

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1158**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2018 / AGRAHAYANA 27, 1940  
(SAKA)**

**RESTRICTION ON SENTINEL ISLAND**

**1158. SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

**(a) whether the Sentinel Island inhabited by a hostile tribe, is off-limits for all persons including foreigners and tourists and if so, the details thereof;**

**(b) whether the tribes of the Island choose to remain and live in isolation for centuries and if so, the details thereof;**

**(c) whether by allowing visit of tourists, the visitors can infect the tribes with bacteria and other viruses which may exterminate their existence and if so, the details thereof; and**

**(d) whether of late, a US national in a spirit of misadventure attempted to land in Sentinel Island in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to communicate with the aboriginal Sentinelese tribes leading to his being killed by the hostile tribe and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS  
(SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR)**

**(a): Yes Madam. The entire North Sentinel Island along with 5 km coastal sea from high water mark is notified as tribal reserve and hence entry into which by any outsiders including foreigners is prohibited under A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956.**

**(b): Yes Madam. There are six Scheduled Tribes i.e., the Andamanese,**

L.S.US.Q NO. 1158 FOR 18.12.2018

**Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese, Nicobarese and Shompens notified under Article 342 (1) of the Indian Constitution. Except Nicobarese, rest of the 05 tribes are categorized into Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).**

**The tribes of A&N Islands are in different stages of socio-economic condition, the Nicobarese have joined the mainstream and the Sentinlese are still in isolation practicing primordial hunting and gathering way of life. The other tribes namely Jarawas, Onges, Andamanese and Shompens are partly in contact with the outside population but they prefer to remain in their own abode particularly Shompens and the Jarawas. The Onges and Great Andamanese are in contact with the outside population and the Union Territory Administration of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is also supporting these tribes with medical care, education, food, security etc so as to sustain their living.**

**(c): Yes Madam. Any interface with the tribals by the tourists and visitors would infect the tribes with bacteria and other viruses which would exterminate the tribes. Therefore, in order to protect them from infection due to bacteria and other viruses, Section 8 of the A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 has been suitably amended by incorporating the following stringent penalties:**

**L.S.US.Q NO. 1158 FOR 18.12.2018**

***Section 8 (6): Whoever enters, in contravention of the notification issued under section 7 into the reserved area for the purpose of introducing any form of alcohol or any highly inflammable or explosive substance or any form of biological germ, bacteria or virus to any member of the aboriginal tribe, he shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to seven years and with fine which may extend to ten thousands rupees.***

**(d): Yes Madam. Report submitted by the Director General of Police, A&N Administration on the alleged killing of US National also indicate the same.**

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