



Theva neethi dhas Ganapathy <gtndhas220658@gmail.com>

Down to Earth issues

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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.

WHAT IS HAPPENING INSIDE S NOTHIG UNUSUAL THERE IS NO REAL INCREASE IN CONFLICT. IN FACT SINCE THE ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SEEKING HELP OF JARAWAS TO CONTROL THE INFLUENCE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH OUTSIDERS, IT WAS JARAWAS WHO COOPERATED IN IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUALS. LEGAL ACTION WAS TAKEN AND THE CASE BECAME A NEWS- WHAT HAS BEEN UNDERPLAYED IS THE FACT THAT WE HAVE MADE JARAWAS AWARE OF WHAT THEY ARE NOT SUPPOSE TO BE EXPLOITED BY AND THAT HAS MADE A SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THERE SELF PERCEPTION AND AWARENESS. THIS FORM OF BUILDING EMPOWERMENT AMONG THE JARAWAS IS PART OF THE ADMINISTRATIONS NEW POLICY DRIVE BUILD ON RESERCH AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

2. Conflict of Interest between the settler population and Jarawas with regard to the Jarawa Tribal Reserve. Candidates during elections campaigned for a liberal tourism policy, relaxing buffer zones, expanding the ATR and bringing Jarawas into 'mainstream' (education, health, food doles- what some may call undignified dependence). Is this a battle of resources between the settler population where unemployment is high and the tribals who preserved the last patch of tropical rainforests in the Islands?

THIS IS BIT OF A WEONG ATTENTION AND SYMPATH GAINING BY POLITICAL PARTIES OWN ADVANTAGE. WE HAVE NO PLANS OF PUSHING JARAWAS INTO A PREEXISTING AND PRECONCEIVED IDEA OF WHAT IS "MAIN STREAM". GIVING DOLES HAS BEEN CURTAILED, WE ARE WORKING ON CREATING DISTINCT AND APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL PROG, NAME

3. Other tribes who were inducted into the 'mainstream' like Onges and Great Andamanese have slowly died out. The Jarawa is no longer 'hostile', the Sentinelese still are. Should be leave them the way they are? How do we know what they want?