

## Jarawa Contact Reversed

In the last few days nearly 60 Jarawas came out of their forest abode in batches in Jirkatang and Tirur areas in a friendly mood shedding any hostility they had ever shown towards civilised people staying outside their domain. They were kindly treated, well fed and sent back to the jungles. They seemed happy at this outcome and more such visits by the Jarawas of this area are likely to occur in future. The contact party of the Administration had so long diverted their efforts only by the sea route in the Kadamtala area. No attempt was ever made to make any contact with Jarawas of the Tirur - Jirkatang areas. Since the entry of enemy into the scene the attitude of the Kadamtala Jarawas had further improved towards those whom they had always felt as "Outsiders". This has encouraged them to come out in large numbers seeking for food and medical treatment.

Several Jarawas of this group had already received treatment at the GB Pant Hospital and have been sent back to their abodes. The message of this friendly link must have reached the other Jarawas living in the Tirur-Jirkatang jungles and they, in turn, have been encouraged to come out openly in search of food.

The question obviously leads us to believe that the claim of the scientists and others that the reserved jungle area for the Jarawas is adequate to meet their food requirements is not correct. It is hunger first and medical treatment later that has prompted the forest-dwellers to come out in search of food.

After spending huge amounts on the welfare of these primitives when they go hungry and come out for food showing their stomach, it is a matter of great shame and inefficiency on the part of the AAJS and the Administration that they have failed to utilise the huge amount properly for the Adim Janjati.

The future policy of the Administration in respect of these aborigines should, therefore, centre around the idea that they should be given their basic requirements of food and medical treatment to be made available nearer to their area at one or more fixed locations where the Jarawas could assemble and get their requirements fulfilled.