

2. GENERAL INFORMATION :

Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprises of 572 islands. A & N Islands is a Union Territory without legislation, there are two Districts namely Andamans District and Nicobar District. Population of Andaman District is 2415453 and population of Nicobar District is 39208 as per 1991 census. The majority of population in Nicobar District is tribal only. There are six Tribes which include five primitive tribes viz. Onges, Great Andamanese, Shompens, Jarawas and Sentinelese. The estimated population of Onges is 106, Great Andamanese 39, the 150, Jarawas 250 and Sentinelese 200.

For more than a year now one of the primitive tribes of A & N Islands i.e. Jarawas are coming out from their habitats especially from the areas of Lakra Lungta, Chottalingbang, Badabalu, Spike Island etc. of Middle Andamans to the settlement areas of Utara and Kadamtala, Tiru etc. They are contacting the local people which could cause the spread of contagious diseases among the Jarawas.

In the recent past, the Administration has had to evacuate a large number of Jarawa from Lakra Lungta and get them admitted to GB Pant Hospital, Port Blair and some of them also have been admitted in the PHC Kadamtala. After intensive medical investigation it has been observed that most of them were suffering from chest infection, pneumonia, diarrhoea, dysentery etc. A large number of them were suffering from skin disease like scabies and ring worms, wound/cuts of lower extremities. One of them was also suffering from septicemia. Some of them were also suffering from influenza.

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