

67) May kindly peruse notes from paras 51-58/N at page 12-13/N. This is regarding state of affairs of the Jarawa Tribes in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Secretary to Govt. of India, National Advisory Council, New Delhi vide D.O letter No. 216/Secy/NAC/2010 dated 17-8-2010 at flag 'A' addressed to Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands has requested to take up the issue relating to formation of "Jarawa Development Authority" to monitor, suggest and review of contacts with the Jarawas and survival of Jarawas and other tribes at the Standing Committee Meeting in the main meeting of IDA besides a status note in the matter for the information of the Chairperson, NAC.

68) As per the minutes of the Chief Secretary recorded at para 58/N at page 13/N, a copy of the correspondence between Smti. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, NAC and DR. (Mrs.) Syeda Hameed have been received from the Desk Officer, GOI, NAC, New Delhi in response to this Administration's letter dated 8-10-2010 at flag 'B'.

69) Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission vide D.O. letter No. M(SH)/PC/158/2010 dated 19-7-2010 at flag 'C' addressed to hon'ble Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, All India Congress Committee has stated that there was some disturbing articles on Jarawa Tourism both in the national and international media for the last couple of months. Increasingly tourists from the mainland and other countries are being lured to the A & N Islands to "see the naked stone age tribals inhabiting the forests", newspapers, internet travel websites and travel brochures are full of such advertisements. The A & N Administration stated that measures have been taken to check these but a re-look needs to be taken at the existing Jarawa Policy, "to move from protection to empowerment". She has further stated that NAC had formed a Sub-Group of Experts to suggest an action plan for the "protection" and "preservation" of the Jarawas. They had gone to A & N Islands and interacted with all the stake holders travelled extensively through the Jarawa Reserve and even travelled on an alternate sea route. The NAC was dissolved the recommendation of the Committee were never examined. Subsequently the Babu Committee Report was also tabled and despite the similarity in recommendation between these two reports nothing has happened.

70) She has further stated that the Administration continues to await "a new Policy" and a decision on the Andaman Trunk Road, the Jarawa are being put on voyeuristic display and subjected to foreign foods and germs. She has requested the Chairperson, NAC to take a new look at the report of the Sub-Group so that some of the recommendations can be entrusted by the NAC. NAC's advise on this very sensitive issue of small voiceless people will be very useful input for IDA.

71) In response to the D.O letter of Dr. Syeda Hameed, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Chairperson, NAC, New Delhi vide her letter No. 34/CP/NAC/2010 dated 13-8-2010 at flag 'D' replied that this is indeed a serious matter relating to State of Affairs of Jarawa Tribes in A & N Islands deserves our immediate attention.

72) As regards to the report of the Sub-Group of experts in the Jarawa Tribe of Andaman islands submitted to Planning Commission in 2006 authorized by Dr. Syeda Hameed and others, the A&N Administration has submitted its comments on the report in September 2006, wherein on the issue regarding formation of a separate Jarawa Tribal Development Authority (JTDA) to monitor, suggest and review contacts with the Jarawas was not agreed by the Administration on the ground that AAJVS and its Executive Council is having a similar composition and tasks. This issue was again taken up in the meeting to discuss implementation of Jarawa Policy held on 11-5-2009 under the Chairmanship of Secretary to GOI, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and it was decided to restructure the AAJVS.