

Reference Page 44/c

This is regarding modification in the schedule of the Convoy system on ATR. In response to our letters dated 26-4-2007 and 28-5-2007 at page 38/c and 37/c respectively, the Director of Transport vide his letter dated 1-6-2007 at page 44/c has informed that Transport Department is operating altogether 20 No. of Express busses between Port Blair and Diglipur. There are demand for buses on hire by Educational Institutions / Private Parties / Tour Operators with in the District and also from Port Blair to Baratang, Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur and vice-versa in connection with marriages, Study tours and sight-seeing etc.. The Transport Department also provides Buses for such occasions on advance payment of hire charges subject to availability of resources.

The Director, Transport has, further stated that there is no misuse of STS buses as alleged there-in. The Transport Department has been operating Express bus services between Port Blair and Baratang /Kadamtala with same day return in the interest of public service for last several years and they have not augmented any new service with same day return facility neither for the tourists nor for the travel agents as pointed out therein. The Director Transport has requested for one more convoy at 12.00 noon from Middle Strait to avoid inconvenience to the Diglipur passengers who reach Middle Strait at 11.30 AM and ~~standard~~ upto 1:30 PM for the Convoy.

In this context it may be mentioned that as desired by the Administrator vide para 53/n, the views of the PRI has been obtained and placed at page 34/c. They have proposed for four more convoys to be adopted in addition to that proposed by the Administration vide para 49/n on page 15/n. The views of IGP has also been obtained which may kindly be perused at para 63/n on page 21/n. The IGP has suggested that views of the Zilla Parishad may be restricted to only the timings of the convoys and not on the No. of convoys until the Jarawa Policy is suitably ~~reduced~~ and it is decided to merge them with the mainstream. As pointed out by IGP vide his note dated 31-1-2007 at para 63/n (Sl.No.7), the views of Director of Transport has been obtained and the same is placed at para 44/c. The Director Transport has stated that there is no misuse of STS buses as alleged therein and has requested for one more convoy at 12.00 noon from Middle Strait to be added to avoid the inconvenience to the Diglipur passengers.