

once every fortnight to the Jarawa area and once a month to the Sentinelese area. The Expert Group also recommended that specific steps need to be taken to keep vigil in general and check poaching in particular both from the land and the sea routes. They also suggested that the presence of the Forest, the Police and the APWD in the area should be rationalised and their camps evicted where they were not required. After completion of the pilot project by the end of the current year i.e. 1996, the Expert Group may again meet and evolve long term and comprehensive policy towards the Jarawas and the Sentinelese.

The above recommendations of the Expert Group have already been accepted by the Administration and the same are under implementation.

It is also proposed to engage an anthropologist who may continue his field work among the Jarawas even after the Pilot Project.

The Sentinelese :-

The Sentinelese is a primitive Negrito tribe inhabiting the North Sentinel Island situated on the west of Port Blair town. The island is small (47 sq.km) and totally isolated and as such the Sentinelese is probably the only tribe absolutely isolated in the world today. The Sentinelese are perhaps the only successful people on the earth to retain and defend their pristine life style and territory till date against the waves of other and modern civilizations. Their yet unfailing hostility towards the attempts of all outsiders is the reason for their isolation, and for the same reason, little is known about their life style and culture.

First contact with sentinelese was made in 1991. Thereafter the Contact with them has been occassional. With the experience of two recent contact with them (March/April 1996), when they came over to our boat to take gifts, we may hope to consolidate our relations with the Sentinelese also by making regular contact expedition to the Sentineless area. There-after, the experience of Pilot Project will be very helpful in taking major decisions about Sentinelese also.
