

It may be mentioned that nearly, 647.50 Sq.Kms. of reserve forest stands declared as Tribal Reserves on the western side of the Middle Andaman Island and South Andaman Island. Keeping in view the estimated population of Jarawas i.e. 300 to 500, the present extent of reserve area appears to be adequate. Further, more this area has got vast sea-coast as well and the Jarawas have an access to the marine food resources.

Administration has already started the program of enrichment of the existing tribal reserve area by scientific methods, which includes raising of the dispersed plantation of local varieties of the fruit bearing trees in the available open spaces in the reserve areas, sea ranching and sea creek ranching. These programs will further augment the food resource for the Jarawas.

The administration is enforcing strict vigilance against the poaching in the tribal reserve areas. With all this, there would not be any shortage of food for the Jarawas.

The traffic on the Andaman Trunk Road is strictly regulated by the Administration with a view to avoid disturbance to the Jarawas. Further, all measures are taken to prevent possible entry of any encroachers into the tribal reserves through the Andaman Trunk Road. Moreover it is through this Andaman Trunk Road only land communication to other Islands and settlements of the general public is possible. So the closing of the Andaman Trunk Road would amount to dislocation of the entire population of settlement. As such closure of ATR at this stage appears to be not needed.

The Administration is fully aware of the cultural vulnerability of the Jarawas. We are not going to impose our own values and systems on the Jarawas.

The Administration is not organizing any Contact Expeditions to the Sentinelese of North Sentinel Island. We respect the determination of the Sentinelese to remain isolated.