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F.No.1-836/2012-TW
अण्डमान तथा निकोबार प्रशासन
ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION
जनजाति कल्याण निदेशालय
DIRECTORATE OF TRIBAL WELFARE

Port Blair, dated the July, 2014

Rejoinder

The following rejoinder to the news item of Survival International under the caption – NGO petitions against Jarawa tourism in the Andamans published in the esteemed daily – “The Hindu” of July 20, 2014 may be published in the next issue of the said news paper.

(1) Closure of Andaman Trunk Road ordered by the Supreme Court

The one man Commission viz. Professor Sekhar Singh Commission appointed by the Hon'ble Apex Court made various recommendations including closure of ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve on the ground that it badly affected the protection of the Jarawas. The Hon'ble Apex Court passed Orders on 7th May, 2002 accepting those recommendations, but prima facie no specific order was passed in respect of closure of ATR. Nonetheless the A & N Administration filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble Apex Court seeking review of its direction on ATR in April, 2003 in view of the fact that the ATR is a lifeline and means for transporting materials required for livelihood of large settlers population living on other side of Jarawa reserve, i.e Middle and North Andaman. Since then the matter is under subjudice. (There is no question of closure of ATR until the Hon'ble Apex Court delivers its verdict so the statement of Survival International through the news item published in “The Hindu” is factually incorrect.)