

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3306
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
DEVELOPMENT OF JARAWAS COMMUNITY
Jena Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are reports that the Jarawas community in the Andamans are being mistreated by some Travel companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action by the Government to protect the life and dignity of the Jarawas community; and
- (c) the details of the programmes being implemented by the Government for the all round socio-economic development of the Jarawas in particular?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a): No, Madam.

(b): In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c): The areas inhabited by Jarawa Tribes have been declared as reserved area under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956. The Regulation provides for protection and well-being of Scheduled Tribes of the Islands.

As per Jarawa Policy of 2004, minimum intervention is to be made in dealing with Jarawas. This is mainly restricted to medical intervention and providing medical care when needed. Exclusive wards at Primary Health Centres and G.B. Pant Hospital, Port Blair have been provided for Jarawas and such wards are declared as tribal reserves to prevent non-tribals from interacting with them.

The Jarawas are hunting and gathering nomadic tribes. To ensure a rich resource of forest based traditional food, Jarawa reserve area has been increased from 847 sq. kms. to 1028 sq. kms. including coastal water upto 5 km. from high tide line as tribal reserve.

In order to protect Jarawas from the harmful effects of exposure and contact with outside world, a Buffer Zone around the Jarawa reserve has been declared by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration, prohibiting any commercial and tourism activities in this Zone.