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**F. No. 1-752/2013-TW/  
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION  
SECRETARIAT**

Port Blair dated the 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2014

To

Shri Sayantan Bera  
Correspondent  
Down To Earth

**Sub: - Debate in Down to Earth Magazine on the Jarawa - reg**

Sir,

With reference to your e-mail dated 09.05.2014, the response of the A&N Administration is given below: -

S. No.	Points	Response
1	There is little information on the present status of the Jarawa on what's happening inside the reserve. Disturbing reports have arrived on poaching, sex abuse and introducing the tribe to drugs and alcohol. Conflicts with the settler population seem to be on the rise. We don't have a clear picture on the well being of the Jarawa or if they are venturing out due to depletion of resources inside their habitat.	<p>In the year 1998 when Jarawas became friendly with the outside world their population was 235 approximately, at present the Jarawa population is 427 living in 1028 Sqkm of Jarawa Tribal Reserve. Jarawa tribes have a unique life style and live in harmony with nature. In the Jarawa Tribal Reserve area, entry of unauthorized persons has been banned. The A&amp;N (PAT) Regulation, 1956 as amended in 2012 has been more stringent by providing sever sentence/ punishment to the poachers and violation of law so as to serve as deterrent. The land food resources in the reserve area is rich and plenty enough for their subsistence. The Jarawas depend on forest produces like fruits and tubers. They hunt wild pigs, monitor lizards &amp; turtles and collect turtle eggs.</p> <p>The Govt of India, Ministry of Home Affairs in the year 2004 framed a policy for Jarawas. Based on this policy, the A&amp;N Administration has taken various measures viz., protection of natural habitat, cultural identity, health status of Jarawas and Regulation of traffic of ATR etc. Consequent upon the recent behavioural changes seen in the Jarawa tribe, the Govt of India, Ministry of Tribal Affairs advised the A&amp;N Administration to carry out the empirical study on Jarawa tribe.</p>