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

21st Sept 2001

Dear Dr Dave.

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. One of the aspects of the study will be on the present system of health care and impact on administering of modern medicines on Jarawas. The Director of Health Services, A&N Administration has been asked to prepare a detailed report on the issue based on the medical experience so far relating to Jarawas. We would like to consult experts in the field of medicine about various issues relating to health care/ administering modern medicines on Jarawas.

Shri KB Saxena, Former Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, who is one of the members of the High Power Committee, has already discussed the matter with you. The next meeting of the Expert Committee will be held on 16.10.2001 at Raj Niwas in Port Blair.

I shall be grateful if a team of experts could be deputed to Port Blair to interact with the Expert Committee on various issues relating to health care and administering of medicines among Jarawas on 16.10.2001. For any additional information Shri Saxena (C11/87, Moti Bagh-1, New Delhi - Telephone No.6880552) may kindly be contacted.

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Yours sincerely,

(N.N.Jha)

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