

activities of ANTRI and provide strategic inputs and also consider and recommend the research proposal received by ANTRI pertaining to the indigenous tribal communities and tribal areas.

9) Administration has created ANTRI to carry out the kind of researches required. Major projects have been completed and they have had impact within the community and further works are underway. It would be wrong to simplify and assume that all resources have depleted. Some identified problems are population pressure, deforestation and poaching. ANTRI reviews research applications and concurrence of the Administration is sought before finally taking up any project.

10) As a part of implementation of the Jarawa Policy notified in 2004, with the approval of the Central Govt. and following the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta, the Project of "Alternate Sea Route" ²⁰¹¹ ~~has been~~ taken up since January, 2011 in order to facilitate travel by the sea and reduce the density of traffic on ATR. Once the facilities for travel by the Alternate Sea Route between Port Blair and Baratang are developed, the tourists traffic now passing through the Jarawa Reserve in convoy system will be diverted to Alternate Sea Route resulting in reduction of tourist-traffic on ATR. However the Public Transport (Govt. Buses) including vehicles carrying essential supplies and medical ^{during emergencies} emergencies will continue to ply in convoy on the stretch of ATR between Jirkatang and Middle Strait, both ways, as usual even after commissioning of Alternate Sea Route. In this regard, it may be recalled that this Admn. had filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court in April, 2003 seeking review of direction on the Recommendation of Sekhar Singh Commission and as far as it relates to the closure of ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve, the matter is still sub-judice. Therefore, presently there is no prospect of increased traffic in the stretches passing through the Jarawa Reserve even if broadening of ATR is carried out in the other stretches.

11) The Administration has been steadily making sincere efforts to get the project of Alternate Sea Route materialized ever since it was initiated in 2011 in order to fulfill its commitment on its completion by March, 2015 made before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Standing Finance Committee (SFC) of Ministry of Shipping, GoI in its meeting held on 25.8.2014 decided to recommend the project for approval involving an expenditure of Rs. 45.16 crore with certain conditions including timeline of 24 months for its completion. (Copy of the minutes is enclosed as Annexure-A) Side by side, the process for obtaining Environmental Clearance of the Project