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A Brief note on the notification declaring the area upto five Km radius around the Jarawa Tribal Reserve as Buffer Zone.

The Jarawa Tribal Reserve has been notified vide Notification No. 159/2004 dated 15.9.2004 from the Boundary Line starting from Constance Bay in South Andaman to Lewis Inlet Bay in Middle Andaman.

M/S Barefoot Group has taken 13 bighas of land in Collinpur for construction of a Tourist Resort. There is a place locally known as Zhao Kona, where the Jarawa reside in very close vicinity to the land purchased by M/S Barefoot Group at Colinpur for tourist resort. When there is low tide, the Jarawas come to that area in search of their subsistence. If the tourist resort is constructed at that place, the Jarawa will be visiting frequently to resort area for their needs, which may cause exploitation by the non-tribals including tourists.

As per the instructions contained in the policy on Jarawa Tribe of Andaman Islands framed on Hon'ble High Court's Order in consultation with the experts and notified with the consent of the Govt. of India, no tourist has to be allowed to interact with the Jarawas so that curious intrusions are avoided as these intrusions adversely affect their life style, culture and health. The Jarawa have been recognized as unique human heritage, and it is onerous responsibility of the Administration to protect and preserve their status.

To protect the Jarawa from the harmful effect of exposure and contact with the outside world, it was decided in the General Body Meeting of AAJVS (an autonomous body looking after the welfare of PTGS under the Chairman ship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor) held on 17.8.07 at Raj Niwas to declare five KM radius from the edge of Jarawa reserved area as buffer zone where no commercial activities shall be permitted. It was also decided that necessary amendments may be made in the PAT Regulation. (Copy of the minutes enclosed).

Under sub-section (1) of section 3 of A & N Islands (PAT) Regulation 1956 the Chief Commissioner (now Lt. Governor) is empowered to declare the reserve area by making notification for the Protection and welfare of the Primitive Tribal Groups.