

1234

Almost every year, barring this year so far, there have been incidents of killing of non-tribal people by the arrows of Jarawas in the dry months of January, February and March. Such incidents occur due to occasional attempts at encroachment by non-tribals in the forest. Otherwise the fear of the Jarawas among non-tribals has traditionally been the best insurance, not only in the preservation of the Jarawas themselves and in ensuring protection from non-tribals seeking entry into their areas, but also of the thick tropical forests in South and Middle Andaman Islands. This Administration has always considered it important for the Jarawas to live in their traditional habitat deep inside the forests. It may be relevant to mention that the Jarawas occupy an area of 649 sq kms in the reserved forests along the west coast in South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands, and they are also found in a few smaller islands such as Spike Island bordering the west coast. The length of the territory inhabited by the Jarawas in the tropical forests extends to a distance of nearly 120-130 kms. along the west coast of the aforesaid two major islands.

There has never been a detailed study of Jarawa society by the Anthropological Survey of India or any other scientists, either foreign or Indian, based on primary data gathered through long residence in Jarawa habitations and recording of observations. Since they are regarded as hostile tribes there have been no such studies, so far. (This is also the case with the Sentinelese). As a result, the precise