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No.

TOUR NOTE OF DIRECTOR (TW) TO JARAWA AREA ON THE ANDAMAN TRUNK ROAD FROM 26TH MAY 2017 TO 29TH MAY 2017

The Director (TW), accompanied by Administrative Officer AAJVS and Research Officer (TW) visited Jarawa areas of South and Middle Andaman from 26/05/2017 to 29/05/2017.

Reached Jirkatang at around 1200 hrs. Shri. Shanker, AAJVS staff (DRM) was on duty at Jirkatang Check post. Reached Potatang at around 1330 hrs and found that AAJVS employees and few Jarawa were moving towards Jirkatang. The Tribal Welfare Officer, Jirkatang, ANM Smti. Sofie Ibrahim, Shri. Deepak Mondal, DRM were on the jeep.

On reaching Potatang Community centre (Hot spot), it was seen that none of the employees of AAJVS were available on duty. Within no time, the 1230 hrs convoy from Middle Strait to Jirkatang crossed Potatang. It could be understood that the staff are not discharging their full normal working hours on the field. Since the visit of Officers from Port Blair are minimal or none, there is no checking or inspection for this gross negligence.

There after proceeded to Middle Strait. On the way met a Jarawa named Tahelae who was returning empty hand in rain after hunting. While conversing with him, he had shown few arrow crafted by him which are used for wild boar hunting. He demanded for iron tools like spade, dah, triangular file, chisel and sharpening stone (he had one in hand obtained from a fisherman as informed).

Stopped at R.K Nallah and visited the banana plantation raised by AAJVS and Forest Department. Large number of banana trees were found with fully grown fruits. But no Jarawas were seen in the camp. Similar plantation may be raised in other areas to support their subsistence. Proceeded further and stayed at Rangat Guest house.

On return journey, met Shri. Anup Kumar Mondal Tribal Welfare Officer, Kadamtala at Jarawa Protection Post, check post, Parlobjig No: 15. Interacted with him and inspected the community centre at Phooltala.

Met 05 family members of the Jarawa community and interacted with them. The Jarawas asked for iron tools like Dah, chisel, spade and an additional set of school uniform for their school going children. All the Jarawas were healthy and in very happy mood.

The jungles of South Andaman and Middle Andaman are a snake prone zone with deadly snakes like Cobra and vipers. There are cases of regular snakes bites in Kadamtala and Lewis-in-let bay areas as reported by the Tribal Welfare Officer.