

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3428**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 01<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY, 2019/ PAUSHA 11, 1940  
(SAKA)**

**SENTINELESE TRIBES**

**†3428. SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA:  
SHRI HARISH CHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI:  
SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:**

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

**(a) whether the Government has received any information pertaining to the Sentinelese Tribe;**

**(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and**

**(c) the steps being taken by the Government for their protection?**

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) Yes Madam, Only one information about the recent incident of November, 2018 involving an American National Mr John Chaw has been received.**

**(b) Report submitted by the Director General of Police, A&N Administration in this regard is enclosed as Annexure-I.**

**(C) 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**

**..2/**

**-2-**

**L.S.US.Q.NO.3428 FOR 01.01.2019**

**any outsiders including foreigners is prohibited under A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956. Entry into the reserved area is being regulated in terms of A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulations, 1956 and subsequent amendments, Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, Restrictions under Foreigner (Restricted Area) orders, 1963, Visa manual conditions/Passport Act, 1920, and Regulations under Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**

**The UT Administration respects the way of life of Sentinelese and so has adopted an ‘eyes-on and hands-off’ practice to protect and safeguard the Sentinelese tribe. A protocol of circumnavigation of the North Sentinel Island has been notified. The ships and**

**aircrafts of Coast Guard and boats of Marine Police make sorties  
around North Sentinel to keep surveillance.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

Annexure-I referred to in reply to part (b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred  
Question No. 3428 for reply on 01.01.2019

पुलिस महानिदेशक का कार्यालय  
**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE**  
अण्डमान तथा निकोबार द्वीपसमूह  
**ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS**  
\*\*\*\*\*

पोर्ट ब्लेयर Port Blair, दिनांक dated, 27<sup>th</sup> Nov., 2018

REPORT ON THE ALLEGED KILLING OF US NATIONAL CITIZEN, JOHN ALLEN CHAU

On 19.11.2018, an e-mail was received from David N. Roberts, Vice Consul, American Citizen Services, US Consulate General, Chennai, wherein it was stated that the US Consulate General has received a communication from the mother of one Mr. John Allen Chau, Citizen of United States of America, about her son's visit to North Sentinel Island and subsequent attack on him.

Based on the email, a missing report was immediately registered in Police Station, Pahargaon, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and a detailed enquiry was initiated. The enquiry revealed that one US national, Mr. John Allen Chau, who came to Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 16.10.2018, allegedly got killed at North Sentinel Island when he illegally ventured in the highly restricted area. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 91/18 dated 20.11.2018 u/s 302/34 IPC was registered at PS Humfrygunj, A & N Islands against unknown persons and investigation was taken up.

During the initial investigation, it got revealed that John Allen Chau who earlier also visited the Andaman & Nicobar Islands few times had reached North Sentinel Island with the help of a local friend namely Alexander, an electronics engineer, Saw Remmis and 5 other fishermen namely Saw Jampo, Saw Taray, Saw Watson, Saw Molian and M. Bhumi,

who actively facilitated and accompanied him to North Sentinel Island under the camouflage of fishing activity to evade the patrolling teams of Police, Coast Guard and Navy. For this, the local fishermen were paid around Rs. 25,000 by John Allen Chau. They started the journey on 14.11.2018 around 8 PM for the North Sentinel Island and reached near it by midnight. On 15.11.2018 morning, John moved to shore of North Sentinel Island by using his kayak. After dropping John Allen Chau near North Sentinel Island, these fishermen fixed their timings and place to meet each other between the shoreline and their high sea fishing area. In the morning of 17.11.2018, the fishermen saw a dead person being buried at the shore which from the silhouette of the body, clothing and circumstances appeared to be the body of John Allen Chau. Subsequently, they returned to Port Blair and narrated the incident to Alexander and also handed him the 13 pages of the journal written by John Allen Chau. Alexander in turn informed Bobby Parks, a friend of John Allen Chau, in USA, who in turn informed John Allen Chau's mother. They didn't inform the Police or any government authority in this regard.


Pertinently, access to North Sentinel Island and its buffer zone is strictly restricted under Protection of Aboriginal Tribe (Regulation), 1956 and Regulations under Indian Forest Act, 1927. Despite knowing fully well about the illegality of the action and the hostile attitude of the Sentinelese tribesmen to the outsiders, these people collaborated with John Chau for this visit to North Sentinel Island without any permission from the authorities. All seven of the aforementioned persons were, therefore, booked and arrested in a separate case registered vide FIR No. 92/18 dated 20.11.2018 u/s 282/336/304/34 IPC R.W.S 7/8 PAT, 1956 at PS Humfrygunj for violating the provisions of PAT Regulation and causing death of John Allen Chau.

On 20.11.2018, a team of A&N Police along with Indian Coast Guard, tried an aerial survey for carrying out recce of North Sentinel Island but returned as the helicopter developed technical snag. On 21.11.2018, after consulting Tribal Welfare Department & Forest Department a joint team consisting of Andaman & Nicobar police and officials of AAJVS (Andaman Aadim Janjati Vikas Samiti) deputed by department of Tribal Welfare and Forest Department went in an Indian Coast Guard boat to the vicinity of North Sentinel Island to recce and identify the place of incidence without causing any distress and disturbing the tribals. Similarly on 23/11/18 during the second round of expedition the joint team also took two alleged accused who are on police custody. They left in the morning and returned back in the evening to ascertain the route and possible circumstances of Chau's killing. Elaborate discussions on the possible circumstances that could have led to the killing of Chau were also held by the team. The arrested accused who accompanied the team had reportedly ferried Chau in their vessel to the North Sentinel Island. The sentinalese are protected by law to preserve their way of life, due precautions were taken by the team to ensure that the tribal group are not disturbed and distressed during these exercises.

Police is also taking help of Anthropologists, Academician, Forest department & experts to guide & assist the police during the investigation. Extensive consultation with the experts in Anthropology & Tribal Welfare, have been held to understand to their custom, culture and ethos of the original inhabitants of the north sentinel islands to chalk out further course of action without disturbing and distressing the tribals or their environment. To assist the investigation Shri. C. Raghu, Head, Anthropological Survey of India (ASI), Port Blair Region and Shri. T. N

Pandit, Ex-Head of Anthropological Survey of India have been also able to enlighten the police through their meetings and consultations with the Police. Police had also written to Forest department, tribal department and Anthropological depart for obtaining relevant information, books, documents, research reports or any other materials available on the tribes of North Sentinel Island to understand their world view for furtherance of the investigation.

As the case pertains to the ultra-sensitive tribal group-Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) police is taking all due precautions without compromising the safety & security of the aboriginal tribes and also follow the institutional mechanism established for their rights and interests.



**(DEEPENDRA PATHAK, IPS)**  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE  
A & N ISLANDS  
PORT BLAIR

No. DGP/SO/2018/197DATED: 27<sup>TH</sup> NOV., 2018

Chief Secretary