

STATUS NOTE ON AGENDA POINTS

1. Allowing same day return of tourists vehicles from Baratang to Port Blair.

The Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs in consultation with Ministry of Tribal Affairs and A & N Administration has framed a Policy on Jarawa Tribe, on the basis of the recommendation of the Experts. The Policy was notified in December, 2004, and is being implemented strictly to ensure protection and welfare of Jarawas.

With increasing traffic for transportation of men and materials, the contact with Jarawas with outside world has increased in recent times. However every precaution is being taken to ensure that non-tribes using ATR do not contact the Jarawas. To this end the traffic through the Jarawa Reserve is conducted in convoys put in place by the Police. The employees of AAJVS are also deployed along the ATR to discourage tourists and other travelers along the road from engaging in any kind of interaction with Jarawas.

The A & N Administration has looked into developing an alternate shipping mode of transport for the public traveling between Port Blair and Baratang and further to Middle and North Andaman to reduce / curtail the traffic on ATR. As per the preliminary report of the Shipping Department, the estimation of financial implication is about Rs. 130 to 135 crores in augmenting the shipping fleet and a further Rs. 30 to 35 crores for construction of Jetties, improving navigational channels etc. The DSS has been requested to send a Detailed Project Report (DPR) to process the matter further.

2. Adopting Policy in view of notification issued under 7 of the ANI (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Rules 1956 restricting entry into reserve area of A & N Islands other than a member of an aboriginal tribe unless permission is granted there under notwithstanding permits issued under MV act.

The A & N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 makes adequate provision of the land and its protection for the benefit of the PTGs including Jarawas in the Island territory. The areas inhabited by the Scheduled Tribes of these islands have been declared as Tribal Reserve. The entry into such area by non-tribal is not only prohibited unless permitted by the Statutory Authority under the said law. The efforts are also been made to prevent poaching. The A & N Police is making all efforts to enforce the law by prosecuting persons who illegally enter the Jarawa Reserve area by registering cases against them under the above said Regulation as well as SCs and STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.