

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1809
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2012
TRIBAL WOMEN
Dhanaplan Shri K. P.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding tribal women being misused for promoting tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including arrests made so far in such cases; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to prevent recurrence of such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SULTAN AHMED)

(a)&(b): 'Public Order' and 'Police' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India. As such, prevention of crime is the primary responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territories. Ministry of Tourism does not compile the data on crimes.

Based on the Newspaper Reports alleging degradation and exploitation of the women of Jarawa Tribe in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Ministry of Tourism had sought a report on the issue from the Andaman & Nicobar Administration. The reports dated 30th January 2012 and 31st January 2012, received from the Andaman & Nicobar Administration has stated that the local police are investigating the matter and have arrested two persons i.e., proprietor of a gift shop & the taxi driver.

(c): The Andaman & Nicobar Administration has further informed that the Inspector General of Police (IGP) has been designated as Nodal Officer in charge responsible for monitoring all activities on day-to-day basis at the Andaman Trunk Road (ATR) passing through Jarawa Tribal Reserve. The departments of Tribal Welfare, Transport and Revenue have been asked to extend all assistance.

To regulate the traffic on ATR passing through the Jarawa Reserve, the Administration has issued an order dated 18th January 2012 that all Government vehicles proceeding to North & Middle Andaman from Port Blair and vice versa will cross through the Jarawa Reserved Area only if the vehicle is going for official visit alongwith the Officer, and the movement of vehicle will be in regular convoy. Under no circumstances, the Government vehicle will be allowed to proceed outside of convoy timings.