

The Chief Commissioner is also empowered to alter such limits from time to time. While we have no doubt that the Chief Commissioner is likely to act in a judicious manner, we also realise that the administration is prone to pressures from the dominant interest groups in a democratic polity. Such pressures are likely to act against the interest of an ethnic minority like the Jarawa with whom there has been negligible contact and about whom we know almost next to nothing. It is desirable in the circumstances to make the entire regulation statutory. Steps in this direction may be initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs. We recommend that in demarcating the reserves certain recognised norms of land-man ratio for hunting and gathering groups should be kept in view. It is understood that the area of the present Jarawa reserve is 765 square Km against the estimated population of 250, roughly being 3 square Km per person.

(b) During construction phase of the remaining portion of the Andaman Trunk Road, it would be desirable not to have permanent labour camps and instead, use of mobile labour parties should be made to the extent possible. After the construction phase, for maintenance purposes work-force should be located at the north and south terminal points of the Jarawa reserve boundary. It was understood that about 2,000 forest labourers were situated along the road which forms the boundary of Jarwa Reserve. Similarly a few hundred PWD labourers are also located there. A tribe like the Jarawa nurse a strong territorial sense and regard its encroachment as violation of their basic right. While we have yet to earn knowledge of the sentiments and world-view of this tribe, our previous experience suggests it would be prudent not to create unnecessary provocations by encroaching on their land. We would, therefore, suggest that no habitations, whether Official or private, should be located in the vicinity of the boundary of the Jarawa Reserve and, certainly, not within the Jarawa reserve.

(c) We are told that there is an influx from the mainland into the Islands on account of which not only is the Population of the Island growing at an abnormally fast rate, but considerable pressure is being exerted on certain tribal groups. We feel that the Government of India should consider regulating the entry of outsiders into the islands carefully with a view to avoiding over-population.

(d) It appears that a special branch of the police called "Bush Police" has been in existence for a long time. In a meeting with the officials held on 12 November '81 the Inspector-General of Police of the Islands stated that the main function of the police, which was 340 strong as against the estimated Jarawa population of 250, was to afford protection to the forest, PWD and other labour engaged in the area, from the Jarawa. We feel that there is need to have a look at the original concept behind organisation of the "Bush Police" and further to appraise its role in the changing context. The view that protection from Jarawa is needed might have been valid during the British time but needs review in the current post-independent situation. The Bush Police needs orientation relative to their new role.

(e) It appears that a part of the cause for confrontation between Jarawa and the non-tribals lies in exploitation of forests. It is no secret that wherever local felling occurs, unauthorised removal of timber takes place. Even, ordinarily, a tribe resents exploitation of forests in the area which it regards its own, though the perception of the forest department may be different. The situation gets exacerbated when intruders resort to illegal