

Status note on formation of Jarawa Tribal Development Authority to monitor, suggest and review of contact with the Jarawas

There are five Particularly Vulnerable Tribes (PTGs) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands viz. Great Andamanese, Onges, Jarawas, Sentinelese and Shompens. To look after the welfare of these PTGs an autonomous body (AAJVS) is functioning under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A & N Islands. It has a General Body and Executive Council which meets periodically and lay down policies and programmes for the welfare and developmental activities of the PTGs. The Executive Council comprises Hon'ble Lt. Governor as Chairman, Chief Secretary as Vice Chairman and other Departmental Officers as Members. The Executive Council deals with the problems and development of all the PTGs.

With regard to the issue relating to formation of Jarawa Tribal Development Authority (JTDA) to monitor, suggest and review of contacts with the Jarawas as recommended by the Sub-Group of Experts set up by the Planning Commission it is stated that this issue was 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 with the inputs from those who have experienced in working with tribals in A & N Islands so that AAJVS is able not only to function like a trustee in the interest of Jarawas but also to advise the Admin. regarding protection and welfare of Aboriginal Tribes including Jarawas. It was also decided that there is no need for a JTDA as it would duplicate the work already done by AAJVS and Tribal Welfare Department of the UT Administration.

Further, it has decided in the Executive Council Meeting of AAJVS held on 12-8-2009 at Raj Niwas, the National Productivity Council (NPC), Kolkata was entrusted to undertake a manpower study to revamp AAJVS. The report / recommendation of the NPC has been received and the same is under examination in the A & N Administration.

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To be reviewed

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