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**VI. Settlement for post 78 encroachers of forest.**

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The A&N Islands have developed into pockets of habitation in rural as well as urban set ups from a very hostile thick tropical forest situation during the last 60 years after independence. Large scale settlement began in the 1950s with the shifting of EPDP populations from West Bengal. In order to clear and develop hostile forests into habitations i.e villages and towns that exists now, large contingents of labour forces were recruited from towns of Orrissa, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, consisting of traditional forest dwellers of those areas, who have left behind their ancestral land holdings and scheduled tribe status and devoted their lives in breaking the stark territory for development. They were joined by other workers of West Bengal origin and such EPDP individuals who were left out in the movement from West Bengal to Andamans. Being shy of contact and mostly uneducated, they have not been unscrupulous in providing documents and evidences for regularisation of the small land holdings that they were forced to settle down in, once the huge requirement for labour force declined. These have been identified as post 78 encroachers in forests. It has been proposed to settle these families numbering 4312 by allotting 340 sq.mtrs of house sites each.

**Demand** - The 4312 families identified as post 78 forest encroachers are wholly dependent on the agricultural produce from the small holdings/encroachments that are held by these families. Allotment of house sites will fulfil their requirement for roof over their heads but will rob them of their source of livelihood. Hence each family be allowed to hold a minimum of 5 acres of arable land to enable them to cultivate paddy and other crops and earn their livelihoods.

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**VII. Future of the Jarawa tribe** - The Jarawa population of around 300 individuals consist of dark skinned, short structured men and women akin to their African cousins. They live in the forests of South and Middle Andaman islands in mysterious isolation, stuck in time somewhere in between the stone and iron age. They have been scheduled as a Primitive Tribe Group in the Constitution of India, being hunter-gatherers and till recently, hostile to all outsiders. During the British administration a large population of Jarawas, at that time spread over the entire Andaman group of islands, were decimated in a bloody battle.