

In order to curtail traffic movement on the ATR, Administration has introduced a convoy system. To minimize the traffic further this convoy system is now reduced to 8 times per day with specified hours of departure at check post. Two wheelers, three wheelers and pedestrians are prohibited. In spite of all these measures, it has been noticed that the Tourist vehicles passing through Jarawa Reserve have increased and the movement of non-tribals particularly Tourists has thus increased. In the course of the movement of vehicles, accidents also take place. The increase of passengers passing through Jarawa Reserve is having an adverse impact on the habits of the Jarawas, as the tourists take photographs and offer food to them. This adverse impact is felt most acutely in the South Andaman part of the Jarawa reserve, as tourists go only up to Baratang. The Jarawas of Middle Andaman are comparatively undisturbed, as there is no tourist pressure beyond Baratang.

The Administration has already moved a proposal in partial modification of the notification No.159/2004 F.No. 1-752/2002-TW (PF) dated 15th Sept'2004 to declare the existing belt of 30 mts. from the central line on either side of Andaman Trunk Road passing through the Jarawa territory (Jirkatang No.2 - Middle Strait) as Reserved area (except at Nilambur - Middle Strait where the Jetty and Port facilities exist).

However this may not suffice to address the problem of Jarawas being overwhelmed by the dominant culture carried into their territory by the tourists. It is, therefore, proposed to ban the entry of tourists into the Andaman Trunk Road passing through the Jarawa territory (Jirkatang No.2 to Middle Strait) and to provide alternate transport i.e. ferry service from and to Port Blair and Baratang Port.

It may be worthwhile to mention here that these tourists to Baratang are all day-trippers. Thus on the one hand the quantum of local revenues / incomes generated by their trips is minimal, whereas on the other hand the damage done to the Jarawas' identity and culture, and the ecology in and around the ATR & Baratang, is barely set off.

Therefore, the approval on the ban on entry of tourists into the Andaman Trunk Road passing through the Jarawa territory (Jirkatang No.2 to Middle Strait) and for providing alternate transport i.e. ferry service from and to Port Blair may kindly be accorded and conveyed to this administration.

Yours faithfully,

Assistant Commissioner (TW)
(CF: T2 EO-2)