

allowed to travel subject to convoy restriction vehicles only. The suggested notification would mean that each and every person will now have to be checked for document/identity. It will also mean that all people other than pre-1942 and settlers of Government approved schemes, which would include Government Servants, other permanent residents living in entire area from Baratang to Diglipur and other travelers including businessmen, tourists etc will require Tribal Pass to travel through the A TR. The number of such persons would definitely be more than the settlers. This would tremendously increase the workload of District Administration to issue tribal passes at several places. Not only this, issuing Tribal passes in such a large number will reduce this to merely a mechanical exercise, defeating the very purpose of the proposed notification. Instead of the proposed notification, the better solution would be to develop convenient alternative transport arrangements for journey from Port Blair to Baratang so that the Jarawa Policy could be implemented in true spirit. The proposed notification without developing alternative solution may only lead to law and order problems in South Andaman and Middle & North Andaman Districts.

In conclusion, it is suggested that the 1st notification declaring 30 meters either side of the ATR as Reserved Area may be notified immediately with the amendment as suggested. The other notification regarding exemption of tribal pass to pre-1942 settlers and settlers of Government approved schemes to travel without tribal pass is not advisable in the present form. Such step should only be taken after making necessary alternative sea transport etc so that the number of users of A TR can be restricted in true spirit of the Jarawa Policy without causing difficulties to the population living in areas between Baratang to Diglipur.

Clarification: There are two points raised by the Police department

- (a) Regulated convey duly escorted by the Police as per schedule fixed by the Administration.
- (b) No provision of tribal pass to other than pre-42 settlers and settlers of Govt. approved schemes.

No change in the existing convey system, which is enforced. Each convey with the Police escort at the present form has to be continued. Exemption of the tribal pass has been proposed to pre-42 settlers and descendants, settlers and their dependent family members who have been rehabilitated/settled under the approved scheme of the Govt. and Permanent inhabitant amongst the people of South Middle and North Andaman as defined under Rule 170 of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Revenue and Land Reform Rule 1968 (copy placed at page 37/cor) thus no change is required as proposed by the Police department.