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Views of Secretary (Tribal Welfare) on the two news items published in the Andaman Express has been perused. The Department's comments are

It is urged that the Andaman Trunk Road be banned to tourist traffic. This may sound extreme but the advantage is that we would be adhering to the spirit of the Jarawa Policy. Tourist traffic could be sent to Baratang by ferry, as was the practice before the existence of the ATR. This alternative should be seriously explored by the A & N Administration, for the larger public good.

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llodhi
24/11/08

Secretary (TW)

Chief Secretary

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for comments please

L. A.
24/11/08

Lem (EFF)

25/11/08

CR (P&S)

9375
25/11/08

Taken up
with Mr.

effectively controlled by PMB in collaboration with local Panjaya. The operation of driving away most of the tourists from Toki Jiky due to noise pollution is untended as no such impact has been observed on the number of birds visiting Toki Jiky at the end of the day.

Administration is not encouraging Jarawa Tourism. In order to discourage the same, the tourist vehicles are not allowed to return on the same day from Baratang thereby forcing the tourists to leave further to Mithla and North Andaman. Effective measures are also taken by the Administration to allow movement of vehicles only in narrow lanes giving least chance to the tourists to interact with the Jarawas. Sporadic incidents of interacting with Jarawas like the one reported in the Press needs to be dealt more rigidly and our operations encouraging in such activity be taken to task due to violation of code of conduct while moving along the ATR. Officials of AAIVS and Police Department may be pressed more into action to curb such incidents of tourists.