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REPORT ON OUTSTANDING ISSUE RELATING TO JARAWA TRIBES IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS RAISED BY THE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

PENDING ISSUES		STATUS REPORT
Jarawa Tourism:-	<p>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 Tribal inhabiting the forests. She has 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 them to stop this practice and how far the measures taken have been effective.</p>	<p>The Police Department had scrutinized the advertisements which revealed that no cognizable offence is being made out from the advertisements under question which can be prosecuted by the Police. Department of Tourism has issued advisory notice to tour operators and also published the same in local papers for wide circulation. (Copy enclosed as Annexure-1). Outside intervention / contact with the Jarawas has reduced as the convoy schedules and applicable rules are being strictly adhered to in order to protect the Jarawas from any unauthorized interaction with the travelers taking the Andaman Trunk Road route to travel North and Middle Andaman.</p> <p>The Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) has augmented its work force by deploying more Field functionaries on the Andaman Trunk Road. For better and faster reach, motor cycles have been provided to them.</p>
Closure of the Andaman Trunk Road:-	<p>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 the ATR, at least the portion that passes through the Reserve. The Supreme Court has also in its judgment in the year 2002 ordered for the closure of the ATR. Besides, in the meeting held on 19th January 2003, the 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 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, the ANI Administration has informed that tourists using the ATR are now being sent in convoys and with proper police escorts. Status needs to be updated in terms of intimating the impact of Police escorts in the regards and to what extent incidences of harassment of the Jarawas have been reduced. Status may also be updated if any study or evaluation has been undertaken to assess the before and after scenario in respect of the above.</p>	<p>Sending vehicles in convoys within fixed time period and schedule during day only, has brought in considerable reduction in stoppage of vehicles/and from making contact with Jarawas. The movement of traffic is regulated and by deploying AAJVS personnel alongwith Police personnel at strategic points where the Jarawa groups normally come out on the road, has also helped in reducing the direct interaction with the passengers. No study however has been conducted to assess / document the decrease in such incidences, as there is no baseline data for earlier incidences.</p>