

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2579
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011
JARAWA RESERVE
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has in its order dated 01 August, 2011 ordered that it shall be the duty of the Director. Tribal Welfare, Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) Islands to ensure that Notification dated 30 October, 2007 is implemented in its letter and spirit;
- (b) whether any commercial/tourism activities took place in the Buffer Zone /Jarawa Reserve of A&N Islands after the said order of the Supreme Court:
- (c) if so, whether this amounts to contempt of Court; and
- (d) if so, the details of action taken by Director, Tribal Welfare to implement the Supreme Court order dated 01 August, 2011?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MAHADEO SINGH KHANDELA)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): The Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI) Administration has informed that the tourism related establishment activities which were in the Buffer Zone areas were already closed in accordance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 3/12/2010 by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration and this status has been reported the Hon'ble Supreme Court vide affidavit filed dated 13/12/2010. However, the commercial activities which are in the form of ration shops, tea stalls, grocery cloth shops and other lively hood and subsistence activities of the villagers living in the Buffer Zone are continuing and this position also has been intimated to Hon'ble Supreme Court vide A&N Administration's reply dated 13.12.2010.

(c): According to Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration, there is no contempt of Hon'ble Court.

(d): The A&NI Administration has reduced the number of convoys on Andaman Trunk Road from Jirkartang to Middle Strait from 8 to 4 numbers in September, 2011. Specific instructions prohibiting activities, speed limit and for maintaining proper discipline during the movement of convoys has been issued separately by the A&NI Administration. The A&NI Administration has also submitted a proposal for the amendment of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) (PAT) Regulation, 1956 to Ministry of Home Affairs for Buffer Zone and higher penal provisions for infringing PAT Regulation, 1956.