

Minutes of meeting of the Expert Committee on Jarawas notified  
by the Ministry of Home Affairs held under the Convenership of  
Hon'ble Lt. Governor on 10.9.2001 at Raj Niwas

1. The list of the persons present in the meeting is annexed to the Minutes.
2. At the outset, Hon'ble Lt. Governor welcomed the members of Expert Committee and asked the members to attend the matter as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta. The Lt. Governor requested each member of the Committee to express his/her views on the matter.
3. Shri K.B. Saxena spoke in detail about the task given to the Expert Committee on the Jarawas. The Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta has ordered to undertake a scientific study, research and survey to find out the cause of change in the behavior of Jarawas and suggest remedial measures to enable the Central Government and A&N Administration to formulate plans and programmes to save/protect the Jarawas. He mentioned that though there have been some studies mainly by Anthropologists about the Jarawas, a detailed survey and study in a time bound manner is necessary to come to a scientifically acceptable conclusion and to formulate plans and programmes. In the absence of such a reliable scientific input there is a danger of misconception about the whole issue of the Jarawas.
4. As such, Shri Saxena suggested that a longitudinal observation/study for atleast one year to cover all seasons in a year is not only desirable but also essential before the Committee comes to firm conclusion about the behaviour and other aspects of the Jarawas.
5. To undertake such an exercise it was suggested to constitute three sets of multi-disciplinary Composite Groups to study the following aspects of the Jarawas.
  - i. Resources available for Jarawas
  - ii. Health and Nutrition of Jarawas.
  - iii. Culture and behavior of Jarawas.
6. The Experts in the concerned fields would require to be consulted in designing methodology of the study to be undertaken by the above said Composite Groups.
7. Shri K.B. Saxena also suggested that Expert Group should look into all relevant research findings and experiences relating to similar situations all over the world in which such isolated communities/ tribes like Jarawas were involved. The Committee would benefit out of the experience elsewhere of such isolated tribes to understand and analyze the issue involved better.