

To  
The Executive Secretary  
AAJVS, Port Blair,

91

## The recent Jarawa Phenomenon - A Patrolling Report

It was reported to us by an official signal that the Jarawas were not under control and their trend to board the plying buses on ATR in large number was increasing day by day. Following an office Order No. 402 dated 12.10.2000 from office of the AAJVS for an intensive patrolling in Jarawa area, we departed from Port Blair on 13.10.2000 at 0400 hrs. early in the morning.

I was accompanied by Shri K. Mohan, Accountant, Shri Appa Rao, GCM, Shri Paul Patrick and Mohd. Shariff, Driver in our patrolling. We carried with us 160 kgs of banana to distribute among the Jarawas. Our team reached Punnanallah area at 0700 hrs. where we saw about 40 Jarawas were constructing new hut to stay on ATR side. Their trend to run on ATR on arrival of vehicle was observed. It may be noted that these Jarawas came from the Tirur area of South Andaman who were much more naughty than the Jarawas of other areas. We tried to persuade them to go back to their native area i.e. Tirur area and in response they assured us that they would very soon be back to the interior part of forest indicating on a direction. We gave them 2 bags of banana (about 100 kgs) on the spot and moved further.

After covering few kilometers we saw another new hut on ATR side with 3-4 Jarawas. After they saw our jeep they started running down to ATR from their hut. There this hut was not so new as of Punnanallah. After few miles ahead we found a long queue of vehicles on ATR, in front of those three big trees at different distances which fell down as barricades on road due to landslide of last night as a result of heavy rain. It was interesting to see that the Jarawas themselves cleared the road with cutting and pulling of those trees in parts with the help of daos. It was indeed a hard task. It was clear for the ammuters that these tribes who were misunderstood by many of them understood their problems and extended their helping hands with the great labour. We reached the Jarawa hut of R. K. Nallah at about 12.00 noon there we found 35 Jarawas who were given a bag of bananas by us. We stayed for a hour with them. Reached Middle Strait at 1.00 P.M. When we reached A.P.WD guesthouse, Kadamtala and accommodated in two booked rooms, after a while we received a message that the Jarawas of R. K. Nallah area took away a large number of ration items from a van bearing number AN 01 A 9403. On receiving this news we with no delay reached the incident place. Except cartoons of some biscuit and edible oil packets the rest looted items were recovered. The items which were not recovered (biscuits and oil) have been assessed at the cost amount of Rs. 12859/- by the reporting party. This incident place (near R. K. Nallah) is located at the distance of 7 Kms from Middle Strait.