

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1091

ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012

CRIME AGAINST JARAWA TRIBAL WOMEN

Bais Shri Ramesh;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Panda Shri Prabodh;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of video footage of semi-naked Jarawa tribal women allegedly shot by the Andaman and Nicobar police officials in the remote areas of the Islands;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Andaman and Nicobar Police had approached the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) in the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Union Government has received any report from the Andaman and Nicobar Administration in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) and (b): Yes Madam. In this regard, two cases have been registered vide crime No. 07/2012 dated 11/1/2012 U/s 292/34 r.w.s 67 of Information Technology Act, Sections (3)(iii) & (x) of SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and 7/8 of A&N Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956 and crime No. 17/12 dated 6.2.2012 u/s 292/34 IPC r.w.s. 67 of IT Act, sections 3(l) (iii) of SC & ST (POA) Act, 1989 and sections 7/8 of PAT Regulation, 1956.

On 24/1/2012 two accused persons were arrested and produced before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Port Blair.

On 20/2/2012 another accused, a Police Constable has been arrested and produced before the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Port Blair.

(c) and (d): One official of National Technical Resource Organisation (NTRO) was contacted by the officers of A&N Police. He had however shown his inability in expressing any expert opinion after analysis of video footage. The video footage was therefore not sent by A&N Police to NTRO. A&N Islands Police have sent downloaded Video Clips to Central Forensic Laboratory Hyderabad for expert opinion. Their report is awaited.

(e): Yes, Madam. A&N Administration had reported that the videos under reference had been in circulation in internet for some time. It was also reported that the interaction of a group of Jarawas with a small group of tourists had taken place on the Andaman Trunk Road itself and not inside the Jarawa area.

The video footage was got examined and it was revealed that the videos had been shot in September, 2008 and December, 2011.

The A&N Administration was advised to get a detailed inquiry conducted and also to get the video footage analysed by the Central Forensic Science Laboratory. The UT Administration was further advised to identify and black-list the tour operators/tourist agencies who were using these videos for promotion purposes.