

items from nature. Secondly, the banana and coconut could never become their staple diet as thought by some non-Jarawas.

- b) A poverty stricken, starving population cannot afford to be selective. The Jarawa do not eat some fruits, animals and other items which are eaten by their sedentary neighbours.
- c) Recently the Anthropological Survey have started enumerating the Jarawa. The preliminary findings show that in the enumerated section of the population the woman-child ratio is more than three. This is an indicator of a trend towards population growth. Generally, demography of a foraging group is so finely tuned with nature that any resource-crunch would be reflected in its demography. A trend of population growth is improbable in a situation of acute resources scarcity.
- d) The researchers of the Anthropological Survey have spent long hours with the Jarawa in recent months and have noticed that they take their traditional food items collected by themselves like tubers, wild fruits, fish, shells, wild pig, turtle, turtle eggs, and honey for their major meals. In case they had a real food scarcity, gifted items like coconut, banana or biscuits could ^{have} become their staple food.
- e) The Jarawa Reserve covers the western parts of South and Middle Andaman. It is topographically an elevated region in comparison to the eastern region. Also the direction of the slope is west to east in this region. As known, the Jarawa reserve comes under the category of tropical rain forest, it has high density of vegetative cover. Consequently, the water absorption and retention capacity are also very high, giving birth to many small perennial streams. It has been corroborated by our field observation also. Some of these perennial streams are to be found near Middle Strait jetty, in between Lakda-Lungta and Foul Bay, at Foul Bay, R.K. Nall and Punna Nallah. So it can be said that the