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**7. Purchase of buses by Tourism department.**

Director (IPT) informed that 3 buses are proposed to be purchased by the tourism department. The Chief Secretary desired that since the Port Blair airport run way is going to be completed by May, 2001, now is the right time to give thought to planning about future requirements in the tourism sector. In this direction he mentioned following points:

- a) The draft Tourist Trade Act including Travel Trade Regulations are to be framed so that the department can cope up with the increasing requirements of the travel trade by planning for a systematic growth. The draft trade regulations can be circulated to Tourism Advisory Committee members for suggestions, if any.
- b) The accommodation requirements are to be worked out including the paying guest accommodation. This could be discussed with the Zilla Parishad and their views could be taken for future development in this direction.
- c) A draft for CRZ which is to be specific to the A&N Islands could be framed by the Forest department and taken up with the Ministry of Environment & Forest keeping in view the peculiar situation of these islands as well as the UNDP recommendations for development of tourism.
- d) The pre-paid taxi scheme which has been worked out by STA maybe launched at vantage points in the town.
- e) Linkages must be worked out keeping in mind the completion of airport expansion (Oct" 2001). Power and water requirements are to be looked in to by APWD and Electricity Deptts., respectively. Superintending Engineer, Electricity may be co-opted into the Executive Committee for this purpose. A list of travel/tour operators may be drawn up. The travel and tour operators can be asked for their expansion plans for the future. The Chamber of Commerce may also be invited for a meeting and the members can be asked to come forward to set up motels/hotels in the private sector.