

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 440**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH FEBRUARY, 2019/, MAGHA 16, 1940 (SAKA)

SENTINELESE TRIBE

440. SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that incident like the death of the American tourist at the hands of the Sentinelese Tribe does not occur again;**
- (b) whether any patrolling is set up near the reserved area to ensure that there is no encroachment and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the current population of the Sentinelese and the Jarawas tribe as of 2018; and**
- (d) the number of such confrontational incidents which have occurred during the last ten years with the Sentinelese and the Jarawas tribe?**

ANSWER

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

(a): The Government has promulgated various laws/regulations from time to time to ensure that the rights and well being of the Sentinelese are safeguarded. These are being strictly implemented and enforced by the UT Administration. These Laws/Regulation include i) A & N Islands (PAT) Regulation 1956, ii) Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, iii) Restrictions under Foreigner (Restricted Area) Orders, 1963, iv) Visa Manual Conditions/Passport Act 1920, and v) Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Besides, some major steps taken to ensure the protection of Sentinelese are:

- **The entire North Sentinel Island along with 5 km coastal sea from high water mark is notified as tribal reserve.**
- **The Sentinelese are still in isolation practicing primordial hunting and gathering way of life. The Government respects their way of life style, therefore, 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.**

(b): Yes Madam. Apart from the land territory the coastal sea up to fixed extent of 1 Km to 5 Km abutting the tribal territory has also been notified as tribal reserve so that marine resources like fish, turtle etc are available exclusively for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). The vehicular traffic on Andaman Trunk Road passing through Jarawa reserve is regulated by convoy system. Buffer Zone notified in 2013, around the Jarawa Tribal Reserve (5km landward side and 1km seaward side), prohibits all commercial / tourism activity in the Buffer Zone. Joint patrolling by Police, Forest & Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) is carried out around Jarawa area to prevent contact of poachers and unscrupulous non-tribal elements with Jarawa tribe. A Special Police Team (01 SI and 10 PCs) for patrolling at Tirrur, adjacent to the Jarawa Tribal Reserve, has also been deployed. The ships and aircrafts of Coast Guard and boats of Marine Police make sorties around North Sentinel to keep surveillance.

(c): The details of population of the Sentinelese and Jarawa Tribes are as under:

S.No	Name of the tribe	Population
1.	Jarawa	514 (till date)
2.	Sentinelese	50 estimated as per 2011 census

(d): The number of confrontational incidents occurred during the last ten years with the Sentinelese and the Jarawas tribe are given as under:

- (i) Sentinelese -- 01(one)**
- (ii) Jarawas -- 19(Nineteen)**