

27  
30

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Roads

15. Road communication provides access to educational and health institutions, sources of employment, direct contact with the government agencies and facilitate inward movement of requisite commodities and outward movement of local produce. The Dhebar Commission noted that roads in tribal areas may not always be a blessing, since on the flip side, they may facilitate the entry of exploitative and other harmful elements before the tribals become sufficiently conscious to look after their own interests. It is, therefore, necessary that when considering road communications, particularly in the interior tribal areas, a balance is struck between the development effect and harmful repercussions. A prominent example of the lack of imbalance is the Andaman Trunk Road which was constructed in the eighties in the Jarawa territory in the Andaman Islands. It is no doubt true that roads have been undertaken for defence, industrial, administrative and other purposes in the tribal areas in the last five decades and many tribal areas have been opened up. But it also appears that adequate attention has not been paid to the consequences. It is, therefore, necessary for the State Government to apply their mind in the matter.