

- 31/N -

F. No. 1-836/2012-TW

(115)

This is regarding relaxation of convoy timing, as requested by Supdt of Police (N&M District) vide letter No. SP (D)/N&MA/105/2014/632 dated 22.5.2014 (PUC).

(116)

By citing the instructions contained in the standing order No. 7156 dated 15.11.2011 issued by this department regarding use of ATR crossing Jarawa Tribal Reserve area/ ATR as per the convoy systems, the SP (N&M) has informed that they have noticed the following problems of general public while using ATR and requested for redressal on public interest

- 1) In the event of breakdown of any of two vessels plying between Middle Strait Jetty to Nilambur Jetty or between Gandhighat jetty to Uttara Jetty, there is no transportation of vehicles from Nilambur jetty to Middle Strait.
- 2) The vehicles which reaches late were forced to wait for more than 2 ½ hours at middle strait for next convoy
- 3) In the event of breakdown of govt or pvt buses carrying women and children due to which they reache late and miss the convoy, in that case they insist them to proceed without convoy
- 4) Due to heavy dew/ fog in the early morning, the boat services could not be plied in appropriate time and due to lesser visibility many vehicles reach after the convoy timing i.e. 0630 Hrs
- 5) In the event of demise of anyone's relative to visit Port Blair

(117)

It is submitted that the concept of convoy system by regulating the entry of vehicles of all kind into Jarawa Tribal Reserve has been emerged from the Jarawa Policy of 2004 notified by Govt of India. The convoy timing is maintained very strictly without any deviation or any consideration to anyone, the only exception given to Ambulance carrying serious referral patients to GB Pant Hospital from N&M Andaman Districts.

(118)

The existing convoy system on ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve to regulate vehicular traffic on ATR to avoid interaction of the outsiders with the Jarawa was a part of the submission before the Hon'ble Supreme Court by the Administration in SLP (C) 12125/2010. The three Judges Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court vide their judgment dated 5.3.2013 expressed satisfaction on the submission made and issued directions for strict implementation of Protection of Aboriginal Tribes (PAT) Amendment Regulation, 2012 and also orders issued there under. Any violation of the regulatory order issued by the Administration and duly upheld by the Hon'ble Supreme Court will have serious repercussions.

(119)

The suggestions made by the SP (N&M) to sort out the problems being faced by the general public while using ATR is found to be genuine and considerable but subject to the following conditions :-

- i) Convoy timing may be relaxed for 30-40 minutes in the event of any breakdown of govt/ pvt buses carrying