

132

the fishermen inform about poaching. Fishermen watch groups have been constituted. They also pass on information. The help of Indian Coast Guard is also taken. Many times the Jarawas too inform about intruders. The Jarawas hate foreign poachers and inform AAJVS staff immediately but they are often reluctant to complain about local anti-social elements, who provide them with liquor and tobacco in return for venison. **However, the ground reality is that there are loopholes in the A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 (PAT Regulations).** While on land, the PAT regulations are invoked but when some one is apprehended poaching in the sea, they simply claim before the Courts that they are unaware of the reserved territory and thus get released. **It is also difficult to apply this regulation to the buffer areas,** since the Courts do not accept its applicability to such areas.

The ANI Administration had declared an area of 5 KMs around the tribal reserve as a Buffer Zone, in Oct 2007, to discourage tourism related and other commercial activities. It was feared that tourist resorts and guest houses in the periphery of the reserve and adjacent to the traditional Jarawa pathways would thwart the prescriptions of the Jarawa policy. However, the notification has been struck down by the High Court and the Administration has moved the Division Bench. **Secretary (TA) stated that the Ministry, in view of the important implications of the issue would consider impleading itself as a party in supporting the appeal and the Notification.**

Though the Jarwa Policy prescribes regulation of tourist traffic on the ATR, and the ruling of the Apex Court on the Sekhar Singh report is to