(b) Convoy System

The vehicular traffic on the stretch of Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) passing though the Jarawa reserve between Jirkatang and Middle Strait is being regulated implementing convoy system. Initially, 8 convoys were introduced and made operational on ATR to regulate the traffic in terms of the Jarawa Policy, 2004 (PP 76-79/C), but subsequently in pursuance of a recommendation of the Group of Experts constituted by this Admn. in connection with review of the Jarawa Policy and accepted by the Sub Committee of Experts constituted by the GoI under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs the number of convoy was reduced to four instead of eight between 0600 hrs to 1500 hrs vide Admn's circular No. 1-836/2004-TW/421 dated 13.9.2011 (Pl. see P.2/C) so as to prevent interaction of the non-tribals including tourists with the Jarawas. Over the years the Jarawas being accustomed to the existing timings of the convoy system, and their movements across the ATR for hunting and gathering activities taking place only after the daily convoy system, the livelihood activities of the Jarawas will be disrupted if any change is affected or any extra convoy is introduced. A decision to this effect was taken in the meeting of the Research Advisory Board (RAB) of ANTRI held on 9.6.2014 following a suggestion for relaxation of the existing convoy system from the SP North and Middle Andaman. In view of this, his demand is not feasible.

(c) Identity Proof

In pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide their judgement dated 5.3.2013 in SLP (Civil) No 12125/2010 (PP 97-104/C) for strict implementation of the PAT Regulation, 1956 as further amended in 2012 and also revised Buffer Zone Notification dated 17.1.2013, the traffic on ATR is regulated in convoys and all the passengers whether Islanders or non-Islanders travelling by STS or Private Bus etc. are required to produce identity proof with a declaration form at the counter before issuance of the ticket as per the Admn.'s instructions issued vide circular No. 87/MT/AD(T)/2013/923 dated 20th March, 2013 (PP 81-82/C). There can be no exception to producing identity proof by the Islanders in view of the direction of the Court.

Submitted Please. Consultant Director (TW)

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