

made to mainstream the Jarawa against their "conscious will". Removal of all encroachments from within the Reserve, periodic health and nutritional surveys, provision of in-situ treatment to the maximum possible extent, documentation of traditional knowledge and standardization of treatment regimen and diagnostic approach were suggested. Taking cognizance of the warning issued by anthropologists, the policy specified that no alien food be provided to the Jarawa. It called for traffic regulation on ATR through a convoy system and regular screening of officials working with the Jarawa. The AAJVS was entrusted with the task of enforcing the Jarawa policy and of monitoring research on the Jarawa.

After notification of the policy, administration increased the Reserve Area from 847 to 1028 sq. km. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands Protection of Aboriginal Tribe Regulation, 1956 was amended in January, 2006 to provide stringent punishment to trespassers and violators. AAJVS was reconstituted with participation from outside experts and its Executive Council was given the task of screening all research proposals. Traffic on the ATR is now allowed only during the day and that too in convoys. The Administration has established separate wards for the Jarawa at Tusnabad, Kadamtala and at G.B. Pant, Hospital in Port Blair but they continue to get settler food (or *Eenen* food as they call it) which is alien to them. A drug regimen has been worked out but given the precarious situation of the Jarawa, needs in-depth study and a wider consultation with national and even international experts.

Through non-official sources we received information that interaction along ATR continues and the Jarawa have started using plastic bottles to carry water and honey, and cement bags to store meat from the hunt. A few men and children have started wearing discarded clothes. They have started using currency, and doing manual work for settlers. What is perhaps most disturbing is the social crisis that has ensued. Number of orphans due to disease and crocodile attacks is increasing. A band of young Jarawa girls and orphans has broken away from the tribe and has started living very close to police protection posts. Independent sources report that these Jarawa who have given up their traditional foraging practices and rely on the neighbouring settler population for food, are being sexually exploited. These reports led many concerned individuals and international environmentalists to ask for an investigation and some of them even wrote to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.