

4. That a meeting was convened by the Home Secretary on 14.11.2011 to discuss some issues pertaining to proposed Amendment, which was attended by the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary (Tribal Welfare), A & N Administration. Issues related to making restriction in the proposed Buffer Zone under the Regulation be based on specific and reasonable criteria that would achieve the purpose for which the buffer zone was envisaged. This should be done by better defining all Commercial Establishments and those pertaining to the restricting the Tourism Establishments were agreed upon. Based on these discussions a revised draft Amendment has been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs on 19.11.2011. The proposed Amendment not only is to regulate certain tourism and commercial activities which may have a negative impact on the Jarawa tribe living in the close vicinity in the Buffer Zone but also has provisions for punishment for specified activities, which will be prohibited inside the reserve including taking photographs or videos of the tribes, introducing any form of alcohol, germ, bacteria or virus and higher punishment for certain activities which are prohibited presently under the Regulation, such as hunting or poaching. Copy of the revised draft Amendment is attached at Annexure I)
5. That the proposed amendment will be now be taken up by the Ministry which will include preparation and circulation of the Cabinet Note to the concerned Ministries and it is unlikely to be Notified before the next hearing.
6. That the A & N Administration has taken further measures to regulated activities specially in the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) passing through the reserve by reducing the number of convoys to four from the earlier eight from each side since September 2011. This is done to provide better regulation and supervision of the movement of convoys and users by the police and staff of Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS). (Copy of notice dated 13.09 2011 is attached at Annexure II).
7. Specific instructions prohibiting activities, speed limits and maintain proper discipline during the movement of convoys so that users do not harm the members of the Jarawa tribe coming on the ATR have also been issued by the Director General of Police, A & N Islands vide Standing Order No 7156, dated 15.11.2011. (Copy of the Standing Order is attached at Annexure III).