

in the stretch passing through the Jarawa Tribal Reserve, the Administration submits that the movement on the ATR to the Jarawa Reserve is highly restricted and regulated. As far as Jarawas are concerned an expert committee appointed by the Govt. of India in pursuance of the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta, is already seized of the matter and is expected to submit its report shortly. As already submitted by this Administration in its response to the report of Prof. Shekhar Singh, closing the ATR would throttle the lifeline of the people living in Baratang, Middle Andaman and North Andaman. ATR is essentially required for movement of essential goods and medicines and also for evacuation of patients from the remote islands to Port Blair. The road connection is also required for strategic reasons and for deployment of troops, paramilitary force or police in times of emergency or for regular exercises. The Administration also wishes to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Court that none of the local stake holders except the petitioners have pressed before the Commission for closure of the ATR,

24. That the recommendation (28) for preparation of a plan for conservation and protection of forests and ecosystems which should envisage constitution of all unworked forests in the Diglipur, Mayabunder, Middle Andaman and Baratang into National Parks and consolidation of all isolated islands and sanctuaries into larger units encompassing the marine area surrounding them, needs to be examined in detail. The Administration submits that all the forest areas are either already covered by the Working Plans or other Management plans. Besides, the UT Forestry Action Programme has already been prepared and incorporated in