

- 268
4. Members of PTGs are provided in-situ health care coverage as and when they so require. In case of the necessity for their hospitalization, the administration has already created sufficient infrastructure by way of keeping the provision of a separate ward at the state level hospital "GB Pant Hospital Port Blair". Similarly separate wards have been established at Primary Health Centres at Tusnabad and at Kadamatala for Jarawas and PHC R.K.Pur for Onges. Intensive health care checkup of the PTGs are also conducted from time to time deputing team of Medical Specialist accompanied by officials of AAJVS/Directorate of Tribal Welfare.
 5. Awareness programmes for settlers and ATR users are being conducted from time to time. Sign boards displaying 'DO's & DON'T's while transiting through Jarawa Tribal Reserve on ATR have also being erected at vital locations for information of settlers and ATR users.
 6. Information on local tribes and their culture is already included as Project Assignments in school curriculum. In respect of Great Andamanese a proposal to devise complete syllabus aiming to protect their identity and language is also on the anvil.
 7. In order to educate the children of PTGs a Middle school each at Strait Islands Great Andamanese settlement and Dugong Creek Onges settlement have been opened.
 8. For systematic research, Anthropological Survey of India and AAJVS have jointly started preliminary field work and detailed research proposals are being prepared. Provisions have been made in the 12th Plan for setting up a Tribal Research & Training Centre and also funding of external research projects, which may be ultimately useful for policy making and welfare programme for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

With regard to the recent media reports relating to the so-called "exploitation of the Jarawas" by the tour operators etc. in the A&N Islands, the committee was informed that the U. T. Administration has left no stone unturned to protect the interests of the Jarawas and other vulnerable tribes. It has warned the tour operators to desist from promoting the Jarawa Tourism on their websites and any violations of Jarawa Policy will be strictly dealt with.

2. While noting the action taken by the A&N Administration, Secretary directed that since there is little data and ethnographic studies about the Jarawas, studies may be under taken urgently through the Anthropological Survey of India and Universities having the expertise in the subject.

3. Dr. T. N. Pandit had circulated a note titled "The Jarawa of Andaman islands: The Gallant Freedom Fighter" for perusal of the members.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
