

Tour Report of Chief Secretary's and Senior Officers visit to Lakra Lungta (Kadamtala), Middle Strait & Tirur on 30th October, 2009 and on 02nd November, 2009 respectively

I. Visit to Lakra Lungta (Kadamtala area)

Chief Secretary visited the tribal reserve area at Lakra Lungta on 30th October, 2009 accompanied by Principal Secretary (Edn), Development Commissioner, Secretary (TW), Deputy Commissioner (N&M Andaman) Deputy Director (Tribal Health), Regional Director, Anthropological Survey of India and Executive Secretary, AAJVS. Approximately 60 Jarawas were camping at a location, in their traditional hut. The team interacted with the tribals to know the present status of the tribes particularly the health, availability of food and other issues, if any.

- a) It was observed by the team that the tribes are continuing their foraging activities and at the same time availing medical services whenever required. The tribals interaction with the villagers is reduced due to the constant persuasion by the staff of AAJVS posted to take care of them.
- b) It is learnt by the team that the tribals occasionally visit non-tribal villages to collect coconuts and bananas and at other times they pick up the iron implements from the villagers. However, there frequency of entry in the villages has reduced.
- c) The team had observed that iron implements are provided to the tribes which they are converting for making the traditional implements like bow & arrow and spear required for hunting and gathering activities.
- d) The Jarawa tribes requested for supply of anvil, Triangular file etc. for making the implements.
- e) The tribes drew the attention of the team to the sporadic incidents of fishing and hunting activity by non-tribals in the Jarawa reserve, thus reducing the availability of fish and wild boar, which is a part of their dietary system.
- f) Chief Secretary directed that all steps be taken to prevent such poaching (by the Police Department, Forest Department and the staff of AAJVS) by increasing the surveillance in the area and to take action under PAT Regulation
- g) To a specific question put to the tribes by the team about whether they would prefer to live at Kadamtala, or continue with their traditional way of life in the jungle, the reply was a very firm affirmation that they prefer their traditional way of life.
- h) The team observed that this group of Jarawa was healthy and one them could speak a bit Of Hindi.

II. Visit to Middle Strait Area

The team interacted with the Jarawas at Middle Strait and during interaction it was observed that: -

- a) The Jarawas are brought to the Tushnabad hospital or to the GB Pant Hospital for further treatment and the Jarawas are facing problems in shifting the patents. Jarawas requested for a ward at Primary Health Centre, Baratang where the tribes can be shifted in case they require further treatment.
- b) No vehicle is available with the staff of AAJVS for monitoring the movements of the tribes on the ATR. A vehicle is required for better monitoring and supervision and also transport ailing Jarawas to hospital.