



No.IGP/97/122  
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.



.....  
Port Blair, dated the 29th October, 1997.  
3rd November

To

The Hon'ble Lt. Governor,  
Raj Niwas,  
Port Blair.

Sub:- Observations of Jarawa Contact Expedition on 26.10.97.

Sir,

With reference to the letter No.XI-2/AAJVS/97-TW dated 27th October, 1997 from the Executive Secretary, Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti, on the above subject, I furnish below my observations as desired:-

The myth that the Jarawas behave in a violent and abnormal way was proved totally lacking credibility. This myth may be a reality some 15 to 20 years back but because of the constant contacts and interaction with Jarawas that they have considerably changed their violent behavior to a behavior of friendship and understanding. This is very well reflected when they extended a human hand to help the fainted photographer. The violent behavior of the Jarawas seems to me the cumulative effect of the trespass into their territory by the encroachers from the mainland and the resultant hardships caused to them in procuring vegetations for their food and other necessities.

Another myth is that the Jarawas like red clothes. But I have noticed that when they received the red cloth pieces they just threw them on some dry tree branches on the sea shore. None of them were fascinated with the red colour clothes. I did not notice any Jarawa keeping these red clothes in their possession with their families under the make-shift shelters. Even they liked white colour T.Shirts and Banians and when the Hon'ble Lt. Governor offered his T.Shirt, the Jarawas were noticed in a rejoiced manner. The Jarawa immediately put on the T.Shirt on his body.

The Jarawas do not put on clothes and they do not cover their genitals with any other material also. Probably they did not have any inhibition towards their nakedness. But since the Jarawas will have to be brought into the main stream of our country's development, I think it is the right time when we consider making them conscious of covering their genitals and other parts of their body. It is our experience in the past that whenever they put on the clothes they had to take it off after some days since they do not have the knowledge of the need for washing their uncleaned garments. Since it is also observed that the Jarawas are very clean. Their finger nails are evenly cut and I have not noticed any dirt in their nails. Their body was completely clean without any foul odour which confirms that they have the habit of cleaning themselves after ablution, urination and even sex.