

(S3)

This is regarding withdrawal of permission to convert the land purchased by M/S Barefoot Group in Collinpur for commercial use and to provide a buffer zone of 5 Kms around the Jarawa tribal reserve in order to protect the Jarawas from harmful affects of exposure and contact with the outside world.

(S4)

In this context it is stated that M/S Barefoot Group has purchased approximately 13 bighas of land (Survey No. 118/1, 118/2, 105) in Collinpur, South Andaman for construction of a tourist resort. It is informed by one of their staff that they have obtained the permission to convert part of this land for commercial use for tourism purposes.

(S5)

A tourist resort in such close proximity to the Jarawa reserve, located along their traditional paths from Zhau Kona to Collinpur which they use during low-tide, would have as its USP (Unique Selling Point) the sighting and attraction with Jarawas because there is no other tourist attraction at this site, the beach being small and ordinary. Barefoot Group has a strong foreign clientele who will further exacerbate the cross cultural tensions, leading to a situation that may be difficult to handle in the future. Some of the different scenarios that could emerge are touched upon detailed below:-

- a) The "me too" will catch up with other resort and hotel owners, and more of such similar resorts will come up in the area.
- b) Going by past experience with the Onges and Great Andamanese, the increase in contact with outsiders will automatically lead to inter-breeding, the consequences of which are the death-knell for the race.
- c) The Administration has not permitted the CCMB to do any blood-sampling or filming of the PTGs, even though the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India has written several letters to the Lt. Governors and Chief Secretary seeking permission for the project. Under the circumstances, the Administration will find it difficult to explain the existence of a tourist resort so close to the very PTG whom it's trying to isolate from close contact with outsiders.

It is essential that our approach to the PTGs be consistent, and not department-centric, and adhering in letter and spirit to the notified Jarawa policy. There are two opinions that the PTG deserves all assistance in its fight for survival, in its natural state. The Jarawas have been recognized as international human heritage, and it is the onerous responsibility of this Administration to protect and preserve this status.