the tribal reserved areas.

The aboriginal tribes declared as Scheduled Tribes in these islands inhabit tribal reserves which have been notified under the A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation 1956, where the entry as well as acquisition of any interest in land etc. by any person other than the members of the aboriginal tribes is prohibited. Thus the interest of the scheduled tribes in A&N Islands has been fully protected by this Regulation of 1956.

Comments in the tabular statement

(i)	The number of claims for the grant of land under the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006	The area inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of A&N Islands has been declared as Reserved Areas under the A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes), Regulation 1956 and since their interests are fully protected under the said Regulation by exclusively preserving the area for them in which they enjoy unfettered rights to use forest products for their bonafide use, so no claim as such is there for settlement under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
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