

Ref: PP 146-148/C (PUC)

(133) This is a note dated 9.6.14 of the Secretary to LG addressed to the Secretary (TW) enclosing a representation dated 7.6.2014 from Shri. Jyotirmoy Bawali, Member, Zilla Parishad, North and Middle Andaman which was submitted to the Hon'ble LG, A & N Islands during his visit to Mayabunder on 7th June, 2014 raising certain issues such as Buffer Zone, convoy system on ATR passing through the Jarawa reserve and production of identify card for issuance of tickets. These issues are discussed as under:

(1) Buffer Zone

(134) He has stated that the Islanders are facing a lot of trouble due to Buffer Zone. In this regard it is stated that initially, the area upto 5 KM radius around the Jarawa reserve was declared as Buffer zone prohibiting entry of any person other than a member of an aboriginal tribe for any commercial or tourism activities to protect the tribe including their natural resources from exploitation by the non tribals vide the Admn's Notification No.243 dated 30thOctober, 2013²⁰⁰⁷ (p¹ 149/C) under the provisions of the A & N Islands (Protection of aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956. However, subsequently, the said Buffer Zone notification was revisited in the wake of the report submitted by an Apex Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, A & N Admn., after consulting the subject experts and other stake holders about the implementation of the Buffer Zone notification, problems and other issues, a revised Buffer Zone Notification vide No. 15 dated 17th Jan, 2014 (PP 127-128/C) was issued excluding 34 revenue settlement villages from the Buffer Zone as mentioned in the Schedule to the said Notification. However, as further provided in the schedule, no person shall carry out any activity directly or indirectly which may be pre-judicial to the safety security and interests of the Jarawa tribe in any of the settlement villages mentioned in the schedule. As further clarified in the schedule, the normal day to-day activities being carried out by the persons residing in the settlement villages to earn their source of livelihood shall remain unaffected. It may be recalled here that the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide their judgement /Order dated 5.3.2013 (a xerox copy of the judgement/order is placed at PP 97-104/C for reference) upheld the Buffer zone Notification and directed its strict implementation in the context of SLP (civil) No.12125/2010 filed by this Admn. in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the Order of the Calcutta High Court quashing the Buffer Zone original Notification of October, 2007. In view of this there seems to be no need for any further change in the Buffer Zone.