

14th August 1993

Dear

As you may be aware that the Indian Airlines was operating a direct flight between Port Blair and New Delhi via Bhubaneswar which has since been discontinued for quite some time now. The travellers now coming to these Islands have to go to Calcutta or Madras and after an overnight halt they take the flight to Port Blair. This causes financial strains on their resources. Additionally, it is extremely difficult to get confirmed tickets in these flights. This type of uncertainty causes avoidable inconveniences to the travelling public.

Further, the Indian Airlines authorities have also reduced the frequency of flights to these Islands now. As against eight flights, the Indian Airlines are now operating only six flights in a week - three each from Calcutta and Madras. Besides, weekly flight to Car Nicobar District from Calcutta via Port Blair has also been discontinued which is a matter of great concern to the tribal people of Nicobar group of Islands. You would appreciate that when the existing level of satisfaction is scaled down, it creates a sense of discontentment and alienation amongst the people.

I shall, therefore, be grateful if you look into the matter personally and issue necessary directions for introducing the direct flight between Port Blair and New Delhi via Bhubaneswar and to restore the frequency of air services to these Islands including weekly flight to Car Nicobar at the previous level.

A line in confirmation will be highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

(Vakkom Purushothaman)

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad  
Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism  
Government of India  
New Delhi

Copy to Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Camp Port Blair, with a request to pursue the matter at the appropriate level.

(Vakkom Purushothaman)  
Lieutenant Governor  
Andaman & Nicobar Islands