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No-31

Vol-XVIII

21-01-2002

Monday

Port Blair

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Regd No: Tech/WB/RNP/463/01

Ban on photography of tribals

'A cover up' in the name of preventing obscenity

The Andaman and Nicobar Port Blair, Jan. 20: Administration have banned photography of the Jarawa tribals of Andaman. It is reported that one chief reason for this order was to prevent obscenity of any kind, which could surface due to any kresponsible use of photographs of the Jarawa tribals, who are still to take up wearing clothes and are in the infancy of human civilization... However at the same time the Administration's own documentaries and short films on tribals in their natural attire (non-attire) are in circulation. While the High Court of Calcutta has directed the Administration to prevent unauthorized outside

contacts with the tribals, the Court has nowhere barred or specifically directed to stop tribal photography completely. Many cannot help but feel, that this, rule is a being arbitrarily. imposed to curtain the Ills that dominate Administration's approach towards these tribals. At the same time several claims made by the Administration which am Justify to the low vast expenditures incurred on socalled all tribal development measures like, plantation of edible fruit bearing trees in Jarawa area, gifts to the tribals etc lack conviction.

Then again VIPs and their accompanying guests routinely rach See Page 4

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click photographs of Jarawas. Photographs of Jarawas were even published in several foreign magazines, delivered to by the high-profile guests of the A&N Administration. On the other hand employees of AAJVS and tribal welfare also allow visitors to click photographs for a small bribe. Our reporter who was on visit to Kadamlala a few weeks ago managed to click some pholographs of the Jarawa tribals after paying a bribe of Rs 50/- to the AAJVS employee on duty. This incident llself proves the fullity of the entire exercise being carried out by the Administration. However responsible newspapers and magazines, who Administration. However responsible newspapers and integratines, who could play an important role in educating the masses about these relatively: unknown: tribals, are being prevented from publishing photographs of Jarawas in the name of preventing obscently.

Variety...

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