

as we have discussed, did considerable damage to the efforts to establish a healthy relationship with these tribals and also affected their population growth.

It was only in the late sixties that the Government felt it necessary to understand the problems of these tribes and accordingly, in 1969, constituted a study team on the Negrito communities of Andamans. This committee recommended that in the context of the changed situation, an alteration was called for in the objective of the Bush Police force, which was set up in 1905 with the aim of providing protection to the non-Jarawa from attacks by the Jarawa.

About the same time, on the advice of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, an advisory committee on 'Primitive Tribal Groups' was set up with a view to receiving expert opinion on specific tribal development policies for this area. The committee included eminent anthropologists from universities and also from the Anthropological Survey of India.

It was felt that for the implementation of tribal development policies, a voluntary organization would be more effective. And so, the Andaman Adik Jangrai Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) was established in March, 1976. The samiti is financed by the Central Government, channelized through the Andaman Administration.

After the formation of AAJVS, a 'Jarawa Cell' was constituted to consolidate friendship with the Jarawa and to learn their language in a planned way. The cell comprised representatives of the Andaman Administration and the Bush Police, experts from the Health Department and anthropologists from the Anthropological Survey of India, Port Blair.

Keeping in view the suggestions offered by the study team in 1969, the AAJVS formed a sub-committee to propose a new role for the Bush Police. Based on the recommendations of the sub-committee, the following new roles were prescribed for the Bush Police :