

No.11-22/AAJVS/2002/

May please peruse the notes from para 68/N onwards. It is regarding News Items published in The Telegraph from Delhi on the Jarawas. The Telegraph has carried a News Item entitled "**Killer disease Stalks Jarawas.**" The perusal of the news item reveals that this sensational news item was released by Professor S.C. Sehgal, Director, Regional Medical Research Center, Port Blair.

(81)

It may be mentioned here that the Expert Committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India in pursuance of the order of the Hon'ble High Court, Kolkata has decided to request the Director General, ICMR to take up the research on diagnostic approach, drug regime and other health related issues on Jarawas of Andaman Islands. Accordingly, Lt Governor, A&N Islands wrote to the Director General, ICMR requesting him to undertake the research. Director General, ICMR constituted a Group of Medical Experts consisting of six persons for the above said purpose so that this Group undertakes the study and thereby the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, Kolkata are complied with. The copy of the letter of DG, ICMR addressed to Lt. Governor may please be seen at page 1/C.

(82)

Prof. S.C. Sehgal, Director, RMRC wrote a letter to Secretary (TW), A&N Administration enclosing a 10 page report which may please be seen at page 126/C to 136/C. Copy of this report was sent to Director of Health Services for study and necessary action. Response from Director of Health Services is awaited.

(83)

However, quick perusal of the report reveals that the team consisting of 9 persons visited Andaman Islands. They visited the Jarawa area on 11.6.2002. Composition of the Team which visited these islands, is not the same as the group of six Experts constituted through the D.O. letter of D.G., ICMR addressed to Lt. Governor (Page 1/C). It is not clear as to how a different Group visited the Jarawa area under the convensorship of Prof. S.C. Sehgal.

(84)

Prof. S.C. Sehgal has sent a report to Administration on 14.6.2002 i.e. within three days of the date of visit of the team to Jarawa area. One would not be able to comprehend the fact that the issues like drug regime, diagnostic approach and other health related issues of the Jarawa could be studied within few hours of the visit and examining few individuals of Jarawas. A thorough and detailed scientific study would obviously needed before a valid conclusion is reached.

(85)