

-39-

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. (A xerox copy of the paper clipping of The Daily Telegrams dated 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 is placed at P 154/C for reference). 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 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2004 (A xerox copy of the Notification highlighting the relevant portion is placed at PP 156-157/C for reference). The interests of the Jarawa tribe will not be affected in any way either with the protection and welfare measures including strict enforcement of the PAT Regulation 1956 as further amended in 2012 already in place.

**(3) Alternate sea-route to Baratang.**

As per the Jarawa Policy 2004 facilities for travel by boat/ship is to be strengthened and transportation / travel by sea encouraged. Accordingly a project worth Rs. 135 crore for alternate sea route was initially formulated and submitted to the GoI for approval. Necessary funds for the project will be provided by the Ministry of Shipping. Subsequently a detailed Project Report comprising works viz. dredging, navigation aids and construction of Jetty involving an expenditure of Rs. 51.73 crore was submitted to Ministry of Shipping for approval.

(140)

(141)

(142)

(143)