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- (ii) Based on the recommendations of the study report of experts, "Kangaapo" the stitched garments are being given to Jarawa women on their specific demand and on barter basis, to preserve their self respect..
- (iii) A protocol of surveillance has been put in place to secure Western Coast of South and Middle Andaman islands, bordering Jarawa Tribal Reserve from intruders/poachers by three layers of surveillance through Joint Patrol Parties in the seaward side of the Western Coast involving Navy, Coast Guard, Police Marine force, AAJVS and Forest Departments;
- (iv) The first phase of provisions of books of bilingual and bicultural curriculum namely "Ang Katha" for the Jarawas has been made to instill community identity vis-à-vis the "outside world".

the alleged

The UK based NGO namely "Survival International" advocates the closure of Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) to avoid exploitation of Jarawa tribe by tourists. The ATR is being used by settlers numbering about 1.5 Lac, settled in North and Middle Andaman Islands. 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. The closure of ATR will create discomfort and untold miseries for the 1.5 lakh population who have been settled in the North & Middle Andaman District as per Govt. policy since Independence. The Government has to protect the interests of both indigenous community and the settlers. Over a period of time, these communities have understood each other and are living harmoniously in the neighbourhood. It is apprehended that the UK based NGO is trying to disturb the harmony and create conflict between the communities by advocating closure of ATR.

The Central Government notified the Jarawa policy in the year 2004, according to which the density of traffic on the ATR would be reduced, by encouraging use of alternate sea-route by the tourists between Port Blair and Baratang Island. The Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of India has therefore sanctioned the project of Alternate Sea Route to Baratang at a cost of Rs. 45 Crore. The navigational survey and Environment Impact Assessment Study have been completed. The UT Coastal Zone Management Authority has conveyed their clearance and the Ministry of Environment & Forests, GoI is in the process of according environmental clearance. The Ministry of Shipping has entrusted the execution of the project to its own agency, namely, Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW). The said agency is taking all steps to complete the project at the earliest. This will provide sea connectivity option to the tourists, after the project is completed, which will in turn further reduce the density of traffic on ATR.

#### C) Other Initiatives by A&N Administration:

The Andaman and Nicobar Tribal and Research Institute (ANTRI) has been made functional from 02.10.2013 and was formally inaugurated by **Hon'ble President of India** on 12.1.2014. *This Institute carries out field research and helps the Admin in framing appropriate welfare policy in consultation and collaboration with the tribal community*