

Title of the Project : Establishment of Staging Posts for the Protection of Jarawas -- procurement of vehicles and communication equipments.

1. Introduction :

The Jarawas are one of the Negrito Tribes inhabited in the Andaman Islands. They are hunting, gathering foraging peoples mainly concentrated in the western coast of South and Middle Andaman. Since 1976 onwards A & N Administration is contacting this tribes through contact expedition which usually arranged in a month days closure to full moon. The Jarawas were the hostile tribes, therefore the contact expedition were arranged with extra precautions for the safe guard of the expedition members. Similarly, the members of the contact team were also medically examined before they were inducted in the expedition team in order to prevent spread of any foreign diseases uncommon among this Primitive Tribes.

The Jarawa situation changed after 1998 when number of Jarawas started coming to the non-tribal villages and along side the Andaman Trunk Road. It is experienced that the Jarawas out of curiosity board on the vehicles and go to different non-tribal areas mixing with the peoples without knowing the consequences thereof particularly the diseases they will infected with.

2. Aims :

Uncontrolled mixing of the Jarawas with the other people would result in introduction of foreign diseases among the Jarawas and intrusion of vices of the modern societies among the Jarawas. This has to be prevented.

Therefore, the Jarawas are to be persuaded to desist from coming to the non-tribal areas. This is proposed to be done by establishing the Staging Posts in different locations in South and Middle Andaman.

3. Staging Posts :

It was decided in the meeting held at Raj Niwas, Port Blair on 4.3.99 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands that the Staging Posts shall be constructed which will be the center for the activities not only to persuade the Jarawas to desist from coming out into the non-tribal areas but also to carry out the other developmental programmes like augmentation of food resources in the Jarawa territory, learning the Jarawa language, providing health cover etc.