

Minutes of the Field Level Committee under the Chairmanship of the Director (TW) held on 4-9-2012 in the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Tribal Welfare to revisit the Buffer Zone notification.

The list of the officers attended the meeting is annexed with this proceedings.

At the outset Director (Tribal Welfare) welcomed all the officials and briefed about the purpose of notifying the Buffer Zone notification by the Administration and the mandate of Committee. The officials of Police, Forest, Fisheries, Anthropological Survey of India and the staff of AAJVS submitted reports which were called for in a specific format.

The reports were scrutinized department wise and discussed further with all the members for further improvement in the report and for their inputs and suggestions. Additional inputs required from the departments, the officials were asked to submit it by 8th of this month so that a compiled report can be submitted to the Sub-Committee.

The Police personnel placed before the Committee that it is difficult to identify the actual position of Buffer Zone on the ground for the purpose of taking cognizance of offences unless the Buffer Zone is clearly demarcated /marked on the ground. The Identification of Buffer Zone is not possible and rather, impractical in the sea to locate the 10 Kms zone. Settlers are not aware of the existing provisions regarding prohibited activities in the buffer zone as per the amended PAT Regulation, 2012.

The Director of Fisheries stated that there is already prohibition for fishing in areas falling under the Port limits, Tribal Reserve areas and Wild Life protected areas. But there is no restriction on free passage of any class or classes of vessels through the prohibited areas for fishing. As such suggested fishing vessels may be allowed to pass through in the tribal reserve areas without any hindrance.

The Forest officer informed that they are not allowed into the tribal areas for anti-poaching surveillance and at some forest range level no AAJVS staffs are posted. It is also informed by the DFO, Wimberlygunj that some time in the past Jarawas did not allowed the forest staff going into the tribal areas in civil dress.