

(4)

POLICY ON JARAWA TRIBE OF ANDAMAN ISLANDS

I. INTRODUCTION

The High Court of Calcutta (Circuit Bench at Port Blair) vide their order dated 9-4-2001 in WP No.048 of 1999 (PIL) – Ms. Shyamali Ganguly, Advocate Vs Union of India and Others, inter-alia, directed the Central Government as under :

“The Central Government through the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, within two months from the communication of this order shall form a Committee of Experts with the Lt. Governor of the Islands as the Convener, comprising of renowned Anthropologists, Sociologists, Nutrition Experts, Doctors for immediately undertaking a scientific study, research and survey in the aforesaid change in the behaviour of the Jarawas and to find out the cause of the same.....

The said Committee shall submit its report within six months from the formation of such Committee before the Central Government and Lt. Governor, A&N Islands and also shall file a copy thereof before the Circuit Bench of this Court.

Within six months thereafter the Central Government through the Home Secretary himself and the Lt. Governor of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration shall formulate a policy, plans and programmes on the aforesaid questions whether the steps should now be taken for bringing the Jarawas in the main-stream of the society or they should be left to their own way of life as before or the balance between the two should be struck following the