

Issues related to Jarawa Tribes

- (i) Dr. Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission in her letter dated 19th July, 2010 addressed to Chairperson, National Advisory Council has invited attention to
 - i. disturbing articles on *Jarawa Tourism*, both in the national and international media, where tourists are being lured to ANI to "see the naked stone age tribals inhabiting the forests".
 - ii. inadequate follow-up to the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee constituted under her Chairmanship which had submitted its report in 2006 especially highlighting the need for finding alternatives to the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) which passes through the reserve area and results in tourist socializing, and interacting with the Jarawas in unwanted ways.
- (ii) Smt. Aruna Roy, Member, NAC in her letter dated 24th September, 2010 addressed to the Chairperson has forwarded a two page note wherein it has *inter alia* been stressed that there is need to
 - (i) implement the Supreme Court order of 2002 for closure of the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) and initiate steps to work towards alternatives routes, particularly by sea transport.
 - (ii) provide for stringent punishment for poaching into Jarawa territory and exploitation of the Jarawas.
 - (iii) take urgent steps to contain the inflow of people from mainland to the islands which puts direct and indirect pressure on the tribal reserve.
 - (iv) maintain the integrity of the Reserve, including the forest and marine part.

Observations based on the Report of Shri Dhiraj Srivastava, PS to Chairperson NAC after his field visit to Andaman on 11-12 November 2010, the Status Note on Jarawa Tribes sent by the Lt. Governor of ANI dated 28 October 2010, Minutes of Meeting of Secretary Tribal Affairs on 11 May 2009 at Port Blair.

The salient observations and issues are as follows:

1. Steps were taken by the ANI administration to put a stop to *Jarawa Tourism* through exploitative brochures and advertisement by the tourist operators. No such brochures appeared to be in circulation.
2. Andaman Trunk Road has already impacted on the Jarawa tribes owing to interaction of the tourists with the Tribal people along the ATR.