

National Advisory Council

**OUTSTANDING ISSUES RELATING TO
JARAWA TRIBES IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS**

(1) Jarawa Tourism

Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission had raised an issue on appearance of some disturbing articles on 'Jarawa Tourism' both in national and international media, over the last couple of months. It has been alleged that tourists from the mainland and other countries are increasingly lured to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI) to see the naked stone-age Tribals inhabiting the forests. She has also brought to notice that newspapers, international travel websites and travel brochures are full of such advertisements. ANI administration may provide necessary information on the steps undertaken by the them to stop this practice and how far the measures taken have been effective.

(2) Closure of Andaman Trunk Road (ATR)

The Sub Group constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairpersonship of Dr. Syeda Hameed as its Chairperson to look into the issues relating to the Jarawa Tribes, strongly recommended the closure of ATR, at least the portion that passes through the Reserve. The Supreme Court had also in its Judgment in the year 2002 ordered for the closure of ATR. Besides, in the meeting held on 19th January, 2003, the Islands Development Authority (IDA) also had turned down the suggestion given by the then M.P. that the ATR be upgraded to a National Highway, keeping in view the Supreme Court's Order on the subject. The administration of ANI have not only kept the ATR running, but have also requested for a review of the Apex Court's direction in 2009. Several arguments have been given in favour of the running of the ATR by the ANI Administration. However, ANI administration has informed that tourists using the ATR are now being sent in convoys