

The Director, Health Services disputed the report and furnished a copy of report giving the population trend of Andamanese vide F/DSHS/PS/SR/98 dated 08/07/98. The population reached the lowest of 19 in the year 1961. Thereafter it is increased so the article published by RMRC is misleading. She further informed that on the basis of the survey conducted by the Directorate of Health Services by deputing a team of Doctors including Programme Officers in public health, Medical Specialist, Nutrition Specialist with Para Medical staff to Strait Island a report was submitted to the Secretary, Tribal Welfare and Secretary, Health. She also informed that a team of Doctors alongwith Para Medical Staff were again sent to Strait Island on 06/07/98 with lab equipment, ECG etc. to survey the general health condition of the Great Andamanese. The Director of Health Services further informed that the visit of Doctors to tribal areas arranged as under :-

- 1) Medical Officer-in-charge, Hut Bay shall visit South Bay once in a week.
- 2) Medical Officer-in-charge, R K Pur (Little Andaman) will visit Dugong Creek once in a week.
- 3) Medical Officer, Long Island will visit Strait Island during every 3rd & 4th Week of every month.
- 4) Medical Officer-in-charge, Rangat CHC will visit Strait Island during 1st week of every month.
- 5) Medical Officer, Rangat will visit Strait Island during every 3rd week of the month.

In accordance with recommendations of the medical team, DHS informed that arrangements have been made for admistring Folic Acid, Vitamin B-Complex and Iron to the tribals and arrangements for de-worming also made. She informed that arrangements have been made to spray DDT in the settlement area in every three months.

The representative of RMRC informed that the study sponsored by AAJVS in 1997 on health and nutrition of the Primitive Tribes is in progress and an interim report has been submitted to AAJVS on 03/07/98 and final report would be submitted shortly. The Secretary (TW) instructed the Executive Secretary AAJVS to circulate the interim report among all concerned departments for comments to take further necessary action. Dr. Rao suggested that washing and bathing should be prohibited near the drinking water well and there should be proper parapets around the well to ensure the cleanliness of water. Shri B. N. Nagaraja, SE, APWD assured that proper parapets would be provided. The Executive Secretary AAJVS in his tour note has informed that all arrangements have been made for supply of piped water and the same would be started shortly.