

3. Through the process of acculturation the Shompens shall build up a self-defence against possible exploitation by the miscreant elements among the non-autochthons and equip themselves with the system to fight out the epidemic and endemic diseases.
4. The proper milieu shall be provided by the Administration to facilitate the Shompens for their acculturation.

1. *Jarawa*

The Jarawa tribe, also belonging to Negrito race, is inhabiting the western region of South and Middle Andaman Islands. They were hostile to the outside world till 1997. Their present population is estimated at 300. They are hunting gathering and fishing tribe. The entire area inhabited by them has been declared as a Tribal Reserve area under the A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956.

The first friendly contact with the Jarawas of Middle Andaman Island was made in 1974 and with Jarawas of South Andaman in 1989. Thereafter the official contact team of Administration made periodical contacts with the Jarawas and provided them gifts like banana, coconut etc. apart from on-the-spot medical treatment of minor ailments and raising of dispersed fruit bearing trees within their reserve areas. They became quite friendly with the contact teams of the Administration over the years.

However, there was a dramatic turning point in the history of relations in October 1997 when the Jarawas themselves started frequenting the non-tribal areas like villages and Andaman Trunk Road. This led to unprecedented interaction of the Jarawas with non-tribals which would certainly have deleterious impact on Jarawas.