

181

iv) The Administration has already implemented some of the recommendations namely, Daily Convoy frequency between Jirkatang to Middle Strait reduced from 8 to 4 w.e.f 25.9.2011 vide circular dated 13.9.2011. An officer of the rank of DIG of Police has been designated as Nodal Officer to monitor day to day activities on ATR and strict vigil in the Jarawa Reserve.

v) AAJVS reconstituted, Experts included, 22 contractual employees regularized, and post of Development-cum-Research Officer created. PAT Regulation 1956 got amended and notified on 2.7.2012 by the Government of India. Periodic training is being given to staff for field implementation. First training was held on 12-13 July 2012 and sensitization of villagers residing in Buffer Zone was conducted. As suggested by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in order to review the Jarawa Policy, 2004, empirical data is being collected by engaging field functionaries of AAJVS under the guidance of Group of Experts. A three day orientation workshop from 13th to 15th October, 2012 was organized for the field functionaries of AAJVS for skill up-gradation.

vi) The Group of Experts constituted by the Administration has already taken up research Project, to study livelihood pattern, health issues etc of the Jarawas so as to assess the perception, the will & the preparedness of the tribe to interact with the outside world on an equal footing and make informed decisions. This work is being carried out with the assistance of staff and officers of AAJVS. It is expected that the report of the group will be made available within six months.

17. That thereafter, the report was carefully examined by the Administrator, A&N Islands who approved on 16.1.2013 a revised Buffer zone notification invoking his power under section 3(A) of the A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation. The revised Buffer zone notification has been notified in the Official Gazette of Andaman & Nicobar Administration on 17.1.2013, and a copy of which has already been taken on record by this Hon'ble Court during the hearing held on 21.01.2013. A sketch showing the reserve area, the buffer zone and ATR as per the revised Buffer Zone Notification issued on 17.1.2013 is annexed herewith and marked Annexure P/2.

18. That in the notification dated 17th Jan, 2013, the Administrator has declared the area upto 5 km radius adjacent and contiguous to the Jarawa Tribe Reserve area, (notified on 15.9.2004), starting from Constance Bay in South Andaman to Lewis inlet Bay in Middle Andaman, as a Buffer Zone except the areas specified in the Schedule to the Notification subject to the condition set out in the said Schedule. In the Schedule, 34 settlement villages in the districts of South Andaman and North & Middle Andaman, the entire island of Baratang and seaward side of the western and eastern boundary of Jarawa tribe Reserve area have been mentioned, thereby removing them from the operation of Buffer Zone, notified in 2007. However, the Administrator declared that no person should carry out any activity directly or indirectly which might be prejudice to the safety and interests of the Jarawa tribe in any of the settlement villages falling in the Schedule. In order to remove any ambiguity it has been clarified in the Schedule that the normal day to day activities being carried out by the persons residing in the Revenue settlement villages who earn their sources of their