

Government of India
Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(C&LM-I Division)

Annexure - B
276

Minutes of the Meeting of "Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Tribal Affairs for preparation of policies for various PTGs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands" held on 08.1.2015 at Conference Room, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 7th Floor, 'A' Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.

The "Expert Committee for preparation of policies for various PTGs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands" under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Tribal Affairs met on 08.1.2015 at 10:30 AM in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. The list of participants is at Annex-1.

2. The Secretary, Tribal Affairs, welcomed the participants, and requested the Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department (TW), Andaman and Nicobar Administration, to brief the Committee about the action taken by the Andaman and Nicobar Administration on the following:

- (i) Implementation of Policy on Jarawa Tribe of Andaman Islands, 2004,
- (ii) Progress on second phase of the study on Jarawas to ascertain their free will,
- (iii) Progress on the formulation of Draft Policy for Shom Pens,
- (iv) Policies for other PVTGs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

3. The Secretary, (TW), Andaman and Nicobar Islands informed that the Andaman and Nicobar Administration strictly implements the Jarawa policy through Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) by protecting and preserving the indigenous tribe. The reserve base of Jarawas has been enhanced by notifying 1028 sq.km as Jarawa Tribal Reserve Area, under Protection of Aboriginal Tribes (PAT) Regulations, 1956. The cultural identity of Jarawas is being preserved through Buffer Zone Notification, banning tourist and commercial establishments near the Tribal Reserve area invoking the provisions of amended PAT Regulation 2012. The traffic movements in Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) is regulated and closely monitored by convoy system. Settlers living adjacent to the Jarawa Tribal Reserve areas have been sensitized. Stringent penal action is taken against those who violate various laws including PAT Regulations. In terms of the Jarawa policy 2004, the Ministry of Shipping has recently accorded Administrative and Expenditure sanction to its implementing agency, namely, Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW), to provide sea route to Baratang from Port Blair, so as to reduce the tourist traffic in ATR. The Committee was apprised about the necessity of keeping ATR open, as it is the lifeline for the 1.5 lakh population of