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close down the road, this is not becoming possible, according to the ANI Administration, because about 1 lakh tourist / passenger traffic passes through the ATR annually. An alternative sea route is also not available. In view of the fact that the Apex Court has directed closure of the ATR, and no stay on that order has been obtained, the Chief Secretary agreed to the advice of the Secretary MoTA that a detailed project report on an alternate sea route to Baratang would be prepared and finalized by Secretary(Shipping), A&N Administration within 6 months.

The discussions also covered the role of the AAJVS, an autonomous body of the A&N Administration entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of the Jarawa Policy and the welfare of the other PTGs under the guidance of an Executive Council and a General Body. The Chairperson of both these bodies is the Lt. Governor of the UT and there was a provision to nominate experts in these bodies. It was felt that the Chairperson of the Executive Council should be the Chief Secretary and both the bodies should be re-constituted in order to make them more relevant and effective. The AAJVS, Secretary (TW) informed, is counseling the tribe about the problems they would face by coming out of their reserve. During the last few months, this has worked and intrusions have been reduced. She also said that the older members of the AAJVS are very knowledgeable about the tribes, and are able to interact with them fluently in their language. Their expertise is invaluable. However, in general, the AAJVS needs the help of anthropologists, and