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No. 1-6/2003-R/ 8042
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
SOUTH ANDAMAN DISTRICT

Port Blair, dated 13th December, 2007

To

The Assistant Commissioner (TW)
 Tribal Welfare Department
 A & N Administration
 Port Blair

Sub: - **Protection of Jarawa Tribal Reserve and draft policy on primitive tribes etc.-reg.**

Sir

This is with reference to Letter No. 1-892/2006-TW/754 dated 23rd November, 2007 regarding comments / views on the minutes of the first meeting of Expert Committee on Primitive tribes and proposed draft policy on Primitive Tribes and Letter No. 1-752 / 2007-TW/757 dated 23rd November 2007 on Protection of Tribal Reserve.

Comments / views of the District Administration in this regard are submitted as follow:-

Item No.21 (7) of the minutes of first meeting of the Expert Committee for preparation of Policies for various Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) of A & N Islands : - In this regard already draft notification, as submitted vide letter no.1-752/2007-TW/757 dated 23/11/2007 have been framed, which if implemented is likely to tackle the issue to a large extent.

Item No.21 (9) of the minutes of first meeting of the Expert Committee for preparation of Policies for various Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) of A & N Islands: - It has requested to make available land on the Islands of Little Andaman available to the Onges. There are 5 revenue villages in Little Andaman and the remaining area is under Forest. It has to be ascertained whether the land is required from the Revenue area or Forest. Comments can be offered only after a firm proposal identifying the land is submitted.

As far as the policy decisions on Primitive Tribes are concerned, the comments on points concerning this Office are submitted as follows:-

1. Already Notification with regard to buffer zone has been issued by the Tribal Welfare department.
2. Under the PAT Regulation sufficient safeguards are there to ensure that no person enters the tribal reserve without lawful authority.
3. As far as entry into the tribal reserve i.e onge settlement is concerned, opinion of the TW department is solicited prior to allowing any person entry into such reserve.

The draft notifications as submitted vide letter no.1-752/2007-TW/757 dated 23/11/2007 are found to be in order. However, the same could also be routed through the law department for vetting vis-à-vis the legal position. The proposed notifications will restrict the movement of tourists as well as the passing of goods/essential commodities over the stretch of land between Jirkatang to Middle Strait. This is the main link

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