

group. Periodically, on each vacation and holidays, they should be brought to their native places and their parents, so that they do not lose their identity. In my personal interaction with some of the Jarawas parents visiting a hospital at a township near the Jarawa Reserve, agreed to me to such a proposal".

Meena Gupta (Annexure 23) in her article entitled "Trouble down this road" published in Magazine supplement of the Hindu Newspaper of June 10, 2007 reviewed the scenario relating to ATR and Jarawas. She mentioned that due to preoccupation of the Administration with rescue and rehabilitation of people affected by the earthquake and tsunami that struck the Islands on 26 December 2004 (Annexure 24), that the Jarwa policy adopted on December 21, 2004 has essentially remained unimplemented. She also noted that a subgroup of experts and officials (set up in January 2006 by National Advisory Council to examine inter alia institutional arrangements for protecting the Jarawa and to suggest various measures to ensure greater protection) suggested that the portion that runs through Jarawa reserve eventually be closed, after alternate arrangements for transportation by sea or air are put in place. She also pointed out that some officials *"privately aver that closure of the ATR is essential to reduce contact with the Jarawa and protect them from abrupt induction into the 21st Century. However, other officials strongly claims that closure of the ATR, even a portion of it, is impossible since it is a lifeline for the northern settlements. The attitude of these latter officials is understandable, but unsupportable, if one keeps the future of the Jarawa in mind.*

It is apparent they are thinking not of Jarawa but of the other inhabitants. For these inhabitants, other alternatives are, or can be made available. For the Jarawa, who virtually have their backs against the wall, there is no alternative and time is fast running out".

The Committee examined above mentioned facts and figures and different dimensions of the issue and made the following observations and recommendations: