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Andaman Aaj Tak dt 15/6/05

Jarawas continues venturing out of their abode

## Group of 15 Jarawas found selling crabs at Collinpur, nearby shop owners complains about stealing their shop items

### PORT BLAIR

Jarawas were seen again, this time in Collinpur junction with empty cement bags full of crabs selling these to the villagers, one crab for one biscuit packet. As many as 15 Jarawas consisting of children, younger lots, old ones and male & female all were there selling crabs to the villagers.

Our Correspondent who happens to visit Collinpur on June 4, 2005, saw for himself that on seeing the Jarawas coming out from the jungle into their village with crabs,

the villagers crowded them and started offering packets of biscuit to get the mud crabs they had brought with them in return. It is not that every biscuit packet holders got the crabs from the Jarawas in return of their offers, the Jarawas themselves decides whom to give the crabs in return of biscuit packet. It is not that after selling their product (crabs) they return to their abode in jungle, in fact they forcefully enters the nearby shops and take away items of their liking without even bothering

the presence of the shopowners from the nearby shops. This had made the nearby shop owners angry and wanted that these Jarawas shop be stopped from venturing out from the jungle. Even after getting lots of biscuit packets from the villagers by selling crabs, they ask from us various items kept in our shop and if we do not give them they forcefully take away from our shops. said Shri Sapan Das, one of the shop owner at Collinpur.

Although, a Jarawa Protection Force (JPF) consisting of few staff of A&N Police do have a check post in Tirur, but it seems that Jarawas do not fear from the police staff posted in the area.

It may be recalled here that the Andaman Aaj Tak in its previous issue have published a story about Jarawas coming out of their abode for selling crabs at Tirur. It seems that the Jarawas has been left alone in meet their plight and the Administration seems least bothered about these tribes even after setting a separate agencies i.e. Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti for looking after the wellbeing of the primitive tribes in the islands.

Our Correspondent adds that two staff from AAJVS, who were posted in the areas, had well versed with the Jarawa language and can easily communicate and control these tribes. But the two AAJVS staff are posted some where else other wise the Jarawas problems could have been managed properly.

Andaman Aaj Tak dt 15/6/05

**FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...**

## Hawkers menace

Unauthorized occupation of roads, side pavements of footpaths by hawkers has emerged as a big problem in the town and is attaining alarming proportion with the number of hawkers in the town increasing on a daily basis. The encroaching of footpaths by hawkers, had forced the pedestrians to walk on the roads. This not only exposes them to great risk of accidents but also poses great problem to the vehicles plying on the roads.

The problem of hawkers in our town needs to be viewed seriously as the town is very small, roads are reasonably wide and the footpaths exist only at selected places. This becomes more worrisome when encroachments on footpaths take place in busy areas in the heart of the town frequently. Unauthorized occupation of footpaths in our town may become a serious problem unless it is tackled urgently and more effectively. The only possible solution could be the regular eviction of roadside hawkers including those on the footpaths.

Recently, the Council did conduct

drives to evict footpath encroachments, however, due to political pressure, the drive had to be halted in the mid. In view of this, efforts will have to be stepped up by the Municipality to ensure that the hawkers once evicted do not reoccupy the place from where they have been removed. Special care need to be taken by the authorities in restoring the encroached footpaths. In view of this, the concerned authorities should seriously ponder over this problem and strive hard to solve this before it is too late.

The authorities should also ensure that no political interference is given consideration while carrying on such eviction drive for the greater interest of the public. On the same time the authorities must also ensure that these hawkers do have some alternative arrangement so that those who love shopping from the hawkers are not disappointed. A separate 'Hawker's Market' at a appropriate place in the town would be a good step for them.

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