

Since the information available with the Ministry had indicated very little progress made in the implementation of the Jarwa Policy, especially as regards control of traffic on the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) and contact of the Jarawas with outsiders, the Secretary (TA) drew attention to the Orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta (Circuit Bench at Port Blair) in Writ Petition no. 048 dated 9/4/2001 and the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition no. 202 dated 7/5/2002 and emphasized the need to comply with these prescriptions in right earnest since so much time has already passed. The Jarawa policy was formulated after detailed deliberations by experts in pursuance of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta (Circuit Bench at Port Blair) order dated 09.04.2001 and at this stage, there was very little scope to question the prescriptions without having very sincerely tried to implement these. No one would like officers to be hauled up by the Court for inaction/inappropriate action. There was also no stay on the Apex Court decision on the Sekhar Singh report regarding closure of the ATR.

The Chief Secretary was concerned that the local villagers are highly disturbed due to intrusions by the Jarawas into their settlements. The obviously ill advised decision to colonise the islands with mainland settlers, in the '50s, is now creating problems for the A&N Administration. With the opening of the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) and the increasing interaction between the Jarawas with the outside world, the issue now is not about engagement per se, but the extent and terms of this engagement. Nobody knows what the Jarawas want, and opinions vary. Unless their mind is known everything remains