

## *Ann. Concerned Over Jarawas Coming Out On ATR Asking For Food*

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Growing incidents of Jarawas venturing out of their abode and coming on to the Andaman Trunk Road, blocking the vehicular traffic there for food has become a source of serious concern for the administration as this is exposing the near extinct aborigines to road accidents as had happened on February 15, 1999 in which a Jarawa boy sustained major injury.

Unfortunate incidents like this happens due to irresponsible activities on the part of most of the drivers, passengers and tourists travelling in the vehicles which pass through Jarawa habitat. It has been noticed that they waive food items whenever Jarawas are spotted on the road which attracts them to run towards the moving vehicles asking for food.

In this connection, all the drivers of vehicles moving from Jirkatang to Middle Strait and from there to Port Blair have been warned to ensure that no food items are given to the Jarawas and to drive their vehicles slowly and cautiously to avert road accidents, specially near the turning points. They also should not allow Jarawas into the buses or trucks which is the main cause of accidents.

Beside, the passengers and tourists passing through Andaman Trunk Road have also been warned to desist themselves from offering food items to Jarawas and taking their photographs which are highly objectionable.

In a communication, the Executive Secretary, AAJVS said that the Administration and AAJVS are making all out efforts for the welfare of Jarawas in association with all the departments and institutions and sought the cooperation of general public, elected representatives, passengers, tourists and drivers of vehicles in this endeavour.

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