

(viii) To provide access to the exservicemen settled at the southernmost point of the Great Nicobar Island and also to ensure the security of the island and its waters, North-South Road is being constructed a few km away and parallel to the tsunami washed out road. It passes through the Biosphere Reserve. Another east-west road of 43 km was already constructed but washed away due to landslides at many points and this is also being taken up for repairs and reconstruction. Some encroachments were already spotted along the east-west road and alien invasive species were also noted. To ensure that no encroachment occur along these roads and intervening space between the old road and the new road and link roads that connect the main road to the settlements, the Administration should evolve specific regulatory mechanism along with the guidelines and rules for enforcement, and the local DFO/Forest officer be empowered to enforce the guidelines and evict the encroachers if found and penalize them as per the rules. The forest department should be strengthened in providing additional staff specifically to patrol these roads regularly. The PRIs also be involved in monitoring the process.

Jarawas, Tribal Reserve and Andaman Trunk Road (ATR):

31. No SC order exists for the closure of ATR. Shekhar Singh's recommendation 26 deals with the closure of ATR essentially to insulate Jarawas from nontribals and to prevent poaching in Jarawa tribal reserve. However, ATR is also a lifeline and cultural connectivity for 50% of the inhabitants of islands. Consequently, there is a necessity not only to ensure protection of the culture and identity of Jarawas but also to provide access to ATR for movement of inhabitants and cargo from south to north Andamans in the absence of an effective and efficient sea transport system or alternative land route. In light of above, the Committee recommends that the Government should immediately take up steps to develop a sea route or land route parallel to the ATR segment that passes through Jarawa reserve, and reinforce sea transport system and helicopter service within a reasonable time period, and then close the ATR. Till such time regulated access to ATR be permitted.