

Minutes of the meeting held in Raj Niwas on 4.3.99 at 11.00 am to discuss the Jarawa issues.

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(1). A meeting was held in Raj Niwas on 4.3.1999 to discuss various issues relating to the Jarawas. The meeting was attended by the Officers of the different Departments, representatives from the Political Parties and others. The list is at Annexure - 1.

(2). At the outset Lt. Governor welcomed all the participants for the meeting. He informed them that the Jarawa issue is unique which requires a very special care and attention not only of the Govt. Machinery but also the society as a whole in these Islands. The entire matter relating to the Jarawas of Andaman Islands has 3 aspects such as :

- (a) Prevailing Jarawa situation.
- (b) Probable causes of the situation.
- (c) Solutions / plan of action to sort out the issue.

(3). It was informed to the participants that the Jarawas of both South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands have started coming out into the non-tribal villages. Jarawas take away things from the villagers and their gardens. Jarawas particularly children are coming on to the Andaman Trunk Road, climbing on to the vehicles, traveling on the bus tops etc.

(4). Such activities result in the loss to the villagers. Further Jarawas coming on to the roads and traveling in the vehicle is hazardous for their safety as they could be victims of the road accident. Apart from these the Jarawas board the vehicle ferry at Middle Strait and cause hindrance for the vehicular movement on Andaman Trunk Road.

(5). Lt. Governor informed the participants that the real causes of the Jarawas coming out into the villages and on to the Andaman Trunk Road are not known to us. However there are different hypotheses in this regard which would include the following :-