

(63) We had earlier agreed only to reschedule the convoys (change their timings) and not for addition of two more convoys.

2. Increasing the convoys will be violative of the 'Jarawa Policy' as the spirit of regulation of traffic on the ATR is to minimize contact with Jarawas. **The current policy, which was framed on High Court Orders in consultation with experts and notified with the consent of the GOI**, restricts traffic only to public transport, supply of essential goods and evacuation of patients.

3. The Planning Commission sub group on Jarawas which visited last year, was critical of the large number of vehicles plying on the ATR and commented that traffic was not being restricted to categories enumerated in the Jarwa Policy.

4. In fact the sub group has been pressing hard for closure of the ATR. Therefore, **further increase in convoys** on the ATR is bound to raise a hue and cry from the NGO's who are in touch with the sub group and the Congress President's office, **and may ultimately hasten the closure of the ATR.**

5. Apart from facing contempt proceedings in the Court we would also face immediate closure of the ATR without sufficient alternative arrangements.

6. Views of the Zilla Parishad may be restricted to only the timings of the convoys and not on the number of convoys, at least until the Jarwa Policy is suitably revised and it is decided to merge them with the mainstream.

7. Apart from the above the Tribal Welfare Department should look into the increased tourist traffic to Baratang and **misuse of ST's Buses and same day return permits which are being used by travel agents** to ferry tourists to Baratang instead of regular local passengers.

31/1/07
Inspector General of Police
Andaman & Nicobar Islands

(64) Secretary (Tribal Welfare)
A&N Administration

Pl put up a self
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Dir for
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