

namely Mrs. Gandhimati. It is not clear on what basis she was permitted by Superintendent of Police for same day return on all days. Other permit holders, aggrieved from this discrimination, represented to the Superintendent of Police who brought this matter for the discussion of the STA. The STA in its meeting permitted same day return for 10 days in a month to all the <sup>seven ferries/buses</sup> ~~vehicles~~ with a view to end any discrimination. Aggrieved from this order Mrs. Gandhimati filed a writ petition in the High Court at Port Blair and many other <sup>(150 vehicles)</sup> also filed petitions before the High court at Port Blair. In the meantime in another meeting of STA held on 29.03.2010 it was decided that the matter of permitting or not permitting same day return does not fall within purview of STA and therefore decision dated 14.10.2009 was withdrawn. It was further observed that possibility can be explored by a Competent Authority i.e. DC (South Andaman) under section 115 of the MV Act for issuing appropriate order. Thereafter on 30.08.2010 a bunch of petition pending before the High Court of Calcutta at Port Blair came to be disposed of by a single order. On the point of same day return the Hon'ble High Court upheld the position / decision taken by STA in its meeting on 29.03.2010.

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5. In the above backdrop in the facts and circumstances the matter was discussed in various meetings as follows:

- (i) 27.10.10 chaired by Chief Secretary.
- (ii) 01.12.10 chaired by Commissioner (Tpt.)
- (iii) 06.12.10 chaired by Commissioner (Tpt.)
- (iv) 21.01.11 chaired by Commissioner (Tpt.)

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6. In the meantime comments were obtained from concerned departments with regard to their position on same day return and other matters related to regulation of traffic on ATR. These responses are placed on file as follows:

- (a) Police Deptt. at pages... 244-248/cr.
- (b) Tribal Welfare Deptt. at pages... 249-250/cr.
- (c) DC (SA) at pages... 253-256/cr.
- (d) Tourism Deptt at pages... 257-258/cr.
- (e) Forest Deptt - " 259-260/cr.
- (f) Compilation of report of above departments at pages... 240-243/cr.