

friendly contact, their number had dwindled to below 20. Today, after many efforts in terms of protection and preservation, it stands at 75. They are settled on the Strait Island covering an area of 6.01 Sq Kms and the coastal waters upto 5km around the islands has also been declared as Tribal Reserve under The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956.

- iii) **Onges:** Similarly, the Onges have been in contact with outsiders for more than 100 years. They are settled in Dugong Creek and presently are numbered at 123 and 403.37 Sq.km out of 734.39 Sq.km of the Little Andaman Islands has been declared as Tribal Reserve under The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956.

It is further submitted that the Andamanese and the Onges have been provided with permanent houses at their settlement areas. The Andaman Aadim Janjati Vikas Samity (in short referred as AAJVS) takes care of their requirements through involvement of various line departments. Potable water supplies, electrification of their settlements, free medical care,

