

SL NO 25 (I)

No. 11-10/AAJVS/98/429
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL WELFARE

Port Blair, dated the 8th October, 1999

From

Shri N.C Ray,
Secretary (Tribal Welfare),
A & N Administration.

To

The Secretary General,
National Human Rights Commission,
1st Floor, Sardar Patel Bhavan,
Parliament Street,
New Delhi.

Sir,

This refers to the two Notices from the Commission bearing the following Case Numbers and dates, in respect of the same issue which is the perceived threat to the Jarawas who are an indigenous tribe of these Islands :

- (I) Case No. 68/11/99-2000 dated 17.9.99
- (II) Case No. 9/26/99-2000 dated 30.9.99

The first Notice which is based on a petition dated 5th June, 1999 addressed to the Commission by Shri K.Abdul Latheef is required to be answered by this Administration on or before 27th October, 1999. The second Notice which is based on a Times of India news item dated 17th September, 1999 titled "Save the Jarawas" is required to be answered by this Administration on or before 5th October, 1999. Since both Notices pertain to the same issue, this Administration hereby takes the opportunity to deal with the matter covered by the two Notices in the same report.

In both the petition of Shri Abdul Latheef and the Times of India news item, the thrust is the same i.e., the Jarawas should not be relocated from their reserve and should be allowed to decide their own future. Further, in Shri Abdul Latheef's petition, it has also been argued that the Andaman Trunk Road passing through their territory should be closed.