



Dr M.M.Kutty, IAS

सचिव
Secretary (Tribal Welfare)

अ.स.प.
D.O.No.

11-20/AAJVS/TW-2000/610

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Port Blair, the 9th Nov 2001

Dear Dr Mondal,

One Ms Shyamali Ganguly, Advocate, Port Blair had filed a Public Interest Litigation in the Calcutta High Court regarding providing assistance, care and protection to Jarawas, one of the primitive tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The petitioner had *inter-alia* sought a direction to the Central Govt/Andaman Admn to frame a suitable policy for rehabilitation and settlement of Jarawas.

The Hon'ble High Court in its judgment has directed the Central Govt to constitute a committee of Professional Experts to undertake a scientific study, research and survey in the matter of change in the behaviour of Jarawas and find out the cause of the same.

In pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble High Court, the Ministry of Home Affairs vide its Notification dt 21.7.2001 had constituted a committee of experts. The Committee is headed by Hon'ble Lt Governor and includes professionals in Anthropology, Nutrition, Health, Tribal Welfare etc. The work will entail detailed study on various aspects including plants and animals resource base available to the Jarawas.

To analyze the plant and animal resource base, the Committee felt that representation from Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is essential. I had contacted the BSI and ZSI Officers in Port Blair but in the absence of adequate manpower those offices are not in a position to spare services of experts in the field of BSI and ZSI for conducting the study.

Since the survey and scientific study is conducted in pursuance of the directions of the High Court, it is requested that the services of three officers each from BSI & ZSI well-versed with the study of plant & animal resource base, may be made available to A&N Administration immediately to include as members of the study team duly constituted. In this connection our detailed telephone discussion may also be recalled. The survey is to begin in the first week of December, 2001. Representatives from disciplines of Anthropology, Nutrition and Health have already been identified. The delay to identify the representatives from BSI and ZSI is due to lack of staff in those offices at Port Blair.

I shall be grateful if the matter is looked into personally and services of three experienced persons are made available to us on priority basis but well before the survey actually begins in the first week of December 2001. I may reiterate that the study is being conducted in pursuance of the directions of Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta.

With Best Wishes

Yours sincerely,

(Dr M.M. Kutty)

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