

Administration provides free rations and clothes to the Andamanese. The potable water supply, electrification of Andamanese settlement, free medical care, school and other amenities like Police Wireless for communication, Direct Receiving Set for T.V., Community Hall, footpath, jetty for berthing of the boats etc. have been provided at the settlement.

JARAWAS

The Jarawa tribe, belonging to Negrito race, is inhabiting the western parts of South and Middle Andaman Islands. They were hostile to the outside world till 1997. Their present population is estimated at 300. They are hunting gathering and fishing tribe.

The first friendly contact with the Jarawas of Middle Andaman Island was made in 1974 and with Jarawas of South Andaman was established in 1989. Thereafter the official contact team of this Administration made periodical contacts with the Jarawas and provided them gifts like banana, coconut etc. apart from on the spot medical treatment of minor ailments and raising of dispersed fruit bearing trees. They become quite friendly with the contact team of the Administration.

There was a turning point in the history of our relations with the Jarawas in October 1997 when the Jarawas themselves started frequenting the non-tribal areas like villages and Andaman Trunk Road. This led to unprecedented interaction of the Jarawas with non-tribals which would have deleterious impact on Jarawas.

A Public Interest Litigation in the Calcutta High Court in the context of sudden change in their behaviour of Jarawas was filed. The High Court in its judgement order dated 9th April 2001 issued certain directions in the matter of the welfare of the Jarawas. In terms of the above directions the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs have constituted an Expert Committee under the convensorship of Lt. Governor, A & N Islands to go into the issues relating to the change in behaviour of Jarawas and suggest measures for their welfare and development. Expert Committee has submitted its report to High Court, Govt. of India and A&N Administration in July 2003.

A policy decision and detailed plan programmes for the well-being of the Jarawa tribe will be drawn up by the A & N Administration and Govt. of India after considering the opinion and suggestions of the anthropologists and other experts world over by organizing a seminar / open discussions within a period of six months following the submission of report by Expert Committee. Such final policy decision and plan programmes for Jarawas will be placed before the High Court. The implementation of the welfare programmes will be taken up as per the final orders of the High Court.

SENTINELESE

The Sentinelese, also belonging to Negrito race, inhabit the North Sentinel Island in the Andaman District. Their estimated population is 100. Sentinelese are the hunting, gathering self reliant tribe having adequate forest resources in the form of wild games, fruits, roots and other forest produce apart from rich sea coast around North Sentinel Island.