

Shipping services get affected many a times due to rough sea conditions. Thus making ATR as a reliable communication means of transport. The ATR passes through the Jarawa Tribal reserve area in South and Middle Andaman. With increasing traffic for transportation of men and material, the contact with Jarawas with outside world has increased in recent times, as small groups of Jarawas have started coming out on the ATR.

However, every precaution is being taken to ensure that non-tribals using ATR do not contact the Jarawas. To this end, the traffic through the Jarawa Reserve is conducted in convoys put in place by the Police. The employees of AAJVS are also deployed along the ATR to discourage tourists and other travelers along the road from engaging in any kind of interaction with the Jarawas.

The A&N Administration has looked into developing an alternate shipping mode of transport for the public traveling between Port Blair and Baratang Island and further to Middle and North Andamans to reduce/curtail the traffic on ATR. However as per the preliminary report of Shipping Department, the estimated financial implication is about Rs 130-135 crores in augmenting the shipping fleet and a further Rs.32-35 crores for construction of jetties, improving navigational channels etc. The Director of Shipping Services has been requested to send a Detailed Project Report to this Administration to process the matter further.

The A&N Administration has also sent a proposal to the Union Home Secretary, and Ministry of Tribal Affairs, New Delhi to constitute a Group of Experts in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs and A & N Administration to review the Jarawa Policy of 2004 and make course corrections as is envisaged in clause VI 'e' of the Jarawa Policy. The focus of the Policy need to shift from **protection and preservation to empowerment**. The suggested term of reference for the committee is (i) To review the Jarawa Policy notified in December, 2004, clarify policy objectives and suggest course corrections, so that