

(7) - 6

1973

entry into the Reserve. This reason has been ascribed unofficially to some incidents by the people with whom we met. Our view is that exploitation on the forest in the area adjoining the Jarawa Reserve in the south and middle islands should be banned. We understood from Chief Conservator of Forests, Adman Administration that the total forest revenue of the islands is of the order of Rs 5 crores though they have not been able to give us an estimate. A figure for the area in question, when provided, he gave us an estimate around Rs 50 lakhs for the Reserve area. We do not consider this to be too big a price to be paid for the survival of one of the last relics of an ancient tribe.

(F) Our visit to the islands made us believe that one of the causes of incidents is the ignorance of the people with regard to the Jarawa Reserve. For compliance of the Regulation, it is highly necessary that it should be widely disseminated. This should be done through sign-boards on the boundary of the reserve, talks on the radio and suitable insertions in the local press.

16. Creation and maintenance of a reserve as at best a static measure. Change is not only inevitable but desirable. The crux of the matter is the nature of change and identity of its arbiter. We have no doubt in our mind that the Jarawa should decide the course of destiny themselves. So far, according to reports, only 4 or 5 contacts have been made, but those having proved friendly, the ground has been prepared for wider exploration. These contacts need to be intensified with a view to create mutual understanding between the Jarawa and ourselves. We must caution, however, that the matter is not simple. It needs very sensitive and delicate handling. We have no illusion that persons who possess such sensitivity and empathy are not many. Nevertheless, search must be organised to locate them and to create bridge of transition for the Jarawa from the ancient to the modern phase. An apt administrative structure in the form of an autonomous organisation manned by specialists of the appropriate variety, including anthropologists, would be necessary. This should be done as early as possible.