

222  
42

a conjecture. The A&N Administration is actually in the horns of a dilemma – whether to integrate them in the civil society or leave them alone. The Chief Secretary stated that Jarawas should decide their own pace of change and the Anthropologists should help as they have in depth knowledge about nurturing endangered tribes.

The Secretary (TA), stated that this is not really an issue at this stage, in the face of the clear Policy prescriptions notified. Moreover, there exists plenty of reasons that can explain why the Jarawas are emerging out of the forests and going into the settler habitations. After all, these habitations are all ex-Jarawa territory. So, in order to take a view on any Jarawa-settler-tourist issue, we have to always keep in mind that they are the original settlers. Today, the settlers from the mainland have a voice but the Jarawas do not. So it becomes imperative for the Administration to be extra sensitive to their interests. This is important more so because of the demand/pressure from the settlers for creation of an Assembly in the Islands - which Ministry of Tribal Affairs is resisting, as it will lead to a majority subduing the heritage minority.

Smt S.K.P Sodhi, Secretary (TW), A&NI then gave a power pointed presentation on the status of implementation of the Jarawa Policy and the role of the AAJS. She highlighted that the Jarawa population has increased by some 25 per cent, and while this is encouraging, she wondered if this would result in a shortage of resource, forcing more forays into settler habitations. She felt that settler-Jarawa interaction is nothing new or unusual