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MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Minutes of the meeting of "Expert Committee for preparation of policies for various Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PTGs) of Andaman & Nicobar Islands" held on 2.2.2012, at Conference Room, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 7th Floor, 'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

The Expert Committee for preparation of policies for various PTGs of A&N Islands under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Tribal Affairs met on 2-2-2012 at 3.00 PM in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi to take a view on Note for the Cabinet for Policy for Shompens, consideration and decision for construction of East-West Road in Great Nicobar and to know the progress made by the A&N Administration on the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of Expert Committee which reviewed the existing policy on Jarawa Tribe of Andaman Islands, 2004 in its final meeting held on 14-10-2011. A list of participants is at Annexure-I.

2. The Secretary, Tribal Affairs welcomed the Members of the Expert Committee and asked Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs JS(TA) to introduce the agenda items. JS (TA) in her presentation highlighted the background of the following three agenda items:

- (1) Finalization of the 'Note' for the Cabinet for Policy for Shompens dated 2-05-09.
- (2) Construction of East-West Road (EWR) in Great Nicobar.
- (3) Follow up Action on steps taken by A&N Administration in relation to the implementation Jarawas Policy, 2004.

The summary record of important discussions and decisions taken are given below:

Agenda No.1: Note for the Cabinet for Policy for Shompens:

The members deliberated at length the draft Shompens Policy and discussed each point in detail. The Committee suggested the following:

- (a) The draft was prepared in the year 2009 and therefore, it needs to be substantially updated to capture the issues in the present context.
- (b) The comments of the various Ministries and the A&N Administration to be suitably incorporated in the Policy.
- (c) Point No.1, 'Introduction and present life style' need to be made brief and compact.