

NOTE ON TRIBAL RESERVE.

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The present estimated area of tribal reserve which is meant for the Jarawas is about 765 sq.kms. If the extra area from 47 KM is to be added, the extra area will come to about 160 sq.km. It is estimated that the population of Jarawas is only a few hundreds and perhaps the area already ear-marked is sufficient for them.

In the last meeting of the Adim Janjathi Vikas Samithi, it was informed that a proposal has been made to reserve all the area beyond 47 mile stone on both sides of the proposed road. It may however be mentioned that beyond 47 mile stone, (75 km), there are two camps- (1) Poonanallah Camp where there is a Rest House of the APWD as well as some establishments of the Bush Police and PWD staff, which had been there for many years, (2) Putatang Camp of Forest Department where we have about 100 labourers with their families. This camp was started as early as 1978. As far as the Forest Department is concerned last year we made a road from Putatang to Port Meadows to transport timber from Port Meadows to Port Blair by road instead of the uncertain and expensive route by sea. This road is already in commission and programme of work on both sides of this road has already been taken. It may be recalled that in the last meeting regarding quarrying of sand it was accepted that we should also utilise the quarry of Port Meadows area as sand is not easily available elsewhere. Port Meadows is one of our biggest export depot which caters for all the timber that comes from South Andaman and Baratang Division. The bulk of our extraction in South Andaman Division is in the Putatang area for the next few years without which there will be hardly any work for South Andaman Division.

As far as the department is concerned we would therefore suggest that Putatang area may be excluded and the line of demarcation may be from the Creek Putatang Jig northwards (85 km) which practically touches the road and will be a clearly defined boundary and is also easy for control and supervision. (Aprox. area 90 sq.km).

It may be mentioned that the road has already been constructed up to 87 km as may be seen at the map. Till date we have no extraction along this road beyond Putatang Creek except for small earlier extraction of 1 km depth along the Middle Strait Creek on the eastern coast. With the creation of Putatang camp and our forest activity in the area, very few Jarawas have been seen below Putatang Jig and it is felt that there should be no difficulty to shift the boundary as proposed.

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Chief Conservator of Forests,
Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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