

We know very little about ethnology and culture of the Jarawas as no systematic study could be carried out due to their having been hostile all along. However, a team of anthropologists of the ASI, Port Blair are studying the Jarawas. The Administration might be able to draw up a comprehensive development programmes for the welfare of the Jarawas after the study report has been made available. Meanwhile, they are being provided coconut and banana as a symbol of friendship and as a means to supplement their normal food requirements which are not met within their forest environment and medical coverage for minor ailments. The Jarawas are not suffering from any serious diseases. The policy framed by the Administration for their welfare and development by no means envisages the keeping of Jarawas as museum piece ; That is why the non-tribals are prohibited from entering the Jarawa reserves. The Jarawas are being provided necessary facilities including medical coverage when they need it. It is strongly denied that there has been violation of articles 14, 21, 47 and 48 of the constitution of India. Rather the endeavour of the Administration has been one of pursuing a process of gradual integration learning from previous experiences in dealing with other tribal groups like Great Andamanese and Onges.

- 14) That the averment made in paragraph - 10 it is to submit that what the administration and for that matter AAJVS is trying to inculcate among the Jarawa is that they be self reliant instead of almost totally depending on the administration like the Great Andamanese and the Onges. They cannot be introduced to any modern occupation all of a sudden because they are essentially hunter and food gatherers and the process of acculturation should be gradual.

For the rest of the contents no comments.

- 15) That the averment made in paragraph - 11 is emphatically denied that no steps have been taken by the Administration to tackle the Jarawa problem and a whole host of steps elaborated at para 9 above and in the background note explain the correct position and this is entirely in public interest. The public has been cautioned not to mingle with the Jarawas. "Dos" and "Don'ts" have been published for the information of the general public in the newspapers, to ensure that the Jarawas are not