

(96) (B)

"(i) though the absence of any road would be the ideal condition for the Jarawa, the next alternative would be

(ii) to realign the road so as to orient it as far away from the boundary of the Jarawa Reserve as possible."

The Andaman Trunk Road should be closed to all vehicular traffic from Miletalak in South Andaman to the northern boundary of the S. Andaman Island. Similarly, it should be closed to all traffic from Kadamtala (corresponding to Prolobjig camp No. 3) in Middle Andaman up to Kaushalya Nagar (corresponding to Prolobjig camp No 15). This should be done within three months. Further, no person except for the Jarawas living in the Reserve should be allowed to enter the Reserve by any means unless he/she is permitted by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, and the Secretary, Tribal Welfare, ANI Administration, and no such permission should be granted unless the person is proceeding on bonafide work related to the welfare of the tribals or the protection of the area".

The ANI Administration's response is "that the passage of ATR through Jarawa or the forest Reserve is highly restricted and regulated, and the contact with the Jarawas is also minimal; on the other hand, the ATR is essential for strategic reasons and also serves as a lifeline connecting the people of North and Middle Andaman to Port Blair, the capital. Therefore, the closure of ATR is not called for" (Annexure 13 a).

Further, the note submitted by Secretary (Tribal Welfare) and the Administration is reproduced below (Annexure 13 b):

"The Andaman Trunk Road passes across the South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands. The Jarawa tribe inhabits the western parts of the above said islands. The traditional livelihood of the Jarawa is hunting and gathering in the forests apart from fishing in the coastal waters. The Jarawa tribe has its own culture and social structure. The research organizations like ASI are mandated with the study and documentation of society and culture of the tribes including the Jarawas.