

25

MOST IMMEDIATE

Sub:-Jarawa Problem

In the evening of 21.9.1999, 23 Jarawa patients have been shifted from Lakra Lungta to G.B.Pant Hospital on account of various ailments. The following issues have been discussed in the meeting held with Chief Secretary on 23.9.99 .

- (1) To find out the reason for the large number of Jarawas falling ill.
- (2) Whether there is any shortage of food inside the Jarawa reserve areas.
- (3) The possibility of dropping food items from helicopter in the Jarawa habitats.

On 24th September, 1999 the Coast Guard has provided a helicopter (Chetak) to this Administration to drop food items to Jarawa reserve areas. I along with Dy.Comdt. Chauhan and Pilot Shri Sharma set out for dropping of food items for the Jarawas. We covered the entire area (western coast of South and Middle Andaman). We have seen a large number of huts in the western coast and even in the inside deep forest but only one group of Jarawas were found at Luis Bay. We have dropped food items of about 100 kgs of coconuts, banana and fried rice. Since it was already late i.e. about 1030 hours we did not find Jarawas in the western coast. It was very difficult to ascertain from the helicopter whether plenty of food is available inside the deep forest or not. However, it appears that there may not be any drastic change in the availability of food for the Jarawas. There is no scarcity of water. From the helicopter we have also seen some animals moving here and there. At Middle Strait we also find some of the Jarawas standing there. So we have dropped food items for them. Our mission was completed by 12.00 noon.

In view of the recent Jarawa problems the following suggestions are made:-

PTO