

different parts by walking along the trunk road. The Committee, however, also noted the detrimental effects of the trunk roads on the Jarwas. It opined, commuters who use the road often come across the Jarwas at different parts of the South and Middle Andaman and as there is a general feeling among such persons that the Jarwas are starving people, some of the commuters carry edible items like banana and biscuits for the Jarwas and also sometimes they dispense spicy and fried foods. The Committee felt that such contacts are not at all desirable as intake of the distributed food items may cause health problems among the Jarwas. It was further opined that unequal and insistent treatment of the Jarwas by the curious onlookers and the tourists might create immense psychological set-back among the Jarwas and, therefore, some awareness should be generated among the people living in those areas about the cultural heritage of the Jarwas preferably by formulating suitable educational programmes for schools and colleges. It further opined that M. Ramani Trunk Road has caused some degradation of the forest in the Jarwa habitat creating not only a one time loss but also recurring loss and road materials required for the work is carried to the work site from elsewhere excepting fuel wood which is produced within the forest causing regular degradation. The Committee

