

(5) Health and Food Security

Dr. Syeda Hameed Report had suggested that Doctors and Health Workers should uphold the pride of Jarawas in their traditional system of medicine and *in situ* treatment to be provided to the extent possible. It had also suggested immediate setting up of a satellite facility of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in the Andamans. In fact, Dr. Syeda Hameed Report had opined a "demand driven" approach in regard to health and food security of Jarawas and attempt should be made to gradually phase out any dependency that arises from this intervention. Status needs to be updated.

In the Meeting held by the Secretary, Tribal Affairs on 11th May, 2009, it was also decided to take the help of premier national institutions to prepare plan and protocols to sensitizing the settlers around the Jarawa Reserve; for recording the traditional knowledge of the Jarawas including their system of ethno-medicine; and for non-invasive research. It was also decided that individual oriented research must be discouraged as these are done generally for career advancement, and in the process, no institutional memory is created. Consequently, the findings of such research are not available to the A&NI or concerned research institutions. A guideline on research should be framed in consultation with premier national research institutions. Status needs to be updated.

For health related issues, it was also decided in the 11th May, 2009 Meeting of the Secretary (Tribal Affairs) that due care would be taken that all staff, especially those belonging to AAJVS, deputed on duty, do not have any contagious diseases and do not drink and smoke, at least in front of the Jarawas. In the context of health related precautions that are needed for all those who come into contact with Jarawas, resettlers the need to provide certificates confirming that they are not carrying any contagious diseases. Action taken in this respect needs to be intimated.