



D.O.No.11-20/AAJVS/TW-2000

21st Sept 2001

Dear Shri N Gopalaswamy,

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 tribal groups 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 disposed off the petition vide judgment dated 9.4.2001. As per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court the Central Govt should 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 *inter-alia* includes Dr R.K.Bhattacharya, Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata as a member. Since Jarawas are considered as primitive tribes and their contacts with the outsiders and other scientists are minimal, considerable inputs and assistance are required from Anthropological Survey of India, to complete the task assigned by Hon'ble High Court/Govt of India.

I shall be grateful if required instructions are issued to the Director, Anthropological Survey of India to provide all assistance for completing the study as expeditiously and as efficiently as possible. It is also requested that pending completion of this study, person who is in-charge of Anthropological Survey of India, Port Blair may not be disturbed or transferred as his experience/knowledge about Jarawas can be productively used by the Committee since he has been working in this area for quite sometime.

Kw signed.

Yours sincerely,

(N.N.Jha)

NC

Shri N Gopalaswamy,
Secretary,
Department of Culture, Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi. (Fax No.3384093)

Copy to Dr R..K.Bhattacharya, Director, Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata.