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damage to their property should be compensated by the Administration. A Co-ordination Committee comprising of PRI member, AAJVS and Police personnel should be constituted for interacting with the Jarawas. They also suggested that fruit plantation and tuber crops should be planted in Jarawa reserve areas to augment food supply for Jarawas.

The Head of Office of Anthropological Survey of India, Shri A. Justin responded by saying that there exists a cultural disconnect between the Jarawas and rest of us in mainstream society, leading to misunderstanding and mis-interpretation of their gestures. That they are driven to begging because of hunger is a notion formulated by us based on their pointing towards their mouths/stomachs. On the contrary, mainstream society as a whole is responsible for enticing them with trinkets and food, and encroaching into their territory by construction of ATR. They have no concept of theft as they have no concept of property. This culture-clash is leading to a mishandling of the situation.

The Dy. Director Tribal Health informed all present that the Jarawa population has increased by about 75 numbers over the last few years. Their health is stable, and they should not be immunized as their inherent immunity would be compromised due to their low population density. They do not suffer from malnutrition or anemia, clearly indicating that there is no hunger or starvation in the tribe.

The Dy. Superintendent of Police of the area informed that a group of youngsters stray out to the ATR, and are always found loitering around the JPP Tirur. He attributed their presence outside the reserve to the fact that the settlers exploit them, citing the case of Muthu, a 59 yr old man having coconut and areca plantation of 1500 Palms, which is being looked after only with Jarawa labour. Taking advantage of the latter's ignorance, they are paid in betel nut and tobacco, and lately alcohol has also been introduced. Poachers have also begun to buy their assistance by offering alcohol.