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8. Shri S.A.Awaradi, Director (TW) presented a brief account about the preliminary discussion amongst the members of the Expert Committee, which took place on 16.7.2002. He gave a written brief on preliminary discussions and other related issues to the members of the Expert Committee. He informed the Committee as under :

9. Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta have granted six months more time from September 2002 to Expert Committee to submit its report vide their Order dated 20th May,2002.

10. Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India have approved the continuation of Dr. R.K. Bhattacharya, Ex- Director of Anthropological Survey of India as Member of the Expert Committee vide letter No. U-14040/24/99-ANL(Vol-II) dated 15th May,2002.

11. Ministry of Home Affairs has not agreed for incorporation of present Director, Anthropological Survey of India as a member of the Expert Committee vide their letter No. U-14040/24/99-ANL(Vol-II) dated 20th June,2002.

12. Report submitted to Secretary (TW), A&N Administration vide D.O. No. 1-22/Proj/Tribes/RMRC/724 dated 14.6.2002 by Professor S.C.Seghal , Director , RMRC, Port Blair was sent to all the Members of the Expert Committee. As per the decisions of the Expert Committee, the A&N Administration requested Director General, ICMR to study various health aspects on Jarawas and submit report. The Report and findings are required to be sent to Administration / Expert Committee by Director General, ICMR.

13. Dr (Mrs) Namita Ali, Director of Health Service with the permission of Lt. Governor presented a brief about the findings of the Health team during the second phase of survey. She dealt the specific issue on prevalence of Hepatitis B among the Jarawas. She mentioned that Jarawas appear to be the healthy carriers of Hepatitis B.

14. Professor Indira Chakrabvorthy of All India Institute of Public Hygiene and Health presented the out come of the nutritional survey among the Jarawas during the second phase. She made a mention about the technical difficulties in conducting the diet and nutritional survey among the Jarawas due to the fact that Jarawas are consuming the alien food items obtained from outsiders including the survey teams who are camping near the Jarawa hutments. This situation where Jarawas are getting alien food would not give real diet of the Jarawas and their nutritional status.

15. Therefore, she suggested that there should be total ban on supply of alien food items during the Diet and Nutritional Survey. The Nutritional and Health teams could conduct the survey separately and independently from other members of the Composite Groups.