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**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14/2/2009 IN THE CONFERENCE
HALL OF SECRETARIAT UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CHIEF
SECRETARY**

A meeting was held on 14th February 2009 at 11.30 a.m in the Conference Hall of Secretariat under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, A&N Administration to discuss various issues relating to the Jarawas in South Andaman areas, specially problems relating to Tushnabad Panchayat and Mannarghat Village.

List of Officers, PRI members, officials of AAJVS who attended the meeting is at Annexure - I.

The meeting began with a welcome to all the participants, who introduced themselves and thereafter explained the problems faced by the villagers of Tirur and adjoining areas.

The Panchayati Raj Members expressed their agitation about the Jarawas entering into their villages, threatening them and asking for food, which if not provided, aggravated them further. The situation was fraught with tension as the villagers were likely to take matters into their own hands if Administration did not take immediate steps to restrict the Jarawas within their reserve. The PRIs stated categorically that the current situation had arisen due to the Administration's erstwhile practice of gifting them plantains and coconut, even to the extent of air dropping these items through helicopter. They also pointed out that Jarawa patients are put on a diet of boiled rice whenever they are admitted in the PHCs, thus further changing their food habits. Tourists passing through the ATR had further exacerbated the situation by introducing the Jarawas to processed foods such as biscuits and pastry.

The specific demands of the PRIs were that the Jarawa movement should be restricted to within their reserve area. Any destruction or