

their desire to accept the civilized way of life or (ii) a shortage of food in their habitat or (iii) the need to obtain occasional medical help or (iv) failure to provide protection against poaching and encroachments resulting in shrinkage of their territory or (v) other reasons

8. Your humble petitioner states that the first meeting of the Expert Committee was convened by the Lt. Governor of A&N Islands on 10.9.2001 at Port Blair. The members of the Expert Committee had intensive discussions among themselves and also with the persons like Doctors, Police men, Tribal Welfare Officials, Anthropologists and Non Government Organisations.

9. Your humble petitioner states that the issues like behaviour of the Jarawas, their health, nutrition culture etc. were discussed in these intensive interaction. The Expert Committee visited the Jarawa areas in both South Andaman Island and Middle Andaman Island to make a quick assessment of the situation.

10. Your humble petitioner submits that the Expert Committee discussed about the available and published materials / information on the Jarawas. It was found that no continuous and longitudinal study on the Jarawas has so far been conducted to elicit the details on the natural resources available in the Forest inhabited by the Jarawas, food habits, nutritional status, disease pattern, health problems, traditional way of treatment of disease (ethno-medicine), its efficacy particularly relating to diseases caused due to the non Tribal people etc. The language and earlier active hostility professed by the Jarawas were the main barriers for meaningful research among the Jarawas. Now, the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore have made some headway in understanding the Jarawa language. Similarly some Officials of the Tribal Welfare Department and others have also attempted to learn a bit of Jarawas language. As such, it would be possible to talk to Jarawas to some extent to understand their problems and find out the plausible solution through observation for a long period of atleast one year.

11. Your humble petitioner states that the Hon'ble High Court through their order dated 3.12.2001 have been pleased to grant one year period with effect from 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2001 for Expert Committee to study the Jarawa and submit the report to this Hon'ble High Court and also to the Government of India.

12. Copy of the order dated 3.12.2001 is annexed herewith and marked as *Annexure-I*.

13. Your humble petitioner states that the Expert Committee in its first meeting held on 10/09/2001 after prolonged deliberations felt that longitudinal observation / study for atleast one year to cover all seasons in a year is highly desirable before the Committee comes to