

tourists and other person visiting Baratang islands using the ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve Area.

23. That with the complete ban imposed, the local people who are engaged namely taxi operator etc, in the tourism activities for their livelihood have been banned from carrying tourists through the ATR. The number of private vehicles plying on ATR has been reduced from an average of 157 per day to a mere 70. In this context, it is submitted that the ATR declared as NH-223 in 2004 (now NH-4) is the lifeline of the Andaman group of Islands. It has a length of 333 Km connecting South Andaman, Baratang, Middle Andaman and North Andaman Islands. There are 100 Revenue Villages with approximately 1.5 lakh population living all along the ATR. Most of the population comprises of settlers from the erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. However, a stretch of 56 km of ATR is passing through Jarawa Reserve. The