

TOUR NOTE OF SECRETARY (TW) TO CAMPBELL BAY ON 1st and 2nd April 2010

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The Secretary (TW) accompanied by Executive Secretary, AAJVS, Research Officer (Jr) and Accountant AAJVS visited Campbell Bay on 1st April 2010. The team left by Pawanhans helicopter at 0715 hrs and reached Campbell Bay at 1000 hrs.

After reaching Campbell Bay, team proceeded to East-West Road for selection of a suitable site for establishment of new Shompen Hut Complex. Forest Range Officer accompanied the team from 10 K.M. Forest Check post.

A suitable site near the bridge at 16 K.M. was selected for establishment of the complex. This site, which is on level ground, requires minor forest clearance as only shrubs and small plants are growing. Perennial source of water is available near the site. Through this complex, the Shompens dwelling in a large area can be looked after and is considered a proper location for controlling any sort of poaching activity. By having two rooms, AAJVS staff can stay in the same. Approximately 100 sq. mtrs may be required.

The team inspected the Forest check post structure at 10 K.M East-West Road to have a basic idea for the proposed Shompen Hut Complex. After visiting the site and forest check post, the team proceeded back to Campbell Bay.

Thereafter, the team visited Shompen sarai and inspected the records maintained by Shri. Habil Lakra, Social Worker, AAJVS. It was observed that Shri. Lakra did not maintain any record. The cash book was incomplete from November 2009, ration records, exchange system records, population records were incomplete. Since a departmental proceeding has been initiated against Shri. Lakra, all the records were seized from his custody and brought to Port Blair.

At 1400 hrs. the team proceeded to new Chingen village by boat. Team reached the camp at 1430 hrs and interacted with the Shri. Emos Captain, New Chingen Village who was present there. There are two Shompen families living in this village.

Eleven Children including Nicobari go for studies in the Primary School at New Chingen Village. Four children go for higher education at Campbell Bay. They stay in their relative's houses due to long traveling time. In order to facilitate their studies and in view of the Right to Education Act, it was necessary to ensure that the children in this village has access to middle school education. It was decided to request the Education Department to upgrade the primary school up to Class VIII, so that children do not drop out after V class.