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Dear Shri Chidambaram,

I am writing to draw your attention to issues related to the Jarawa Tribes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI).

You may recall that the Planning Commission constituted a Sub-Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Syeda Hameed to look into reports of continued socialization and interaction with Jarawa Tribes especially near the Andaman Trunk Road which passes through the Jarawa Reserve. The Report of the Sub-Group was submitted in August 2006. The recommendations of the Sub-Group have been followed up by the Island Development Authority and the Andaman and Nicobar Island Administration.

However, concerns are still being voiced on issues such as the opening of an alternate sea route by-passing the Jarawa Reserve area, hazards of local tourism operations etc. which have not been fully resolved. I feel that Ministry of Home Affairs, being the nodal Ministry responsible for the administration of ANI and the Islands Development Authority (IDA), should come out with a time bound action plan on decisions already taken and review further measures at regular intervals.

A Note, based on various reports, including the Status Note sent by Home Secretary to NAC, and the recent field visit by an officer of the National Advisory Council (NAC), highlighting issues which require to be addressed, is enclosed.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be requested to brief the National Advisory Council on the subject in May 2011. The Ministry of Home Affairs may coordinate with them so that all issues related to the Jarawa tribe are comprehensively addressed.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Shri P. Chidambaram,
Home Minister,
North Block,
New Delhi-110 001.

Encl: As above.