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Sub:- Issues raised in the public meeting held at Baratang on 12.09.2016 regarding increasing the number of convoys through ATR.

During the public meeting held at Baratang on 12.09.2016, Pradhan, Gram Panchayat, Sundergarh, Baratang in his representation No. 1-6/GPS/2016-17/245 dated 12.09.2016 (Page 233-234/c) had requested the Hon'ble Lt. Governor, A&N Islands to consider increasing the frequency of convoys from the existing four to eight for the convenience of the people and to ease out the procedure for seeking permission in emergency to pass through Jarawa area during odd hours.

In so far as increasing the number of convoys is concerned, the following facts are placed for consideration: -

1. Of 333 KM of Andaman Trunk Road (ATR), 56 KM passes through the Jarawa Tribal Reserve.
2. The ATR is not only used by the settlers, Govt. officials on duty, but also for transportation of essential goods and services required in North and Middle Andaman District, as most of these islands are not directly connected through sea.
3. On the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta in a PIL (WP No.048 of 1999), the Central Government had notified Jarawa Policy in the Andaman and Nicobar Gazette vide Notification No.210 dated 21.12.2004 for the welfare of the tribe.
4. The Jarawa Policy provides that:-
 - a) Traffic on ATR shall be regulated strictly limiting the traffic to the essential purposes of public transport, supplies and emergency evacuation of patients and to ensure that it is an innocent and harmless passage and not a source of trouble to Jarawas.
 - b) Vehicles on ATR shall be allowed to move only in restricted hours and in convoy under notified speed limit to avert possible road accidents and to avoid any sort of interaction travelers with the Jarawas.
 - c) Facilities for travel by boat/ ship shall be strengthened and transportation/ travel by sea shall be encouraged.
 - d) Maintenance of the ATR shall be carried out by a mobile maintenance team bringing men, machine and materials from Ferrargunj/ Jirkatang and carry out the job only during day time.
 - e) The tourist traffic on ATR shall be strictly monitored to ensure that there is no interaction between the Jarawas and the tourists.
5. The vehicular movement through the segment of ATR passing through Jarawa Tribal Reserve, used by 1.5 lakh settlers of North and Middle Andaman Islands besides others including the eco-tourists, is regulated under convoy system under the direct supervision of a senior police officer presently in the rank of the Inspector General of Police.