

A Status note on welfare of Jarawa tribe and other 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribes' of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

There are six Scheduled Tribes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands viz. Great Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Shompens and Nicobarese. The tribes other than Nicobarese are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribes (PVTs). To look after the welfare of these PVTs, an autonomous body namely Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) is functioning under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor, A & N Islands. It has a General Body and Executive Council which meets periodically. The General Body lays down policies and programmes for the welfare of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs). The composition of General Body of AAJVS is attached at **Annexure - I.**

The Executive Council is also chaired by Lt. Governor, A & N Islands and Chief Secretary, A & N Administration is its Vice Chairman. The Executive Council is responsible for the management and administration of the Samiti in accordance with the rules made there under. The composition of Executive Council is attached at **Annexure-II.** The Tribal Welfare Department provides 100% Grant-in-aid to AAJVS out of its Annual Plan.

The AAJVS has set up field units at various places in the island territory for the welfare of the PTGs. The Great Andamanese with a population of 52 have been settled at Strait Island in Middle Andaman, while the Onges with a population of 100 have been settled at Dugong Creek in Little Andaman. They are provided with necessary amenities like houses, drinking water, electricity, schools, medical sub centres etc. They are being supplied with monthly ration at the prescribed scales to meet their nutritional requirements. Sentinelese tribe remains in isolation, inhabiting an island namely North Sentinel Island. They are hunters and gatherers, whose population is estimated to be 100. The Administration has adopted a policy of 'no contact' with this tribe and the island is off-limits to all outsiders.