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traffic movement, the convoy frequency has been reduced from 8 to 4 and DIG of Police has been designated as Nodal officer to monitor traffic movement on ATR. The closure of ATR will cause tremendous hardship to settlers.

(B) Jarawa Policy

The Jarawa Policy has been notified with a view to preserve socio-cultural institutions to protect them from harmful effects of outsiders and ensure maximum autonomy with minimum regulated interventions. As suggested by Expert Committee of MoTA chaired by Union Secretary on 2.2.2012, empirical data is being collected by engaging field functionaries of Andamans Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) to review the existing policy.

(C) Alternate Sea Route

MoTA suggested that tourist traffic on ATR should be avoided. The Establishment of Jetties, navigational aids and dredging works on the alternate sea route is included in 12th FYP. Preliminary works for REIA study and Hydro-graphic survey have been completed and other preliminary works like sub-soil investigation and preparation of navigational charts has commenced. Alternate sea route will be opened for traffic by March, 2015.

(D) Buffer Zone (Map)

The Buffer Zone was notified in 2007 to protect Jarawas from the harmful effects of outside contacts. It covers an area of 842.58 Sq Km in which 22000 people live across 31 revenue villages. 7 tourist establishments were closed. The notification was quashed by Calcutta High Court and the Administration has filed SLP in the Apex Court. The Apex Court has directed that the Buffer Zone Notification be implemented without any exception until the notification is rescinded or amended. The Administration constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary and two field level Committees to revisit the Buffer Zone. The revised notification is expected by March, 2013.

(E) A&N Islands (PAT) Amendment Regulation, 2012

The amendment was brought into force on 9.7.2012 and empowers the Administrator to declare/modify Buffer Zone, an area contiguous to the Reserve area & provides stringent penal provisions against the offenders.