

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

Status as on 29.9.2014

1. The Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) is having a length of 333 KM and a part of it, is passing through Jarawa Reserve in two small segments together having an extent of 56 Km. The ATR is being used by settlers numbering about 1.5 Lac, settled in North and Middle Andaman Islands. The segment of ATR passing through a portion of Jarawa Reserve is also used by Eco Tourists, to visit 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 only lifeline available for the settlers.

2. On the issue of closure of portions of ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve territory recommended by Prof. Shekhar Singh Commission in its report was accepted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 7.5.2002.

3. In the meanwhile on 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 IA on 22.2.2005 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.
- (d) Maintenance of the Andaman Trunk Road will be carried out by a mobile maintenance team bringing men, machine and materials from Ferrargunj/ Jirkatang and carry out the job only during day time.
- (e) The tourist traffic on Andaman Trunk Road will be strictly monitored to ensure that there is no interaction between the Jarawas and the tourists.

* The work will be carried out