

133

hillsides and increased dangers of poaching and encroachment in the Jarawa reserve, the only pristine forest left. The A&N Administration has used the Tsunami as an excuse to undertake projects such as the construction of mud walls to keep off Tsunamis and lining of beds of perennial streams with concrete. There have been protests by locals in all these projects and the Administration is yet to respond to the matter.

II. Continued Marginalisation of the Jarawa Community.

A number of incidents in recent months indicate that the extremely vulnerable Jarawa community is facing increased threats. Poaching of vital resources such as wild pig and honey from within the Jarawa Reserve continues, often in connivance with law enforcement personnel. In a recent incident, poachers illegally entered the Jarawa reserve and stolen honey collected by Jarawas with special skills at great risks, which is priceless to them for its nutritional and spiritual value. In spite of this, the poachers did not get punished but, the Jarawas were moved to a different locations.

There is an alarming increase in the inducements offered to the Jarawa by local villagers in exchange of vital forest produce. The scale of poaching and availability for sex of intoxicated Jarawa women is reported to be more than before. 11

The Jarawa Policy formulated by the Andaman Administration and endorsed by the Kolkata High Court in May, 2004 is not implemented. 11

The letter strongly urges the creation of an empowered local body consisting of well-known anthropologists and NGOs that the administration is required to consult prior to taking any action regarding the Jarawa. This will help the administration in implementing the legally mandated policies in a sensitive manner. It is also requested that:-