

Accordingly, a decision was taken in the meeting of the Expert Committee which met on 18.3.2002 to file an affidavit before the Hon'ble High Court in the month of April, 2002. The draft reports prepared by Sectoral Departments like, Health, Nutrition, Anthropological Survey of India, Botanical Survey of India, Zoological Survey of India, Forest Departments are being integrated / combined by Anthropological Survey of India, Port Blair and the same will be ready by 28.3.2002.

However, in the wake of the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta, as intimated by the Govt. Advocate, we may file an affidavit on 27.3.2002. The affidavit may indicate the position that the Jarawas are being studied in the phases to cover all the seasons of a year and this was informed to the Hon'ble High Court. The Hon'ble High Court has through its order dated 3.12.2001 granted one year time from 10th September, 2001 for the Expert Committee to submit a proper report.

The first phase of the field study has been completed and the report on the basis of the data collected during the first phase is being prepared. The Expert Committee which met on 18.3.2002 has discussed various observations made during the first phase and has decided to meet again on 05/04/2002 to discuss the draft report and finalise it as far as the first phase of the survey is concerned.

The proposed Affidavit may also indicate that the report that is being prepared is not the final since the observations and data collected during the second and third phases of the survey will be incorporated to prepare the final report. We may also inform through affidavit to the court that second phases of the survey is scheduled to begin on 10/04/2002.

If approved, the affidavit in the above lines could be prepared in consultation with the Government Pleader. The matter has been discussed with the Shri D.R. Parekh Govt. Pleader today.