

Trunk Road passing through the Jarawa reserve in restricted hours in convoy to avoid any sort of interaction of travelers with the Jarawas and for 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 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 of ATR in the Jarawa reserve has been kept outside the reserve area as per the Admn's Notification No. 165 dated 15th September, 2004. The interests of the Jarawa tribe will not be compromised in any way.

In addition, the following precautionary measures/ safeguards in the event of the widening of ATR and construction of two bridges, one at Middle Strait and other at Humphrey Strait are undertaken. Construction of two bridges on ATR in the pre-stipulated time frame with limited labour force, no change in the existing convoy timing to ensure the undisturbed use of the reserve territory by the Jarawas, recruitment and training of more staff in Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti to be deployed in the Jarawa reserve to handle additional emerging pressures and