

In the meanwhile, the Jarawa Policy 2004 was framed and notified by the Central Govt in the wake of direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta in a PL raising the issue of protection of the Jarawa tribe is being implemented. The Jarawa Policy, among other things, provides <sup>for</sup> regulation of traffic on ATR cutting across the Jarawa reserve <sup>only</sup> in restricted hours in convoy to avoid any sort of interaction of travelers with the Jarawas and side-by-side strengthening facilities of sea travel to encourage travel by sea. Accordingly convoy system for movement of traffic on ATR between Jirkatang and Middle Strait has been operated between 0600 hrs to 500 hrs daily since May, 2009 under proper Police escort in order to prevent interaction of non-tribals with the Jarawas. The Hon'ble Apex Court in its judgement/Order dated 5.3.2014 in SLP No. 12125/2010 has also upheld the convoy system and directed to strictly implement it.

The Jarawa is not a dwindling tribe. Rather their population has considerably grown over the years, i.e, from 218 in 2001 to 427 as on date as a result of various protection and welfare measures like medical and health coverage comprising in-situ medical treatment, exclusive medical wards for their hospitalization, augmentation of their resource base by including more area in the landward side of Jarawa reserve etc.

**(2) Widening of ATR as per the recent statement of the Hon'ble MP, A & N Island Constituency.**

As already mentioned above ATR is the only land route and it is life line for a large population of the settlers living in Middle and North Andaman and protection of the Jarawa tribe on the stretch of ATR cutting across the Jarawa reserve being taken care of, this Administration has filed a review petition (affidavit) in the Hon'ble Apex Court against its order dated 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2002, but the matter is still sub-judice.

In the meanwhile the ATR comprising 277 Kms from Chidiatapu to Aerial Bay including the stretch cutting across the Jarawa reserve has been declared as National Highway under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. Even if the project relating to widening of existing ATR upto 7 meters is taken up now, there will be no violation of the PAT Regulation as regards to reserve area since a 30 meters belt on either side

Public  
Interest  
Litigation  
  
the segment  
of Andaman  
Main road  
passing through

for