

Para 6: A proposal for developing an alternate sea route to reduce traffic on ATR is prepared by the Administration and is being sent to MHA. However this arrangement will not be cost or time saver for tourists as mentioned in the para in PUC. It will need more time to travel and boat operations are costlier than traveling by road. There will also be some restriction on boat movement due to adverse weather conditions during the SW and NE monsoons.

Paras 7 and 8: We are in the process of re-structuring the AAJVS, which will bring better coordination and implementation of welfare and protection measures which are permissible and required under the current policy directives. The meetings of Executive Council of AAJVS could not take place regularly after 2004 earthquake and tsunami as most of the resources and time were put for rescue, rehabilitation and reconstruction work. We are still not having sufficient officers to man the administrative and supervisory posts as sufficient officers with requisite experience at senior and middle level are not available. Also a number of litigations and agencies/institutions with diverging views on how to address the sensitive issues related to the vulnerable tribes are hampering in actually doing the welfare and development work. This can be clearly seen in the legal battle which we are fighting with our already limited resources in implementing the Buffer Zone to give effective protection to the tribes and the reserve.

Para 9- In recent months in consultation with the Health Department, we are looking at Ayurvedic and Homeopathic treatments for the common ailments afflicting the tribes. Earlier only allopathic doctors were looking after the health aspects but now a combined team of doctors drawn from other streams such as Ayurveda, are being sent to provide appropriate medical care. The islands being remote and difficult to live and work on a long term basis, it is also not easy to find good anthropologists, doctors/specialists to work in tribal welfare projects/schemes, though we would welcome it.

Para 10- MHA has already put in place guidelines for posting of officers in NE and the islands. However the observation that the officers are not keeping families in A & N Islands is not correct. There is also a provision for retaining government accommodation for keeping the families in Delhi/mainland by the officers if they are posted to NE and the islands. There are some incentives already for posting in the islands, which however may not be as much as compared to NE. Additionally, most officers stay here for periods longer than their tenure requirements.

Para 11- The AAJVS staff is posted in the field in the Tribal Reserve for the purpose of monitoring and provide timely help to the tribal who are in need. Regular visit by doctors looks after health and so far no epidemic has been reported from the Reserve and the Jarawa population is growing at a much faster rate in recent years as compared to earlier years. Combined teams of officials from the Departments of Police, Forests and Tribal Welfare/AAJVS regularly patrol and monitor the illegal activities in and around the Reserve and cases are booked against the offenders. Many of these issues raised by Sh. Dhiraj Shrivastava after his visit to the islands in November 2010, were also clarified in our letter No.1-505/2009/775 dated 18th Nov. 2010 addressed to Secretary, NAC (Copy with annexure enclosed).

If approved, we may send the para wise reply as above, to JS (UT).

Chief Secretary

(Ajai Saxena)
Comm. cum Secretary (TW)
28th January, 2011

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मुख्य सचिव का गोपनीय कक्ष
क्रमांक: 898/926
प्रति दिनांक: 28/1/2011
जारी दिनांक: