

(30) (152)

MINUTES OF THE FIELD LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING REGARDING
REVISITING OF THE BUFFER ZONE NOTIFICATION HELD ON 09.10.2012

The list of Committee Members attended the meeting is annexed.

At the outset Director (TW) stressed the need to identify the issues and proper justifications for modification/ alteration if any, of the existing boundaries of the Buffer Zone area in the report to the Sub-Committee. He has further informed that the report from all the committee members have received and the contents of the report informed to the members for their perusals.

Assistant Commissioner (Settlement) stated that there are few revenue villages where the Jarawa interaction is frequent compared to many other villages where there is no interaction at all. As such continuing the non-interactive villages in the Buffer Zone Area is of no use.

The Tribal Welfare Officer of Kadamtala and Tirur stated that for the purpose of identifying the vulnerable area and villages, the statistics available with AAJVS and Police, in which they have indicated the areas / places of Jarawa movements/entries can be referred.

The representative of Fisheries Department stated that the livelihood activities of fishermen who are venturing in the western sea coast for fishing activities are affected and they are not permitted to go to the open sea. He suggested that the fishermen living in the area Collinpur, Tirur and Herpetabad of South Andaman and, the fishermen of Baratang Island and the fishermen of Kadamtala, Uttara and Santanu village of North & Middle Andaman may be allowed to use the creeks as innocent passage to go for fishing in the open sea beyond reserve area on the western coast. He has also stated that this will facilitate the fishermen community to continue their livelihood activities in the sea beyond restricted area.

SHO Kadamtala stated about the need of 5 Kms sea wards Buffer Zone notification on the Western sea side beyond 5 Km of sea ward Jarawa Reserve Area and the Jarawa Tribes are doing the fishing activities and confined in shallow water and they hardly go beyond 500 mtrs.

The Tribal Welfare Officer Kadamtala informed that Jarawas don't have any canoe or traditional boat and they are fishing in the shore area with their bow and arrows using the traditional net. The representative of Fisheries Deptt. suggested to exclude 5 kms seawards buffer zone of the western coast of the Islands.

The Assistant Conservator of Forest have opined that the Buffer Zone extending in the islands Eastern side are particularly the Shoal Bay creeks covering Kyd island and extending up to the Middle Strait entry point could also be excluded from the Buffer Zone, since the Jarawas are not using these area for fishing activities.

DFO, Baratang informed that Baratang Island is separated by creek with width of 500 mtrs and the Jarawas no longer visit there. Therefore excluding Baratang Islands from the Buffer Zone will not affect the interest of the Jarawa tribes adversely. This fact is confirmed through the Jarawa Movement Register maintained by the Tribal Welfare Office at Middle Strait.