

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3768
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2002
TRIBAL POPULATION OF GREATER ANDAMANS
WANGCHA RAJKUMAR

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that the indigenous tribal population in Islands of Greater Andamans and Jarwas, is moving towards its extinction and the main threat to this development is the influx of settlers from the mainland;
- (b) if so, the steps contemplated to stop this influx; and
- (c) the schemes are in position/under consideration to involve the various tribes in the development activities of the Islands?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The census data reveals that the population of Great Andamanese has increased from 15 in 1961 to 32 in 1991. Similarly, the population of Jarwas has increased from 31 in 1981 to 89 in 1991. Thus, the population of these groups is increasing. However, Government of India have constituted a committee under the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta, to go into recent behaviour change among the Jarawas and to suggest measures to prevent their extinction or loss of cultural identity.

(c) Various Schemes in the Sectors of agriculture, horticulture, minor irrigation animal husbandry, forest education and small industries etc. are being implemented in the Union Territory of A&N Islands for socio-economic development of STs under the strategy of Tribal Sub-Plan.