

Subject:

Para
No.

No. 17-18/AJVS/99

PUCs are the copy of the letters from Dilip Mehta, Member Secretary, INTACH, New Delhi and Shri. L.P. Sonkar, Advisor (Minerals and TRP), Planning Commission addressed to Chief Secretary. Both the letters have made reference to the letter written by Shri. Samir Acharya, Convenor, INTACH Andaman & Nicobar Chapter, Port Blair addressed to Smti. Sonia Gandhi, Chairman, National Advisory Council. Shri. Acharya has raised various issues relating to protection and welfare of the Jarawas including implementation of Jarawas Policy recently notified by the Government of India.

Jarawa Policy was discussed in the meeting under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary on 29/9/2005 which was attended by the concerned Head of the Departments and Secretaries of A & N Administration. A reference was also made during discussions to the letter of Shri. Samir Acharya. Various departments are initiating required action to implement the Jarawas Policy. It may be mentioned here that Shri. Acharya has urged for proper implementation of the policy. For the present, the following comments could be furnished on the issues raised by Shri. Samir Acharya.

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.

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.

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