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अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
सचिवालय SECRETARIAT
पोर्ट ब्लेयर PORT BLAIR - 744 101

D.O. No.1-605/98-TW

Dated the 17th March, 2007.

Dear Ms Gupta,

In pursuance to discussions at the National Advisory Council held in January, 2006, a Sub-Group of Experts was constituted by the Planning Commission to look into the issues pertaining to the Jarawa tribe in these Islands. This was Co-chaired by Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and a report has been made available by them in August, 2006. This report inter-alia has also dealt with the issue of genetic research of Jarawas and Onges to be conducted by the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology(CCMB). In this context I am enclosing a copy of the letter written by the Minister dated 2.3.2007 highlighting that this is one of the recommendations and has requested that this may be done. The CCMB has also indicated that no objection from the Indian Council of Medical Research has also been obtained in this regard.

Furthermore the Minister has also recommended that a film be made by the CCMB (copy enclosed).

It may be recalled that your Ministry had vide D.O. letter No.19013/2/2005-Schemes dated 9.6.2005 addressed to this Administration(copy enclosed for your ready reference) stipulated that in terms of the Jarawa policy prior approval of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs ought to be taken involving a policy decision etc. As you will appreciate that genetic research is beyond the issue of health coverage alone and goes into the realm of policy considering all its ramifications. Also the need for documenting a film.

I shall, therefore, like to seek both your guidance and prior approval before any genetic research in this regard can be considered by the Government and UT Administration.

I am endorsing a copy of this letter to the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard also.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Shumsher K. Sheriff)

Ms. Meena Gupta,
Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi.