

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-3336
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 29/03/2023

THE GREAT NICOBAR PROJECT

3336 Ms. Sushmita Dev:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Great Nicobar Project is taking away 84km, which is 10 per cent of the tribal reserve area;
- (b) if so, reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has studied the impact of the project on the traditional way of life of the tribals, especially one which is a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group; and
- (d) if so, the plans of Government for the rehabilitation and repatriation of the tribal communities native to the Nicobar Islands?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) to (d): As per the information received from UT Administration of Andaman and Nicobar only of 7.114 Sq km tribal reserve area is proposed for Great Nicobar Project.

The Hon'ble Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar has constituted an Empowered Committee consisting of the concerned Government Departments, Anthropologists and experts to obtain their views and consultations.

The proposed utilization of tribal reserved area is subject to the following:

- i. The interests of tribal population especially Shompen, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group are not affected adversely.
- ii. Strict implementation of the provisions of Protection of Aborigine Tribe (PAT) Regulation to protect the interest of the Shompen.
- iii. The displacement of tribals will not be allowed.
- iv. Eco-tourism will be regulated in effective manner.

Further, the Expert Appraisal Committee of MoEFCC in its 306th meeting held on 23.08.2022 decided that the project activities shall not disturb Shompen tribe and their habitation.
