

F. No. 1-605/98-TW

Ref: Page 27 to 33/C.

PUC is the U. O. Note No.CS/PS/5(15)/2007 dated 15.3.2007 of Chief Secretary enclosing the D. O. letter No. Nil dated 2.3.2007 of Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce, Government of India addressed to the Chief Secretary. The C.S has enclosed the letter No. DCCMB/Cte. (56) dated 13.11.2006 of Dr. Lalji Singh, Director, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad and also a copy of the D.O. reply bearing No. 1-605/2005-TW dated 4.10.2006 sent by former Administrator, A&N Islands (Lt. Gen. (Retd.) M.M.Lakhera) to Shri Jairam Ramesh, Hon'ble Minister.

It is regarding the genetic studies among the Jarawas and the Onges of Andaman Islands. The Hon'ble Minister in his D.O. letter has informed that the genetic research of the Jarawas and Onges to be conducted by CCMB is very essential in view of the fact that the Negrito tribes of Andaman Islands are oldest living tribes out of Africa in the world and, therefore, hold the key to the susceptibility to human diseases. The Minister has further informed that CCMB has obtained no objection from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for the study. In view of the clearance from the ICMR, the Hon'ble Minister has suggested for the grant of necessary permission to the CCMB to collect the samples through the Medical Health system of the A&N Administration.

The then Administrator of the A&N Islands in his D.O. reply (quoted above) to the Hon'ble Minister had mentioned that the proposal to draw biological samples from the tribes be examined in view of the ICMR ethical guidelines for biomedical research involving human subjects and with the permission from the **concerned Ministry** in the Government of India (vide page 33/C).

Further, in this context of researches among Jarawas and other Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) of the Islands, kindly refer to the D. O. letter No.19013/2/2005-Schemes dated 09.06.2005 of Joint Secretary, Minister of Tribal Affairs, addressed to the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration (Page 34 to 44/C). It has been clearly stipulated in the said letter of the Ministry in view of the notified Jarawa policy (copy at page 45 to 48/C) *that a policy decision has been taken with regard to the Jarawas, that there will be no interference in the lives of the Jarawas and that no contact should be established other than health coverage and further they have stipulated to ensure that undue interference in the lives of PTGs does not take place without the approval of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.*