

जयराम रमेश
JIRAM RAMESH



D.O. No. 566 VIP/MOS(C)/2007 (48)

वाणिज्य राज्य मंत्री
वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय
भारत सरकार

उद्योग भवन, नई दिल्ली
MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMERCE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
UDYOG BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

8th February 2007

3/3

Dear Shumsher -

Please find enclosed a letter from Mr. Stephen Corry, Director General, Survival International, London. The contents are self-explanatory. Anyway, just to summarise the concerns raised by them:-

- (1) Poaching is still rampant within the reserve;
- (2) The ATR has still not been closed despite Supreme Court ruling of 2002;
- (3) Tourists are encouraged to travel to Baratang. Tourists use the island as a departure point for travel into the Jarawa reserve and indulge in poaching.
- (4) The policy of minimum intervention and maximum autonomy is not being properly implemented.

I thought I will share this with you just to remind you that the International Civil Society too is keenly following the Jarawa issue. I know the A&NI Administration is trying its best to balance the development agenda with the sensitivities of the fragile tribal culture. But I feel it is time that the Administration demonstrated this through an intervention that will put an end to such expressions of concern.

A good starting point for this would be the Section 6 notification under the Indian Forest Act, 1927 about which I have already written to you and you have also clarified. The NGOs and the tribal groups are under the impression that the final notification as reserved forests has already been issued without giving them any opportunity as is the general practice. I feel this is a great opportunity for the Administration to demonstrate inclusive approach by pro-actively educating and involving the tribal groups and the NGOs in the process of inquiry into and settling of the rights and claims.

I am also writing to Shri Sameer Acharya to make use of this opportunity to work with the Administration for a common cause.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
Jairam Ramesh
(Jairam Ramesh)

Shri Shumsher K Sheriff,
Chief Secretary
Andaman & Nicobar (UT)

cc: Shri Sameer Acharya,
Convention, The Indian
Art + Culture

o/c
Jairam Ramesh
9/2/07
5/2/07