1286. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Anthropological Survey of India (ANSI) has undertaken genetic study of some tribes in Andaman and Nicobar Islands;
(b) if so, whether any prior and informed consent has been sought from those tribes; and
(c) whether Government has provided funds to the ANSI for research aimed at determining ‘racial purity’ of those tribes?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Yes, Sir. Anthropological Survey of India had undertaken genetic study of the following communities:

i) The Nicobarese community for detection of hemoglobinopathies under the project Community Genetic and Health.

ii) The Jarwa community under the project DNA Polymorphism of Contemporary Indian Population.

(b) Yes, Sir. Prior and informed consent has been obtained from those tribes by AnSI.
(c) No, Sir. AnSI never initiated any such study related to determining 'racial purity' of the Indian population.

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