

4. The Central Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs considered the report of Committee of Experts vis-a-vis the views that emerged during the two seminars/open discussions organized by the Central Government on the said report of the Expert Committee in consultation with the A&N Administration and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the administrative Ministry for the matters connected with tribes and tribal affairs.
5. The Central Government in the Ministry of Home Affairs have consequently decided to frame a policy / guidelines for the protection and welfare of the Jarawas in Andaman & Nicobar Islands with the following objectives in view:

OBJECTIVES

- (i) To protect the Jarawas from harmful effects of exposure and contact with the outside world while they are not physically, socially and culturally prepared for such interface;
- (ii) To preserve the social organization, mode of subsistence and cultural identity of the Jarawa community;
- (iii) To provide medical help to the Jarawas to reduce mortality and morbidity in case of their sudden affliction with diseases which their systems are unaccustomed to;
- (iv) To conserve the ecology and environment of the Jarawa Reserve Territory and strengthen support systems in order to enable the Jarawas pursue their traditional modes of subsistence and way of life; and
- (v) To sensitize settler communities around the Jarawas habitat and personnel working for the protection and preservation of the Jarawas about the need to preserve this ancient community and to value their unique culture and life styles.

STRATEGIES / GUIDELINES

The Central Government, with the above objectives in view, have framed the following strategies / guidelines for the protection and welfare of the Jarawas:

Protection of cultural identity

- (a) The Jarawas shall be considered and treated as a unique human heritage.
- (b) A policy of maximum autonomy to the Jarawas with minimum and regulated intervention shall be adopted by the Government towards the Jarawas. There shall be no intervention in cultural life of the Jarawas and they will be left at liberty to develop according to their own genius and at their own pace. No attempts to bring them to the mainstream society against their conscious will or to rehabilitate them in separate islands / locations at this stage of their social development will be made.
- (c) The quality of intervention with Jarawas will be managed with care and sensitivity through suitably trained and re-oriented personnel, in consultation with and evaluation by anthropologists and experts. The objective will be to avoid dependency syndrome and to ensure their development as a vibrant social group. The personnel working for Jarawas would be provided with proper training and sensitization. The people of the villages near the Jarawa reserve area and other non-tribals will be sensitized regarding the rights and privileges of the Jarawas.

Protection of the Natural Habitat

- (a) No exploitation of natural resources within the Jarawa reserve by any non-tribal including Government agencies will be allowed. Necessary measures shall be initiated to curb even occasional extraction of resources from the Jarawa territory by the non-Jarawas. Provisions of A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 will be enforced more effectively. The A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 shall be amended to provide stringent punishment for poaching in the Jarawa territory and for exploitation of the Jarawas.
- (b) The notified Jarawa territory shall be fully and effectively demarcated and no attempt to curtail, reduce or to acquire land there from shall be made.
- (c) All encroachments in the Jarawa territory shall be removed on priority basis. Stringent arrangements to ensure that such encroachments do not take place in future will also be made.
- (d) Permanent residence of Government employees / non-tribals in the Jarawa reserve will not be allowed.
- (e) It shall be ensured that no person other than a Jarawa is allowed to enter the notified Jarawa reserve by any means unless he/she is permitted by the competent authority designated by the A&N Administration for this purpose. However, no such permission shall be granted unless the person is proceeding on bonafide work relating to the welfare of the Jarawas or protection of the area.