

2. That it is submitted that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands have originally been the abode of aboriginal Tribes. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956, promulgated by the President of India provides for protection of the interests of aboriginal tribes and declaration of the geographical area as reserved areas for the exclusive community ownership of the Tribes. There are six Scheduled Tribes, viz., Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens as notified by the President of India under Article 342 (1) of The Constitution of India vide The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Scheduled Tribes Order No.58, dated 31.03.1959. Except Nicobarese, the rest of the 05 tribes are recognized as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (in short referred as PVTGs) and the details are as follows:

- i) **Nicobarese**: They are the largest group of tribes, numbering over 27000 and are already in the mainstream. The Administration extends benefits of scholarships, medical facilities and other developments through the District Administration and Integrated Tribal Development Project and their rights over the land are well protected.