

Shompens are a semi nomadic tribe inhabiting the Great Nicobar Island and their population is 398 as per 2001 census. The Administration is providing necessary medical coverage, ration articles at their camps only when the Shompens seek this assistance. Entry of non-tribal into Tribal Reserve areas is prohibited under the provision of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 (PAT)1.

The Jarawas, with an estimated population of 362, inhabit the forests of western part of South and Middle Andaman Islands. The Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Andaman & Nicobar Administration has framed a separate Policy on the Jarawa Tribe, on the basis of the recommendations of the experts. The Policy was notified in December, 2004 and is being implemented strictly to ensure protection and welfare of Jarawas. In order to provide a rich resource of forest based traditional food like wild pig, turtle, honey and fish etc, the Jarawa reserve area has been increased to 1028 Sq. Kms in 2004 from 847 Sq Km earlier. Exclusive marine resource base has also been increased by declaring coastal waters upto 5 Kms from west coast as tribal reserve. Exclusive Medical Wards in Primary Health Centres, located at Tushnabad in South Andaman, Kadamtala in Middle Andaman and G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair have been provided for treatment of Jarawas and such Wards are also declared as Tribal Reserve.

The PAT Regulation makes adequate provision of the land and its protection for the benefit of the PTGs including Jarawas in the island territory. The areas inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes of these Islands have been declared as Tribal Reserve. The entry into such area by non-tribal is not only prohibited unless permitted by the Statutory Authority under the said law but acquiring any land is also prohibited. Besides the A & N Administration is making all efforts to enforce the Jarawa Policy by prohibiting persons who illegally enter the Jarawa Reserve area by registering cases against them under the PAT Regulation as well