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I am sending herewith a communication received under the letter head of Bahujan Samaj Party, Port Blair expressing concern over the Jarawas. The letter makes the startling statement that substantial funds are granted regularly for tribals in these islands by the UNO and the European Human Resources Development Fund, apart from the Govt. of India. Their estimate of the number of Jarawas is, of-course, ten times the correct figure. The Party makes the point that the Administration had spent funds on four scheduled tribes but ignored the Jarawas and the Sentinelese, as they are hostile groups. Their suggestion appears to be one of creating a Model Village with a Rehabilitation Grant of a sum of Rs.25 crores. The communication, like many others in this regard, is strong on rhetoric, but lacking concrete ideas and suggestions.

Submitted for perusal.

(R. Narayanaswami)
Chief Secretary
16.3.99.

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