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Nicobarese on Verge of Economic Collapse

Port Blair, 1 Sept. The sudden suspension of support price scheme for copra has affected the Nicobar Tribal population so hard that they are on the verge of an economic collapse. If this situation is allowed to continue this may even put the tribal community face to face with famine. The seriousness of the situation has been brought to the notice of the Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture, Smti. Sonia Gandhi and the Lt. Governor A&N Island, (Camp at Delhi) by fax message sent by Shri M.R. Bhakta Ex-MP and President ANTCC. The fax of the message is reproduced hereunder:

Kindly verify our letter No. 0-1/ANTCC dated 13.08.2001 and subsequent reminder of FAX message dated 23.08.2001 regarding the sudden suspension of support price for copra. The effected classes consisting of mainly tribals of Nicobar Group of Islands are the worst sufferers whose means of survival is their only cash-crop coconut and arecanut. They have no other option but to face famine and death if their only agricultural products

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The Worst Terrorist Attack in History

Not America alone, but the whole world where sanity prevails, has been rudely shocked by the worst over terrorist attack in history that struck the United States on 11 September morning. In spite of the unprecedented death and devastation it has caused, it is bound to usher in an era which will no doubt be the beginning of the end of international terrorism. In its big task ahead, America will have the full support of all nations of the world except perhaps a few terrorist nations like Pakistan, Afghanistan and others. During the last 2 decades or so, there has been at least a dozen and a half terrorist attacks on American interests. A few that occurred during the last 5 years are indicated as hereunder.

12 Oct 2000 : Bombing of US Ship in Aden (17 dead)

7 Aug. 1998 : Explosion in American Embassies in Nairobi and ES Salem (224 dead) and several thousand wounded)

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MPs are Fiddling while people are dying of hunger

While serious attempts are being made to curtail non-productive govt. expenditures and downsizing manpower the representatives of the people in the Parliament have in one leap trebled their remuneration in addition to other generous facilities. Moreover once an MP for five years he will be entitled to life long pension. The monthly remuneration of an MP has now come up to Rs. 53,500 per month. And this was done at a time there has reportedly been several deaths in Orissa due to starvation. Country's food storage is said to be full and yet people are dying on one side and the members of the Parliament serving the people by serving themselves. People whom the MPs represent want to be convinced that the big hike in their Parliamentary income will not encourage MPs to shout (all at a time) more loudly and rush to the well of the house faster.

Raja, the Jarawa Boy, Creates History

Port Blair 1 Sept. : Jarawas, one of the most primitive Tribes in the World today have been living a secluded forest life for not less than at least two thousand years in the Andaman Forests. When the British set up the Penal Settlement in the Andamans in 1858 their number, estimated though was a little less than a thousand. When the British left their number came down to around 250 or 50. This erosion was caused due to drugs, diseases, decay and destruction leading to extinction. After the Enmey incident, there developed a remarkable change in the attitude of the Jarawas towards the civilised society. They shunned violence and started coming out unto the fringe villages, Trunk Road, Jetties. They have learnt very well to come to Kadamtala Hospital whenever suffering from ailments and many of them are treated at Port Blair Hospital as well.

Recently Raja, a Jarawa boy of about 14 years, has been selected for training as a Ward boy and later appointed as a Ward boy so that he can look after Jarawas suffering from minor ailments in their own habitat. Obviously a question arises : Why not train up En Mey, the ambassador who passed on the messages of civilisation into the darkness of the forests, preferably in some horticultural practices

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