

Administration must evolve

Long term Jarawa Plan

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Hungry Jarawas in the Tirur region came out to the Bush Police camps in two groups of over thirty each shedding any hostility which they might have exhibited in the past. They were fed well at the camps and went back satisfied.

It is likely that wherever they will be in shortage of food, they will visit the Bush Police camps for food. It is not clear whether Administration had any previous contact with these groups. Likely not. The Administration should, therefore, evolve a clear policy in respect of these Jarawas.

The establishment of a settlement for them under close supervision will simply hasten their decay and rob them of their free life. The objective should be to let them live in their own way and get to ensure that they get enough food for their survival.

So long there has been contact with certain Jarawa groups by sea. Contact over land had been avoided. It is now getting clearer that the Jarawas visited certain localities mainly for food or for retaliation to trespassers of their Jungle areas who on some occasion or the other had disturbed the secluded life of the forest dwellers.

The contention of the administration and the Anthropologists that the reserved area is enough to sustain all the Jarawas has again proved to be wrong. Well-fed Jarawas would not come out showing their stomach for food.

The Administration must not take the Jarawa contact as a picnic party. A long-term plan in respect of these ancient people on the verge of extinction has to be evolved.