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2. The permanent residents of A & N Islands:

The Bengali Settlers, the Penal Settlers (or so called the 'Pre-'42 Local Borns'), the Nicobari tribe and the aborigine tribes are the permanent residents of A & N Islands as they have no other statehood except A & N Islands. The population of the permanent residents may be only about 50% of the total population of the islands.

Floating population or 10-years Locals: The other islanders have migrated to A & N islands from various States and UTs of India after Independence for their livelihood; they inherit properties in their parent States and UTs. Their castes have already been defined in their respective States and UTs. They are called floating population, 10 years locals and so on. Most of the floating population is Bengali, Tamil, Telegu, Ranchi and Malayali. Their population may be about 50% or more.

The classification and actual populations of the permanent residents (1998 -- '99):--

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| I. | <u>Bengali Settlers – (Post-'47)</u> | : 1,25 to 1.30 lacs (Approx.) |
| II. | <u>Pre-'42 Local Borns</u> | : About 30 to 35 thousand only. |
| A. Convict descendants: (Penal Settlers) | | |
| 1. Local Borns (Pre-'42) - <u>Mixed</u> : 7.5 to 8.5 thousand only (Approx.) | | |
| 2. Mopla : 22 to 23.5 thousand only (Approx.). | | |
| 3. Bhanu : 2200 only | | |
| B. Non – Convict settlers: | | |
| 1. Karen : 1200 only | | |
| III. | <u>Nicobari Tribes</u> | : 25000 only. |
| IV. | <u>Aborigine Tribes</u> | : 800 (Approx.) |

In the conference hall of Raj Niwas, Port Blair the total population of Bengalis (that is, Settlers and Non- Settlers) which may be more than about 2.5 lacs is wrongly depicted as 68000 only to mislead the dignitaries from outside.

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