

- 95

time residents of these islands with experience of working on Jarawa related schemes, Director of the Anthropological Survey of India Dr PK Bhattacharjee (based at Calcutta), the local representative of the Anthropological Survey of India, Shri Kanchan Mukherjee, Director of Health Services and officer of the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti to study the present situation and suggest a modified strategy to deal with the matter. A research and development cell dedicated to analysing Jarawa behavioural patterns and evolving both short term and long term strategies has also been created. Teams of officers are visiting areas frequented by the Jarawas in South and Middle Andaman Islands. Some of the steps already taken by the Administration are as follows.

✓ (1) Vehicles along the Andaman Trunk Road are being allowed to move only in convoys escorted by police, so as to prevent fraternisation between those in the vehicles and the Jarawas.

✓ (2) One of the possible reasons identified for Jarawa insecurity in the jungles is the incidence of foreign poaching along various parts of the west coast for which joint patrolling by the Navy, the Coast Guard and the Andaman Nicobar Police is being intensified.

(3) This year, so far, not a single hostile case involving Jarawas has been reported and there have been no killings of non-tribals in the dry season. The contact involving offer of food items, fruits and coconuts, by the Administration are being maintained.