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The official contact team led by Shri SA Awaradi, Director (TW) made contact with the Jarawas of Middle Andaman Island on 23rd and 24th February, 1991 following the second friendly contact with the Sentinelese on 21st Feb., 1991. The report regarding the second contact with the Sentinelese was sent in the form of wireless message from on board MV Tannugli on 21.2.1991.

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The gifts of coconuts, banana and puffed rice were as usual distributed to the Jarawas near Foul Bay on 23rd and near Chottalingbag on 24th February, 91. 35 Jarawas including men, women and children were present near Foul Bay and 45 of them near Chottalingbag area, Middle Andaman Island. The contact team stayed with the Jarawas from morning till late afternoon on both days and certain observations on the behaviour of the Jarawas were made as under:-

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Not only the Jarawa mother feeds her baby with her own breast milk but the other woman also do it with great fond and affection. It was observed that an old non-lactating woman too suckling the baby. This practice of feeding any baby indicates that the Jarawas have great affection and love for the children. Similar custom is being observed among the Onges of Little Andaman also.

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A woman was trying to lull her crying baby with her lullaby - prolonged vocal sound and rocking the baby in her arms. This practice appears to be similar to that of rural India elsewhere.

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Striae (furrow) on the abdomen of five comparatively old women were observed in contrast to the absence of such striae on the abdomen of relatively young mothers. The striae appears on the skin of the abdomen only after many deliveries among the Jarawas. This indicates that fertility among the Jarawas is not low. The presence of children of all age groups also indicates that population structure of the Jarawas is normal.

*What is the present estimate of the Jarawas?*