

SONIA GANDHI
CHAIRPERSON
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL



D.O. No.N-16018/001/2010-NAC-1201

19 January, 2011

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Dear Shri Kantilal Bhuria,

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

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is nodal for formulating the policy for the Jarawas. The last policy for the Jarawa Tribes, I understand, was formulated in 2004. More recently, an Expert Committee has been constituted in the Ministry to review the old Jarawa Policy and suggest course corrections so that the Policy remains dynamic taking into account changing needs and circumstances. There is need to follow-up on the progress of this Expert Committee.

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.

Despite the follow-up several issues such as the opening of an alternate sea route by-passing the Jarawa Reserve area, an effective institutional mechanism to implement the Jarawa policy in the ANI, hazards of local tourism operations etc. are yet to be fully resolved.

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

I would request you to kindly coordinate with the other concerned agencies in following up the various recommendations made from time-to-time. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be requested to make a presentation to the National Advisory Council on the subject in May 2011.

With good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sonia Gandhi

Shri Kantilal Bhuria,
Minister of Tribal Affairs,
Shastri Bhavan,
New Delhi-110 001.

Encl: As above.