

selected officials of the task force as also social workers of the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti.

Separately people in the non-tribal settlements on the periphery of the protected areas are being imparted instruction on the importance of preservation of the Jarawa way of life, without any intrusion from the civilised world.

The expressions of concern by various NGOs abroad as also on the mainland criticising or questioning the policy of this Administration are misplaced and based on erroneous information. This Administration would advise the Central Government to investigate the sources of such misinformation on the mainland, who are believed to have communicated over the Internet to various foreign NGOs. The ostensible concern of the latter for the well being of the indigenous tribals of these islands through an orchestrated campaign of addressing letters and Fax messages to the Lt. Governor and the Central Government should be probed. For its part this Administration is that continued residence of the Jarawas in their traditional forest habitats. At the same time we do not accept the argument that the Jarawas should be severely confined to the jungle indefinitely and not promote any process of gradual integration at all. This Administration believes in gradual integration over an indefinite period which would stretch to several decades. Whatever is done, will be done without reducing the self-reliance and independence of the Jarawas or abandoning their culture, which has traditionally imparted to them a feeling of self-esteem and confidence, even if at times they are hostile. The Administration is against any scheme on the lines of the Onge resettlement, because both this and the Great Andamanese resettlement programmes, while no doubt, preserving these two indigenous tribes from extinction, and in fact contributing towards their increase in numbers over the last two to three decades, appear in retrospect, to have diminished their self-reliance, independence and self-confidence.

What the Administration is doing at present is :

- (a) to understand the spoken dialect of Jarawas. The Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore has worked in this direction and a dictionary has already been prepared;