

Blair, who accompanied the Contact Expedition Team immediately following the incident of Jarawas of Middle Andaman visiting the settlement area in the day time, has submitted a report to the effect that the Jarawas appeared to be in good health and there is no evidence of mal-nutrition or vitamin deficiency.

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Thus it is inferred that the coming out of the Jarawa in the broad day light in Middle Andaman island during October, 1997 is the consequence of the influence of the Jarawa youth, Enme, on the other tribesmen. Apparently, he encouraged the other Jarawas to visit the settlement areas. This fact was confirmed during the subsequent Contact Expedition.

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However, following the implementation of earlier programme of settlement of Bengali refugees and others in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the total forest area available for Jarawas and other Primitive Tribes in the Middle Andaman Island and South Andaman Island is reduced. There is no more such settlement programme of Bengali refugees. Further, the areas presently inhabited by the Jarawas has been declared as a Reserve Jarawa area, the entry into which is prohibited. The Administration has schemes to enrich the food resources for the Jarawas by implementing environmentally sound programmes which includes the following:

- (i) Planting of coconut, banana, guava, jack fruit seedlings etc. in the Jarawa areas during the contact expeditions with the help of Jarawa themselves to have a demonstration effect towards the beginning of raising of plantations to increase the food resources in the Jarawa areas.
- (ii) Proposed to raise fruit bearing trees in large areas to help Jarawas to get enough food round the year.
- (iii) Proposed to increase the population of animals like wild pig in the forest turtles, fish etc. in the sea around the Jarawa areas, so that the animal sources of the food of Jarawa is of augmented.
- (iv) Proposed to supply fishing gears including nets etc. to help Jarawas to catch fish in adequate quantity.