

liable to be considered commercial notwithstanding the definition in the draft Regulation. Hence, it is necessary to consider whether the commercial activities around Jetties should also be excluded from the definition of Commercial activity to enable it to continue.

She requested to address the following two issues in the proposed amendment.

1. Is it intended to continue that tourism in the Lime Stone Caves and mud volcano? If the answer is in the affirmative, kindly ensure that the definition on the "commercial and tourist activities" is appropriately worded to exclude such tourism from the definition of prohibited tourism.

2. Is it intended to exclude commercial activity around the Jetties? If the answer is in the affirmative, kindly ensure that the definition is worded so as to exclude such activity from being prohibited in the buffer zone.

She also informed that certain Settlement and Revenue villages fall within the Buffer Zone. If the explanation is intended to allow activity of a commercial nature in the said settlement areas, such activity may be excluded from the definition of commercial activity.

In this context, it is stated the Administration has submitted a proposal to the GOI, Ministry of Home Affairs for an amendment to Protection of Aboriginal Regulation clearly defining the commercial and tourist activities which will not be permitted in the Buffer Zone, while normal functioning and activities such as Agriculture, Horticulture and trading will continue. The definition of commercial and tourist activities/establishments and explanation proposed under Section 2(h) of Draft Regulation is as under:-

"Commercial and Tourist activities/Establishments"
means Resorts, Hotels, Restaurant, Bars and Paying guest accommodation, except Govt. run Guest Houses."

Explanation

The commercial and tourist activity/establishment does not include cultivation and sale of Paddy, coconut, arecanut, fruits and vegetables, fishing and sale thereof, rearing of animals and birds and sale thereof and petty business like tea shop, pan shop, grocery shop and related activity.

As the Addl. Solicitor General stated in her letter that the tourists activities in and around Lime Stone Caves and Mud Volcano falls outside the proposed definition in the Draft Regulation, the Administration has to take a decision as to whether to close the Lime Stone Cave and Mud Volcano for the tourists. If so, the permit being issued to tourist vehicles plying daily on ATR passing through Jarawa Reserve to witness the Lime Stone Cave and Mud Volcano may also be cancelled.