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MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5th FEBRUARY 2011 AT 1115 hrs AT COMMUNITY HALL, HERBERTABAD WITH PANCHAYATI RAJ MEMBERS

List of members attending the meeting is annexed.

A meeting was convened on 5th February 2011 at 1115 hours at Community Hall, Herbertabad, South Andaman with Panchayati Raj Members to discuss various issues of the villagers residing near the Jarawas reserve area of Tirur and Herbertabad.

At the outset of the meeting, the Executive Secretary, AAJVS welcomed all the members from Zilla Parishad, Panchayat and the villagers to the meeting. The Executive Secretary AAJVS asked the participants to present their problems.

Shri. Anand Amrit Raj, Member Zilla Parishad stated that the villagers have been facing serious problems due to frequent visit of Jarawas into the territory and plundering housel hold items an crops. He added that he is a victim of such intrusion. He requested that compensation for loss of property may be given to the villagers.

Shri. Mahadev Majhi, Ex-Pradhan, informed that no compensation is paid for loss of property. The villagers are cultivators and fishermen and their catch / yield are taken away by the Jarawas. The villagers are badly affected by this act. AAJVS may sanction necessary compensation for this loss.

Shri. Mohan Halder, Pradhan Gram Panchayat, Tushnabad, asked for clarification on the policy of the Government, steps to be taken for the welfare of the Jarawas, status of buffer zone matter and to have a Separate Office of AAJVS at Tirur. He informed that the Jarawas from Kadamtala come to Tirur and take away their house hold. Items which needs to be stopped. They threaten the local villagers. There is a great communication gap between the villagers and AAJVS. The role of AAJVS has increased manifold. AAJVS does not have sufficient staff to implement the welfare programs. Local youths may be appointed in AAJVS on contract basis.