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The Andaman Trunk Road forms the eastern boundary of the Jarawa Reserve on the South Andaman Island from its 46 kms point to the 110 km point. Hence any activity on this road is likely to affect the flow of life in the Jarawa Reserve. Mrs. Gandhi felt that insofar as the question of the 23 km stretch of the Andaman Trunk Road was concerned, an in-depth study of the likely effects of its construction on the Jarawa tribe should be examined by a high-powered team of anthropologists and its recommendation submitted. Accordingly, the Home Ministry of the Government of India constituted a committee of anthropologists.

The committee made an on-the-spot study in 1961. As regards the induction of the Jarawa into the modern age the committee was of the view that this should certainly be done on their own terms after they had gained some cognizance of the contact situation.

The committee observed that :

The Jarawa need continued and effective protection for quite some time to come. At the same time, carefully planned measures under the guidance of specialists particularly anthropologists, should be taken up for establishing contacts with them which would ultimately lead to mutual understanding between the Jarawa and the outside population.

Considering the potential importance of the Andaman Trunk Road to the overall development of the economy of these islands the committee suggested that :

- 1) though the absence of any road would be the ideal condition for the Jarawa, the next alternative would be
- 2) to realign the road so as to orient it as far away from the boundary for the Jarawa Reserve as possible.

They suggested a third alternative, though reluctantly, of resumption of construction as per the present alignment of the 23 km Rd, if the other two alternatives are found to be not feasible.

In any case, the committee said, the construction of the Andaman Trunk Road should be accompanied or preferably preceded by definitive safeguards in the interest of preservation of the