

NOTE ON JARAWA TRIBE OF ANDAMAN ISLANDS

It is a fact that few Jarawa men and women came to Uttara Jetty in Middle Andaman in the month of October, 1997 during day time. But it is not fact that they came out because they were facing starvation in their area. The recent episode of the Jarawas of Middle Andaman Island reaching the non-tribal settlement in the broad day light has the historical background which is explained below:

The Jarawa is one of the Scheduled Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands presently inhabited the west coast of Middle Andaman Island and South Andaman Island, subsisting on hunting and gathering activities. The Jarawas practised active hostility towards others including the non-tribal settlers.

However, friendly contact with the Jarawas of Middle Andaman was established in 1974 by the Administration. Thereafter, periodical Contact Expeditions are being organised by the Administration during which the gifts like coconut, banana, red piece of cloth, iron pieces, etc, are given in addition the medical help is provided during the Contact Expeditions.

The Contact Team of the Administration goes to the Jarawa areas and meet the Jarawas at the shore, remain with them for few hours. The Experts including Anthropologists, Linguists and Doctors have been making their observations during the Contact Expeditions to know about the Jarawas and their problems, requirements, etc.

The Jarawas, particularly the Jarawas of South Andaman come out of their reserved forest areas into the Revenue / Settlement areas of non-tribal people, mostly during the nights to collect the items like iron pieces, cloth, etc. Some times, they attack the non-tribals with their arrows.

A Jarawa youth, named Enme, of Middle Andaman Island was picked up from a place near Kadamtala village in the Middle Andaman Island during 1996. Apparently, he had come with other Jarawas to