

Tour Report of Shri Govind Ram, Director, Tribal Welfare of his visit to Jarawa Tribal Reserve of Jirkatang to Kadamtala from on 28th and 29th March, 2018

In the wake of recent disturbing incidents in Jarawa area from Jirkatang to Middle Strait, during my visit to Baratang and Rangat, I conducted thorough inquiry and gathered credible inputs about the problem as well as its solution.

Ever since the civilized human settlement extended in South Andaman Jarawas shifted and were more focused dwellers on the western side forest and coast stretching from Tirur in South Andaman upto Luis Inlet Bay in North Andaman. After recession of hostility, their movement around ATR (now NH-04) increased, but still they were dwelling and moving more on the western side of the NH-04 as the area is more safer and conducive for their survival. But, of late the Jarawas are more attracted towards the Eastern side of the NH-04 going down upto the entire East coast of the forest from Middle Strait to Kid Island. This fascination towards eastern side appears to be mainly due to illegal barter system developed by and between poachers through Eastern coast and Jarawas. Unfortunately, the Jarawas have picked up all vices like tobacco chewing, alcoholism, consumption of some NDPS items as well as few more not advisable to be recorded here.

I have also attempted to devise remedial mechanism, which are as follows: -

- 1) Dr Pronob Sircar, Tribal Welfare Officer and highly experienced on Jarawa issues and presently attached to ANTRI may be posted at Jirkatang sector and Miss Janagi, the present Tribal Welfare Officer, Jirkatang sector may suitably be posted in the office of AAJVS.
- 2) The heavy vehicles carrying cargo and fuel between Port Blair and Middle/ North Andaman should move in one exclusive convoy from Jirkatang to Middle Strait and Middle Strait to Jirkatang. This will enable surprise intermittent checking of these vehicles as some of these vehicles carry undesired items mentioned above and exchange with Jarawas. Doing such checking in present convoy system of all mixed vehicle will put