

number of Jarawas can only be approximately estimated, based on visual identification whenever teams from the Administration undertake contact expeditions. This estimate varies between 350-400.

While there are no detailed chronicles of contacts with Jarawas in British times, except prejudiced accounts which describe them in the most derogatory terms, the first recorded non-hostile contact with Jarawas by the Administration in post-Independence times took place in 1974. Thereafter, over the last 25 years, the Administration's contact groups have been in periodic touch with the Jarawas in day time only, on days close to the period of the full moon. These contacts had been limited to gifting them with coconuts, bananas and red cloth.

In order to ensure minimal contact with Jarawas and the non-tribals in South and Middle Andaman Islands, the Administration has established a chain of police check posts inside the forests known as the Jarawa Protection Police Posts. At present there are 26. In British times these used to be known as the Bush Police. These outposts inside the reserved forests are built with the help of readily available minor forest products, and no modern materials have been used for construction. However, such cane and bamboo outposts have often been subject to Jarawa arrow attacks at night, even injuring policemen, from time to time.

In order to assist the Jarawas in staying inside the forests on the one hand, and also improving their capacity for

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