

Subject:

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Para  
No.

No. 1-762/2002/TW

Reference page 112-123/C and 164-167/C

(49) PUC 1 & 2 are the letters from Shri L.P. Sonkar, Adviser (Minerals & TRP), Govt. of India, Planning Commission and Shri Dalip Mehta Member Secretary, INTACH, New Delhi, both the letters addressed to the Chief Secretary have referred to a letter written by Shri Samir Acharya, Convenor, INTACH, A&N Chapter, Port Blair sent to Smti Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, National Advisory Council, New Delhi. Shri Acharya has raised in his letter the issues relating to violation of order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the matters relating to protection / welfare of the Jarawas of Andaman Islands.

(50) The reports from the Forest Department with regard to the Supreme Court Order and a note from the Assistant Secretary (Home), A&N Administration regarding influx to population have been received which are placed at Page 149-150/C and 163/C. Similarly a note on the Jarawa has been received from the AAJVS which is also placed at Page 168-169/C.

(51) The Convenor of INTACH has made the following specific observations relating to the Jarawa viz. poaching, exchange of forest produce by the Jarawa exploitation of Jarawas by the non-tribals, extraction of the natural resources from the Jarawa area, amendment to the Regulation protecting tribals, local empowered body to advise the Administration etc.

(52) Forest area inhabited by the Jarawa has been notified as Reserve under the A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956. The Jarawa tribal reserve land and coastal sea area have been recently increased so that enough resources are available for the Jarawas to subsist. The extraction / exploitation of the resources has been prohibited under the above said law. Entry of non-tribals to the tribal reserve itself is not allowed unless a permit is issued by the Competent Authority. The Tribal reserve is also a reserve forest and therefore, the resources are protected not only by the Police but also by the Forest authorities to ensure that Jarawas have the sole and absolute access to the resources.

(53) All out efforts are being made by the field officials belonging to the Welfare Department, Police and Forest to avoid interface of Jarawa with the non-tribals so that socio-economic exploitation of Jarawas by the unscrupulous elements is prevented. The movement of people on the road adjoining to the Jarawa reserve is also regulated through the convoy system of traffic to avoid interaction of tourists and other non-tribals with the Jarawas.