

7. 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 Islands and Middle Andaman Islands to make a quick assessment of the situation.

8. The Expert Committee discussed about the available and published materials / information on the Jarawas. It was found that the 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 treatments 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 a continuous observation for a long period of atleast one year.

9. Your petitioner further states that Expert Committee is of the view that 12 months period is desirable to observe the Jarawas through all the seasons of a year and to learn and understand about various issues relating to the food resources, water availability, health and disease and the behaviour of the Jarawas thereto. Because the Committee is of the opinion that longitudinal study for a year is essential to understand the Jarawas problems and the change in their behaviour. With the scientific observations for a period of one year, Committee will be able to arrive at a scientific conclusion on the behaviour and life style of the Jarawas and the Committee would be able to suggest remedial measures thereto. Without such a holistic study of the Jarawas, in other words, in the absence of scientific data / information about the Jarawas, the suggestion / recommendations that would be made by the Expert Committee would not be beneficial to the Jarawas, on the other hand it may even cause harm to this unique small hunting gathering community because the Government would be formulating policy decisions and implementing the various measures on the basis of recommendations / suggestion made by the Committee, and on the basis of the suggestion that would emerge following an open discussion with the National and International level experts, Non-Governmental Organizations who have got experience and knowledge about the Jarawas.