

REPORT ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS NO. 26 - ROAD THROUGH THE JARAWA TRIBAL RESERVE

1. The Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) has a total length of 333 km. A part thereof passes through Jarawa Reserve in two small segments, together having an extent of 56 km. The ATR is being used by settlers who are about 1.5 lakh in number and settled in North and Middle Andaman islands. The segment of ATR passing through a portion of Jarawa Reserve is also used by tourists to visit the mud-volcano and lime-stone cave situated at Baratang Island. The tourist population which uses this segment of ATR, roughly amounts to 10% of the total ATR users. The ATR is the only land route available to transport materials required for the livelihood of settlers living in North and Middle Andaman Islands. Most of the settlement villages are not directly connected to coast line and therefore the ATR has become the prime connectivity available for the settlers.
2. The closure of portions of ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve territory was recommended by Prof. Shekhar Singh Commission in its report and was accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 7.5.2002.
3. In the meanwhile, in pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court in a PIL (WP No. 048 of 1999), the Central Govt. notified Jarawa Policy, 2004 vide Andaman and Nicobar Gazette Notification No. 210 dated 21.12.2004. As per the Jarawa Policy-2004. The Administration filed a Supplementary I.A. 918 of 2005 on 22.2.2005 in Hon'ble Supreme Court seeking review/modifications as far as the closure of ATR passing through the Jarawa Tribal Reserve is concerned, on the following grounds:
 - (a) Traffic on Andaman Trunk Road will be regulated strictly limiting the traffic to the essential purposes of public transport, supplies and emergency evacuation of patients and to ensure that it is an innocent and harmless passage and not a source of trouble to Jarawas.
 - (b) Vehicles on Andaman Trunk Road will be allowed to move only in restricted hours and in convoy under notified speed limit to avert possible road accidents and to avoid any sort of interaction of travelers with Jarawas.
 - (c) Facilities for travel by boat/ ship will be strengthened and transportation/ travel by sea will be encouraged.