

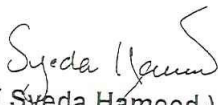
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A NOTE


This Sub-Group on the Jarawa was formed on February 23, 2006 at the instance of the National Advisory Council. Given the situation of the 306 Jarawa, the Sub-Group was to review existing administrative practices vis-à-vis the Jarawa and to examine the feasibility of sea transport as an alternative to the ATR. Its mandate was to look at issues pertaining to the Jarawa with the view of preserving their life and lifestyle, their identity and their culture.

This report is based on intense discussions between anthropologists, administrators, academics and geneticists who were a part of the group. It draws on the knowledge of people at the cutting edge, on the concerns of activists and Panchayati Raj representatives and on the academic expertise of professionals who have worked with the Primitive Tribes of Andamans for a long time. Most importantly, this report has been penned down after interaction with not just the Jarawa and the settlers, but with the two other Negrito groups of Andamans who have been in frequent contact with settlers- the Onge and the Great Andamanese. These interactions and field visits were vital in removing preconceived notions and in helping us to understand the present reality of the Jarawa.

Earlier on in its deliberations, the sub-group had decided that it would not just recommend measures for the "protection" and "preservation" of the Jarawa; it would also suggest an administrative framework for the implementation of its recommendations. Thus this report recommends the formation of a Jarawa Tribal Development Authority to monitor, suggest and review all contact with the Jarawa. This and the other recommendations outlined in the report are, we believe, vital for ensuring the dignified survival of these First People. Action is required and that too urgently. We are acutely aware of the fact that even as we submit this report, time is running on one of the oldest surviving inhabitants of our country.


(Syeda Hameed)

Chairperson


(Jairam Ramesh)

Chairperson

Dated: August 2, 2006