

Government of India in pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta in WP No. 48 of 1999 (Shyamali Ganguly vs Union of India and others), has already submitted its report. This report shall be discussed in a workshop with national and international experts on the subject, after which, a policy decision in the matter shall be taken by the Government of India. The Respondent Administration has filed an application for variation of the order before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, listed as IA 918 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Administration has pleaded that closing the ATR would throttle the lifeline of the people living in Baratang, Middle Andaman and North Andaman. However, in order to restrict the interaction between the tribals and the non-tribals along the ATR, the Administration has taken a large number of concrete steps. The Administration has introduced a new speed boat by name M.V. Teal for direct passenger service between Port Blair and Rangat. This service takes lesser hours than the road journey and is cheaper. This step is expected to ease the pressure on the ATR. The Administration has also taken action to restrict the number of vehicles passing through the ATR. A copy of the order is annexed herewith as **Annexure 'H'**. The vehicular traffic is also controlled by a system of convoys and the number of convoys that can pass through the ATR in a day, is restricted to 8. In order to improve the protection measures for the Jarawas and also to take care of their welfare, the Administration has taken steps to