

(78/1) (29) 30

(b) Stage Carriage Buses:

In addition to the STS buses operating as public transport, there are few private buses which have been given stage carriage permits by State Transport Authority and are operating to various destinations on ATR such as Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur. Their timings are fixed in such a way that they are supposed to return the same day. It has been observed that these private buses are also denying tickets to genuine passengers and are instead ferrying tourists to Baratang at exorbitant rates. The route permits of these buses are meant for destinations beyond Baratang but they are returning from Baratang itself thereby violating the route permit conditions. Thus, these buses have virtually converted themselves into tourist permit buses thereby violating the spirit of Jarawa Policy. Complaints have been received against some such operators and these buses have been challaned. The State Transport Authority has been approached subsequently to take punitive action against the operators of these buses.

(c) In addition, there are private vehicles/Taxis with tourist permits carrying tourist/other passengers on ATR. These are, not being permitted to return on the same day, to restrict the traffic on ATR to genuine travelers only. However, the practice of restricting vehicles/Taxis from returning on ATR on the same day is not backed by any Administrative order. A clear articulation of policy is required in this regard.