

REPORT ON CONTACT EXPEDITION TO JARAWA AREAS
(2.9.1996-4.9.1996)

By

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With the launching of Pilot Project to study the socio-cultural, material, health, nutritional, language and ethnobiological aspects of Jarawa and Sentinelese by AAJVS, Directorate of Tribal Welfare, Andaman & Nicobar Administration, a multi-disciplinary expedition to Jarawa area was carried out from 2.9.96 to 4.9.96. During the expedition some important points were observed, which are as follows:

1. The contact was made near the north of Foul Bay on 3.9.96 at 9.30 am and in total 17 Jarawa were contacted, which includes five adult male, six adult female, four children and two infants.
2. After the collection of gift items, they accumulated the bananas and coconuts at five different places and further rearranged by putting the gifts inside their nets, baskets and bags. It indicates the presence of five families.
3. After some time an adult Jarawa started searching the things inside the life-boat and got few tool parts, which he immediately took away and hid inside the forest. In spite of lot of persuasion, he did not return the same. In the mean time, another gentle Jarawa went here and there and collected some old iron articles, which he presented to me, probably in exchange of tool parts taken by the other Jarawa.
4. When a young Jarawa boy was asked about his waist girdles, he showed four different girdles with different names.