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A large number of vehicles, including State Transport Buses are violating the norms enunciated in the Jarwa Policy, which restricts traffic to the essential purposes of public transport, supplies and emergency evacuation. The state transport buses and private buses with stage carriage permits, which are supposed to be operating as public transport for carrying passengers to destinations like Rangat, Mayabunder & Diglipur etc. on the ATR, are far in excess of the requirement and are actually being used by tour operators to ferry tourists to and from Baratang. The tour operators buy all the tickets in advance & sell them to tourists at exorbitant rates. The STS and private buses in fact do not go beyond Middle Strait and can be seen lined up on the ATR for the return journey, waiting for the tourists to finish their tour of the Lime stone caves.

2. While this is definitely boosting tourist traffic to Baratang and the economy of the area, it is grossly violative of the spirit behind the Jarwa Policy. Although the lime stone caves are a minor attraction, tourists basically flock to the area to catch a glimpse of the Jarwas and interact with them. Even the sub committee on the Jarwas has recommended in their report that the ATR should ultimately be closed down with traffic, particularly tourists being routed through the sea.

3. Although I am personally in favour of integrating the Jarwas with the main stream rather than have them live in the jungles like animals in a forest reserve. **I would recommend laying down clear guidelines limiting the traffic between Jirkatang and Baratang as long as the Jarwa Policy remains in its present form.**