

N. H. B. (2)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22.12.1992 IN THE CHAMBER
OF SPECIAL SECRETARY (HOME).

The following were present :-

1. Smt. Kiran Dhingra, Special Secretary (Home),
A&N Administration.
2. Shri BS Brar, IGP (Acting), A&N Islands.
3. Shri PK Srivastav, SP(AP), A&N Islands.
4. Shri S.A. Awaradi, Director, Tribal Welfare.
5. Cdr. S.K. Anand, Director of Shipping Services,
A&N Islands, Port Blair.
6. Shri RS Bali, Assistant Secretary (Home), A&N Admn.

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The SS (Home) said that she had called a discussion between Police and Directorate of Shipping Services Department as a number of issues had come to her notice that could easily be sorted out with some effort of coordination. She drew attention to the information by Police Deptt. regarding smuggling of IMF Liquor by the crew members of the Inter-island vessel, particularly to Tribal areas of southern group of Islands and the lack of cooperation to raiding parties by the Master of the vessel. She emphasised that the smuggling aspect apart carrying of liquor to Tribal areas in large quantity was against the tribal policy and it was incumbent not only upon the Police but the entire Administration to take suitable measures to check this.

The Director of Shipping Services while recognising that Masters of the vessels in such cases of unauthorised carrying of liquor cannot be held responsible under the Excise Act or under the MS Act/IV Act, agreed that they should act with a greater sense of responsibility in the matter. He suggested by frequent surprise checks, the unauthorised liquor trade to Tribal areas could be checked to a great extent.

The SP(AP) informed that most of the liquor trade to southern group of Islands was being done by the 2 vessels namely, (1) M.V. 'Chowra' and (2) M.V. 'Sentinel'. Repeated surprise checks would no doubt minimise this activity. After some discussion, it was agreed that following measures would be adopted :-

- i) Locker in the ships shall be ear-marked for each crew members. The key of the unmarked and unallotted lockers shall be with the Master or Chief Engineer of the ship.
- ii) Joint raids shall be organised by the Police and authorised officers of the DSS for some time.

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