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MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

52

LAKSHADWEEP

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
1990-91

NINTH LOK SABHA



संसद

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

FIRST REPORT
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1990-91)

(NINTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
LAKSHADWEEP

[Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventy-sixth Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha).]



Presented to Lok Sabha on 9 August, 1990

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1990-91)

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3. Shri Era Anbarasu
4. Shri Kamal Chaudhry
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SECRETARIAT

1. Shri G.L. Batra — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri B.B. Pandit — *Deputy Secretary*
3. Shri S.M. Mehta — *Senior Financial Committee Officer.*

(iii)

**STUDY GROUP ON ACTION TAKEN REPORTS OF
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE
(1990-91)**

1. Shri Jaswant Singh — *Chairman*
2. Shri Hannan Mollah
3. Dr. Thambi Durai
4. Shri Chiranji Lal Sharma
5. Shri Yamuna Prasad Shastri
6. Shri Anantrao Deshmukh
7. Shri Kailash Nath Singh Yadav

INTRODUCTION

1, the Chairman of the Estimates Committee having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf present this First Report on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventy-Sixth Report of Estimates Committee (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs — Lakshadweep.

2. The Seventy-sixth Report was presented to Lok Sabha on 20th April, 1989. Government furnished their replies indicating action taken on the recommendations contained in that Report on 20th December, 1989. The replies were examined by the Committee at their sitting held on 12th June, 1990 and the draft Report was adopted by the Committee on the same date.

3. The Report has been divided into the following Chapters:—

- (i) Report
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government.
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee.
- (v) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of Government are still awaited.

4. An analysis of action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in 76th Report of Estimates Committee is given in Appendix. It would be observed therefrom that out of 44 recommendations made in the Report 34 recommendations i.e. 78 per cent have been accepted by the Government and the Committee do not desire to pursue 5 recommendations i.e. 11 per cent in view of Government's replies. Replies of Government in respect of 3 recommendations i.e. 7 per cent have not been accepted by the Committee. Final replies in respect of 2 recommendations i.e. 4 per cent are still awaited.

NEW DELHI;
August 1, 1990
Sravana 10, 1912(S).

JASWANT SINGH,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

(vii)

CHAPTER I

REPORT

1.1 This Report of the Estimates Committee deals with Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Seventy-Sixth Report (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Lakshadweep, which was presented to Lok Sabha on 20th April 1989.

1.2 Action Taken Notes have been received in respect of all the recommendations contained in the Report. These Notes have been categorised as follows:—

- (i) *Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government:*

Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44.

(Total 34—Chapter II)

- (ii) *Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:*

Sl. Nos. 5, 18, 21, 37, 39.

(Total 5—Chapter III)

- (iii) *Recommendations/observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee:*

Sl. Nos. 2, 15, 34.

(Total 3—Chapter IV)

- (iv) *Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited:*

Sl. Nos. 23, 40.

(Total 2—Chapter V)

1.3 The Committee will now deal with action taken by Government on some of the recommendations.

Proposal for creation of a Cell in the Ministry

1.4 The Committee hold that an efficient, expeditious and harmonious development of Lakshadweep Islands would be better achieved through the establishment of a Cell. Such a Cell could then be apprised of the totality of the problems in Lakshadweep Islands and thus be in a better position to coordinate with other Ministries and Departments of the Government of India. This would also facilitate an expeditious clearance of

projects, schemes for implementation of these Islands. The Committee also expressed the view that Government while sanctioning allocations for Lakshadweep Islands for the 8th Plan, should take into account factors as are unique to these Islands like their remote location, transport and communication difficulties, as also their geographical distancing from the main land.

1.5 The Ministry replied that the present system in the Ministry of Home Affairs was functioning satisfactorily, proper coordination was being maintained, therefore, no change was desired in the present set up.

1.6 The Committee are unable to appreciate the reasons forwarded by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee note with some disfavour that its recommendation does not appear to have been given due attention by the Ministry. The Committee therefore, while reiterating their earlier recommendation, now requires the Ministry to reconsider the matter in depth. The Committee have also not been provided with any reply to its observation that the Government while sanctioning allocations for Lakshadweep Islands will take into account all these special factors like remote locations, transport difficulties, communications etc. The Committee would like to be apprised of the Ministry's appreciation of these factors as well.

Lakshadweep Development Corporation

Recommendation Sl. No. 13 (Para 3.17)

1.7 The Committee, while welcoming setting up of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation (LDC) in 1988, had hoped that the proposed Corporation, when functional, would have the required manpower for making a beginning into the technology of deep-sea fishing.

1.8 The Ministry in its reply stated that the proposal of Lakshadweep Administration for purchasing purse-seivers from Japan was under consideration and that further assistance from Ministry of Food Processing Industries was sought for obtaining suitable staff for the management-type in the LDC.

1.9 It is the Committee's expectation that the Ministry would understand the relevance of high technology, mechanised fishing, along with marketing of fish and fish products, as part of an overall development of fisheries in Lakshadweep. The manner in which the Ministry is going about implementing fish development, does not fill the Committee with any sense of reassurance. It is the Committee's expectation that the Ministry would like expeditious steps to have the required trained manpower posted in Lakshadweep and will, at the earliest, obtain the needed purse seivers from Japan.

The Committee would like to be informed of the steps taken.

*Purchase of two tuna purse-seivers***Recommendation Sl. No. 15 (Para 3.20)**

1.10 The Committee were informed, during evidence, that the Lakshadweep Administration had sent a proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs, for purchase of two Tuna purse-seivers, at the cost of Rs. 6-7 crores, for which UNDP assistance was stated to be available. The Ministry of Home Affairs had, in turn, projected the proposal to the Department of Economic Affairs. The Committee desired the Ministry of pursue the matter with the Department of Economic Affairs so that the project was cleared at the earliest.

1.11 In its reply the Ministry stated that the Department of Economic Affairs had raised queries regarding DGTD clearance for items proposed for import, budgetary provisions, payment of counter Rupee Fund etc. on the proposal. The administration had been looking into all these matters.

1.12 The Committee are dismayed that the proposal for purchase of two-tuna purse-seivers at the cost of Rs. 6-7 crores has still not been finally cleared. Evidently, the matter has not been given the attention that it deserves. It is disquieting to note that a project for which UNDP assistance is available, has not been implemented so far. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation and urge the Ministry of Home Affairs to pursue the matter with a defined senses of urgency, with the Department of Economic Affairs.

*Growth in Population***Recommendation Sl. No.24 (Para 5.17)**

1.13 The Committee had expressed concern over the increase in population of Lakshadweep Islands by 189.94 per cent during the last 80 years and had urged the Ministry to take effective remedial measures.

1.14 The Ministry in its reply listed that there was a local prejudice against family planning and that the matter had already been taken up with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare requesting for literature and other advice specially aimed at the Muslim population of the Islands.

1.15 The Committee hope that the Ministry would appreciate the implications of such phenomenal increase of population in the Islands; particularly in view of limited availability of land, and would take expeditious steps in consultation with family planning experts, so that the development of these islands is not adversely affected. They would like to be apprised of developments in this regard.

Comprehensive Plan for development of facilities for tourism

Recommendation Sl. No. 34 (Para 8.24)

1.16 The Committee were informed by the Ministry during evidence that if the required accommodation, telecommunication and the transport facilities were available, tourist traffic upto 15000 could be expected in Lakshadweep. The committee thereupon expressed a view that earnest efforts be made to provide tourism infrastructure facilities at the earliest. For this a master plan be drawn up early. The Committee desired the Ministry of Tourism to undertake such an exercise and to draw a comprehensive plan to provide the required facilities, in a phased manner.

1.17 In its reply the Ministry stated that further accommodation was to be provided by local business men under advice SPORTS. Efforts were being made to motivate entrepreneurs to avail of this policy. However, there were constraints because of the discontinuation of the Central investment subsidy.

1.18 The Committee regret that a complete reply has not been furnished in regard to their earlier recommendation. The Committee had desired that vigorous efforts should be made to achieve the optimum level in regard to tourist traffic and that constant endeavour should be made after drawing up a master plan. The Ministry has not enumerated specific steps taken in this regard. While deprecating the evasive approach of the Ministry, the Committee would like to reiterate their earlier recommendation and would like to be apprised of steps now taken.

Employment Potential

Recommendation Sl. No. 43 (Para 10.8)

1.19 The Committee were informed that a large number of vacancies existed in various offices of the Union Territory Administration. Since the Administrator had the powers to create and fill category 'C' and 'D' posts, the existing vacancies might be filled from amongst qualified people available. The Committee had recommended that plans for development of tourism should be accelerated so that some of the unemployed youth could be absorbed in that industry.

1.20 In its reply the Ministry stated that it was expected that upto 800 persons would get direct employment as a result of expansion plan for tourism in Lakshadweep.

1.21 The Committee would like to emphasise that unless infrastructural facilities for tourism in the Islands are made available and the desired level of tourist traffic attracted, the job availability for 800 persons cannot be achieved. The Committee feel that unless a comprehensive master plan for development of tourism in the Islands is drawn up, and implemented at a faster pace, possibilities of generating additional employment potential would not be attained. The Committee, therefore, desire that as recom-

mended in earlier paragraph, the Ministry of Tourism should take up the matter with a sense of urgency.

Implementation of recommendations

1.22 The Committee would like to emphasise that they attach the greatest importance to the implementation of recommendations accepted by them. In cases where it is not possible to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reasons, the matter should be reported to the Committee, in time, with reasons for non-implementation.

1.23 The Committee desire that replies in respect of the recommendations contained in Chapter V of the Report may be finalised and replies of the Government furnished to Committee expeditiously.

CHAPTER-II

RECOMMENDATION / OBSERVATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENT

Recommendation Sl. No. 1 (Para 1.16)

The Committee are dismayed to observe that notwithstanding Lakshadweep getting the status of a Union Territory as far back as in 1956, it does not have an elected set-up even after a lapse of more than 30 years though there has been a persistent demand from the people therefore. It appears that the Administrator is the *prime figure* in so far as the entire activity of administration is concerned. There is thus no forum for fulfilment of democratic aspirations of the people. There is, however, an Advisory Council to assist the Administrator in matters relating to development of the islands, and that too consists of members who are appointed by the Central Government on the recommendations of the Administrator. The matter relating to setting up of elected Island Councils and the Pradesh Council has been taken up very recently. The rules relating to conduct of elections to these councils are pending with the Central Department of Rural Development and the delimitation work in the Island is stated to be in progress. However, both these matters have been taken up by the Administration a couple of months back. The Committee would like to emphasise that the matter should be given the importance it deserves and pursued with the Department of Rural Development for expeditious approval of the Rules and the work relating to delimitation should be completed within a couple of months as promised during evidence. They urge that the elected set-up with Island Councils as also the Pradesh Council should be introduced without any that the elected set-up with Island Councils as also the Pradesh Council should be introduced without any further delay so as to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

Reply of Government

The Rules for conduct of elections to Pradesh Council and Island Councils in Lakshadweep have since been notified. The work of delimitation has also been completed.

[Ministry of Home Affairs F.No. U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANL
dated 20-12-1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 3 (Para 1.18)

The Committee have been informed that for the Plan posts the Administrator has powers to create Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts. For Group 'A' 'B' the powers to create posts have been given to the Finance

Minister/Cabinet. However, the bigger problem projected by the representative for the Ministry of Home Affairs during evidence was that of recruitment, for which he suggested desirability of relaxation of norms in the interest of the Island. The Committee commend the decision arrived at a meeting of the Island Development Authority that for recruitment of personnel for Lakshadweep, the UPSC should be requested to hold examinations/interviews in the Island itself or places in the mainland which have close proximity with Islands so that it is convenient for the islanders to avail of opportunities for taking up the jobs in the Island Administration. The Committee would like the Ministry of Home Affairs to pursue the matter with the UPSC vigorously so that a decision is taken by them in this regard soon.

Reply of Government

UPSC have agreed in principle to open a Centre at Kavaratti for holding some of the competitive examinations subject to the availability of candidates. The modalities of the proposal are being worked out by the UPSC in consultation with UT Administration.

[M/O Home Affairs No. U.F. 16016/3/89-ANL Dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Note Sl. No. 4 (Para 1.19)

The Committee have also been informed that in view of the remoteness of the Islands and communication difficulties, normally the people from the mainland are reluctant to go to the islands. While relaxation of norms may not be desirable from the point of view of the quality of administration, the Committee are of the opinion that there should be some system to attract local people for Group 'A' and Group 'B' posts in the islands by way of adequate training, better advertisement about posts etc. so that they are actively involved in the local administration. Motivation also follows from a sense of participation. The most important aspect of motivation is the perception that the State provides an opportunity for its citizen's development. The Committee recommend that the Ministry should consider this question in greater depth so as to involve local people in the administration of these islands.

Reply of Government

There are various training schemes in operation for local persons who also have access through a system of reservation to higher education. Since all the Group C and D posts are reserved for locals, they have chances to get promotion to Group 'B' and 'A' posts to be filled by promotion. For the posts reserved for direct recruits, people from Laskhadweep can compete with other candidates from the mainland. They also enjoy the benefit of reserved seats for Scheduled Tribes in the recruitment.

[M/O Home Affairs F.No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20-12-1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 6 (Para 2.32)

The Committee have also been informed that the Seventh Five Year Plan envisages more accelerated activities under plant protection. But the Committee are dismayed to find that as against 4795 hectares of area covered under control of pests and diseases during 1980-81, an area of only 4480 hectares had been covered during 1986-87. The reasons attributed to the decline are, however, stated to be control of locust problem in islands of Kadmat and Agati and removal of black-headed caterpillar problem in the island of Suhali. The Committee desire that intensive efforts should be made to control pests and other plant diseases so as to improve and increase production of coconut per tree. The average yield per tree in Lakshadweep is far less as compared to the national average yield.

Reply of Government

Lakshadweep Administration is implementing six different schemes for the control of pest and other plant diseases which are as follows-

- (i) Control of Rhinoceros beetle
- (ii) Rodent Control
- (iii) Locust control
- (iv) Control of other pest in coconut
- (v) Control disease of coconut
- (vi) Control of pest and disease in inter crops

The target fixed for pests and plant disease control in 1986-87 was 6450 hc. and not 4480 as mentioned in the Report of the Estimates Committee. As against this, the actual achievement was 5912 hc. Similarly the observation of the Committee that the average yield per tree in Lakshadweep is far less as compared to the national average yield in respect of coconut does not appear to be based on latest facts and figures regarding production. The average yield per tree in Lakshadweep is 58 nuts in comparison to national average of 30 nuts. (Authority: Indian Coconut Journal Vol. XVIII No. 10 dated February, 1988).

Studies are in progress at ICAR Research Complex Minicoy to develop different high density multi species cropping models suitable for Lakshadweep conditions. A fertilizer trial has also been in progress at ICAR Research Complex, Minicoy, to understand the NPK requirement of coconut for optimum productivity. Besides the above, a hybridisation programme for producing DxT and TxD hybrids has been developed at ICAR Research Complex, Minicoy. The above studies are basically aimed at increasing the overall agricultural productivity of the Island.

[M/O Home Affairs No.U F. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 7 (Para 2.33)

The Committee find that another reason for less yield of coconuts per tree in Lakshadweep is density of trees. This factor also abviate the possibility of inter-cropping. It is desirable to intensify efforts for cutting the senile trees so that the yield per tree is improved as also land so cleared is used for inter-cropping. According to the Ministry about 500 senile trees have been removed during the year 1988-89 by giving cash incentive of Rs.400/- per tree to the growers. However, the outlay for the current year for the purpose has been utilised. The Committee would like the Ministry to make adequate provision of funds for the purpose for the remaining year of the 7th Plan as also for 8th Plan so as to ensure that paucity of funds is not allowed to stand in the way of the successful implementation of this programme. The Committee would also like the Agriculture Department of Lakshadweep to implement report of the ICAR Unit at Minicoy in this regard, at a faster pace.

Reply of Government

As against the target of removal of 500 senile trees in 1988-89 the achievement was only 345. While this is not discouraging as a starting point, the effort is to step up the implementation of the programme. The target of cutting senile trees during the current year is again 500 and for the 8th Five Year Plan is as follows:

1990-91	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
750 nos	800 nos.	850 nos.	900 nos.	950 nos.

Funds have not been a constraint in implementation of the scheme. There was a Plan allocation of Rs.2 lakhs in 1988-89 and a similar amount is provided during 1989-90. A total allocation of Rs.17 lakhs has been proposed during the 8th Five Year Plan.

[M/O Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 8 (Para 2.34)

The Committee commend that a record 2.14 lakh seedlings were planted during the current year under the scheme for social forestry. Of these, 0.36 lakh seedlings have been planted along the sea shore to control sea erosion. According to the Administration, the entire coastal length of 178 kms. is targetted to be covered during the 8th Plan. The Committee desire that intensive efforts should be made in this regard to achieve the target.

Reply to Government

By the end of 7th Five Year Plan 70 kms. of coast line is expected to be

covered with plantation. The target fixed for the 8th Five Year Plan is 100 kms. so that the entire coastal length is covered by then.

[M/O Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 9 (Para 2.35)

The Committee would also like other measures such as three layers, one each of tetrapods, sand in gunny bags and wooden plants etc. in areas where there is serious sea erosion, be taken up at war footing.

Reply of Government

Implementation of the anti-sea erosion schemes has been varified by the scientists of the CWMRS who have concluded that it has been 90% success. A provision of Rs.40 lakhs has been made during the current plan. A total of 9,500 metres has been identified as severely affected of which 2,270 metres will be fully protected by the end of the 7th Plan and the remaining length by the end of the 8th Plan.

[M/O Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 10 (para 2.36)

The Committee have also been informed that exploitation of medicinal plant Periwinkle was not found economically viable. They are of the view that the medicinal potentialities of such plans should continue to be probed in association with concerned scientific organisations so as to make the optimum use of such resources.

Reply of Government

Some 25 species of medicinally valuable trees are found locally in the Islands. UT Administration will try to grow some of these varities as well as other imported varities at the Botanical Garden and other Demonstration Units.

[M/O Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 11 (Para 2.37)

The Committee note that the short fall in expenditure in the Agricultural Sector up to the 5th Plan was due to infrastructural problems as also less powers of Administration for using financial sanctions. Now that most of the infrastructural problems have been obviate and the financial powers of the Administrator have been increased — he can sanction projects upto 25 lakhs — the Committee hope that this sector would receive adequate attention and things would improve considerably.

Reply of Government

The trend of short-fall in expenditure in this sector was reversed from the 6th Plan. Against an allocation of Rs. 165 lakhs in the 6th Plan— the expenditure has been Rs. 213.10 lakhs. Against the allocation of Rs.

313.31 lakhs in the 7th Plan the actual expenditure in the first 4 years is Rs. 257.17 lakhs and the total outlay is therefore expected to be exceeded again.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 12 (Para 3.16)

The Committee consider it disquieting that there are very few entrants to the fishing profession and that the educated youth are hankering after white-collar jobs. They feel that the malady lies in the Lakshadweep Administration's not applying their mind to this aspect well in time. The vocationalisation of education, particularly adding the fisheries technology component to the curriculum at the VIII class level, has been thought of rather late. Nevertheless, they considered the introducing of fisheries technology in class VIII curriculum in four high schools out of nine schools functioning in various islands as a laudable step. The Committee hope that similar curriculum in the remaining five schools would also be introduced in phased manner, subject to availability of required technical facilities therefore in those schools.

Reply of Government

It has been decided to introduce employment oriented education in fisheries and coir in all the remaining high schools of Lakshadweep during the year 1989-90.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 13 (Para 3.17)

The Committee welcome setting up of the Lakshadweep Development Corporation in 1988 which will undertake the entire gamut of activities relating to development of fisheries and pave way for introduction of high technology mechanised fishing and marketing of fish and fish products. The Committee hope that the proposed Corporation, when becomes functional, will get the trained manpower for a major inroad into the technology of deep-sea fishing.

Reply of Government

Lakshadweep Administration had submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture for assistance in purchasing purse-seivers from Japan for operation by the Lakshadweep Development Corporation. Ministry of Agriculture (Deptt. of Agriculture & Cooperation) considered the matter in consultation with the (Department of Economic Affairs) who have raised queries regarding DGTD clearance per item proposed for import, budgetary provision, payment of counter-rupee fund etc. Matter is receiving attention of UT Administration and Government of India on priority.

Lakshadweep Administration have also sought assistance from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for obtaining suitable staff for the management-type in the LDC.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 13, (Para 3.18)

The Committee desire that adequate provision should also be made for the scheme relating to development of live bait in artificial reef at the earliest.

Reply of Government

The Lakshadweep P.W. D. has been entrusted with the construction of artificial reefs. Materials have already been procured and it is expected that the artificial reefs. will be completed by the end of 1989-90. Adequate financial provision for this purpose already exists.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 14 (Para 3.19)

The Committee note that the exploitable potential of fisheries in Lakshadweep is about 1 lakh tonnes of Tuna and 1 lakh tonnes of shark which runs into hundred of crores of rupees. They, however, note with dismay that not even 10% thereof is being tapped. That this should happened when fishing is going to be Island's main economy and there is a big export market for it in the South-east Asian countries is all the more regrettable. The price per kg. of Tuna fish is stated to be as high as Rs. 81/- in Japanese market. The Committee feel that the Government should give serious consideration to exploit successfully this vast revenue earning potential available in the Lakshadweep Islands and take essential steps to provide for requisite resources, man power, and infrastructure in Eighth Five Year Plan so that country is able to make full use of the available resources for augmenting its revenues. They would like to be apprised of steps taken in this direction.

Reply of Government

Ministry of Agriculture have set up a Group to prepare a Master Plan for giving new thrust to fisheries in Lakshadweep. This Master Plan is in the process of being discussed with local fishermen for improvement or modifications before submitting to IDA on consideration and approval.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 16 (Para 3.26)

The Committee note with concern that the availability of milk in the island is far less than the requirement. The Production in Kavaratti and Minicoy is only to the tune of about 470 litres per day as against the estimated demand for about 1850 litres per day in all the inhabited islands. Administrator's efforts to bring fresh milk in polythene packs etc. from mainland have failed due to limited refrigeration capacity in the ships. Import of milch animals from the mainland is also ruled out due to scarce water availability. The Committee agree with the suggestion of the

National Dairy Development Board that powder milk may be brought from the mainland for sale in various islands and desire that it be implemented with due promptitude. They also recommend that arrangements for supply of powder milk on regular/permanent basis to the Administration at reasonable rates should be made with the NODB and the same should be sold to consumers in all the islands. The Committee would like the Administration to take steps in this direction at the earliest.

Reply of Government

Discussions have been held with MILMA a public sector milk distributing agency in Kerala. It is proposed to make milk available either fresh or packed in tetrapacks or in the form of powder, depending upon the transport facilities available on each of the concerned islands. MILMA have also agreed to prepare a project report on setting up of units for reconstitution of powdered milk.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 17 (Para 3.30)

The Committee believe that it is the policy of the Government to provide 50% subsidy on inputs to the private poultry farm holders. It also bears transportation cost of the feed which is supplied to them. It is due to these reasons that the eggs are sold by the private farm holders at a cheaper rates than those of the departmental farms. The Committee feel that it is more beneficial to encourage private sector as it provides employment/occupation to people in this field and also develops a sense of competition amongst them. The Consumer is also benefited as he gets eggs at cheaper rates. The Committee, therefore, recommend that Administration should examine the feasibility of gradually phasing out the departmental farms and giving due encouragement to the private poultry farm holders as the departmental farms do not seem to be serving the purpose for which these were set up.

Reply of Government

Lakshadweep Administration has already made this suggestion a part of its policy frame with regard to poultry development as a result of a directive received from the Prime Minister during his visit to Islands in 1985. Details of deep litter units implemented in the private sector are as below for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 —

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
No. of units set up	20	99	271
No. of birds (nos.)	500	3447	12459 (incl. broilers)
No. of eggs produced by private farmers (000)	116	398	397

In the meantime there has been no increase in the number of departmental units which has remained pegged at 8.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 19 (Para 4.17)

The Committee are happy to note that an ITI is going to be established in Lakshadweep. The building therefor is under construction, staff is under selection and orders and being placed for purchase of equipment. The ITI is likely to be opened on 15th August, 1989. The Committee hope that all targets in this regard will be achieved and the ITI will start functioning as scheduled. The Committee, would, however, desire that if considered feasible, fisheries technology may also be introduced as one of the courses in the proposed ITI.

Reply of Government

The ITI has been so designed as to have flexibility in the type of courses introduced to ensure that there is no over-concentration on particular professions, requirements in this small U.T. being small.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 20 (4.18)

The Committee also note that the number of students completing 10 plus 2 stages had gone up to 458 as on 30th September, 1987. The students desirous of going in for degree courses have also to go to the mainland. They desire the Ministry to look into the question of opening a degree college in the Islands for the convenience of local population after examining relevant considerations.

Reply of Government

The proposal has been made in the draft 8th Five Year Plan to open a degree college in Lakshadweep.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 22 (Para 5.15)

The Committee also note that the Lakshadweep Administration has reservation in all the technical fields, engineering medicine, etc. They recommend that students of the Island getting seats in medical colleges out of Administration quota should be required to serve in the Island for a specified period as a part of the contract before being sponsored for such a course in the mainland.

Reply of Government

The students joining medical colleges on the mainland against Lakshadweep quota are required to fulfil a bond to the effect that they would serve in Lakshadweep for a specific period.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 24 (Para 5.17)

The Committee note with concern the resistance of local population to family planning programme. The increase in population by 189.94 per cent during the last 80 years has serious repercussions particularly in view of limited availability of land in the Islands. The Committee urge the Ministry to take effective remedial measures right now by educating and motivating the people of the Islands about the importance of family planning in the welfare of the individual, family, the community and the country.

Reply of Government

The growth rate of the population in Lakshadweep is about the same as the national average. There is, however, a local prejudice against family planning. Lakshadweep Administration have already taken up the matter with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare requesting for literature and other advice specially aimed at Muslim population.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 25 (Para 6.14)

The Committee are concerned to note that all the 10 inhabited islands have been identified as problem villages in so far as availability of drinking water is concerned. People depend upon wells to meet their day-to-day requirements of fresh water. However, it is not safe and has been found to be cause of many water-borne diseases. The Administration has launched a scheme of protected water supply for all the inhabited islands and it has been sanctioned by the Government of India. The scheme has been completed in 3 islands viz. Amini, Kadmat and Minicoy and supply of safe drinking water through pipelines has commenced. The scheme is progressing in other islands and is likely to be completed by the end of VII Five Year Plan. Since drinking water is the most essential necessity for the people, the Committee hope that the Administration will spare no efforts to complete the scheme in all the islands within the stipulated time-frame so that inhabitants are assured of water supply free of water borne diseases.

Reply of Government

The construction of the schemes for providing clean drinking water to entire population in Lakshadweep is in progress. Out of 10 inhabited islands, in 4 islands namely Amini, Kadmat, Agatti and Minicoy the scheme have been completed and work in remaining 5 islands is in progress. A solar still desalination plan has already been installed at Bitra during VII Plan period. The main obstacle to speedy implementation of the protected water supply scheme is to get required land from private parties. However, maximum efforts have been made to get the land. The schemes are expected to be completed by the end of March, 1990.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 26 (Para 6.15)

The Committee are alarmed to note that according to a survey conducted by the Central Ground Water Board, the potential of ground water is limited and may not last beyond 2000 AD in case other sources of procuring water are not tapped in time and planning made accordingly. An Expert Committee headed by the Advisor, Central Department of Rural Development has opined that no single system for providing safe drinking water would be sufficient considering peculiar geographical and climatic conditions of the Island. This Expert Committee has, however, drawn up an action plan for the construction of rain water harvesting structures and desalination plants. The Department of Rural Development is stated to have got reports from three other agencies in this regard viz. the NEERI, Nagpur, the CESS Institute, Trivandrum and CEMGRI, Bhavnagar to look into all aspects of the problem. Based on their reports, the Department has drawn and sanctioned a package programme for solving the problem completely costing Rs. 2.21 crores. The Committee would like the Ministry to ensure that the entire package programme is implemented in accordance with the prescribed time schedule and its progress monitored at an appropriately higher level so that there are no time and cost over runs.

Reply of Government

There is no report that indicates that the water supply in the islands will not last beyond 2000 AD. However, reports available indicate that in some of the islands i.e. Kavaratti, Agatti, Minicoy and Amini the water supply will not be adequate to cover the entire population of that island at the rate of 40 litres per head per day after the year 2000 AD. Therefore, existing reserves would have to be supplemented. Implementation of the integrated scheme being undertaken on the advice of an Expert Team headed by Shri Mohd. Imanul Haq, Adviser (TM), Ministry of Rural Development, has already begun. Geo-hydrological surveys for all islands have been completed by the Centre for Earth Science Studies. Similarly National Environmental Engineering Research Institute have completed the study on water quality. However, the report is awaited. Work has begun on rain water harvesting structures in Amini and Kadmat under the accelerated water supply scheme. One water desalination plant has been installed in Kavaratti. Action has been initiated to procure 4 more desalination plants. Adequate provisions have been made for completion of the whole scheme, in the draft 8th Five Year Plan.

[M/O Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 27 (Para 6.25)

The Committee note that most of the power supply in the Islands is through deisel generation but the entire requirement of deisel has to be met from the mainland which is a very hazardous job. To obviate this problem the Administration experimented alternative sources of energy by

installation of wind energy converter at Kavaratti based on foreign technology. But due to non-availability of spare parts and inadequate training to the personnel handling it have resulted in its frequent break down. The Committee cannot comprehend as to why foreign technology was used in this project when adequate know how in this regard was available in the country. They would, therefore, like to emphasise that in future only indigenous know how should be used for future such installation in coordination with the Central Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

Reply of Government

Lakshadweep Administration have installed a 20 KW wind electric generator at Kavaratti island in association with the Central Electricity Authority, who carried out the selection of site and equipment, procurement and installation. It was only after commissioning of the equipment, UT Admn. informed the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources of difficulties and problems in the operation of the wind machine. Efforts are being made by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources to obtain requisite parts and to repair and re-commission the machine expeditiously. They have also requested Lakshadweep Administration to undertake all future installations only in consultation with DNES. As recommended by DNES, Lakshadweep Administration have placed the supply order for 2×12 KW wind energy convertor for Bangaram Island.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 28 (Para 6.26)

The Committee also find that the Central Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources had sent a team to Lakshadweep Islands, which after making some studies prepared a Master Plan for meeting some of the urgent requirements and also to examine the possibility of substituting deisel power with an alternative power supply, particularly from the wind. However, further surveys were necessary to see the nature and availability of wind in various islands. The Committee would like the Department to undertake all required surveys in conformity with the Master Plan already prepared by their team and take up implementation of the Plan in right earnest with due promptitude in coordination with the local Administration. They, would, therefore, emphasise that while drawing up plans, future requirements of power should be kept in view.

Reply of Government

Wind monitoring stations have been installed in Agatti, Bangaram, Kavaratti, Kadmat and Kalpeni. On other aspects of the plan for utilisation of non-conventional energy sources, action has already begun and orders have been placed. One 5 KW SPV system was inaugurated in Bitra in May, 1988 and has been working satisfactorily. This needs augmentation to 30 KW. Further orders have been placed for SPV system

to be installed in Thinnakara, Bangaram and Cheriya islands. Four electrically powered vehicles have already been purchased and are in operation in Lakshadweep. Four more are on order.

DNES has already started implementation of the Master Plan (Action Plan) which its team had prepared. 1905 improved portable stoves (family size) have already been distributed to various beneficiaries. Solar photo-voltaic modules for power plants, streetlights and communication system are under delivery. Order has also been placed for a 20 KW stand along wind electric system.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 29 (Para 7.12)

The Committee note that there are some coir fibre factories in five islands. Based on the recommendations of the Coir Board team, coir fibre factories have been opened in two more islands, In regard to marketing of coir fibre, in conformity with the recommendations of the Coir Board team, an agreement for selling the fibre has been reached with Kerala State Coir Corporation. Under DWCRA scheme the Administration has been able to set up four coir spinning units, each unit employing about 15-20 women. Schemes to utilise the dried husk as also the green husk are also stated to have been included in the 7th Five Year Plan. The Committee, however, feel that the Administration has not been able to succeed in two areas viz. (i) in setting up of coir-based industry in the islands, and (ii) in encouraging setting up of such an industry or fibre units in the private sector. The Committee would like the Administration to continue its efforts in this direction by attracting certain educated unemployed youth for self-employment with more incentives/subsidy.

Reply of Government

Coir Board has all along been extending assistance to the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration for promoting coir industry. To mention a few instances, the Coir Board has assisted the Lakshadweep Administration in preparation of syllabus and grades class notes for introducing coir craft as a vocational programme in 8th, 9th and 10 classes of the High School. In 1988-89 the Coir Board agreed to donate coir processing equipment worth Rs. 3.00 lakhs for the coir craft training programme. In that Union Territory. Upto 1988-89 the Coir Board imparted training to 37 candidates sponsored by the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. There are also other schemes of the Coir Board viz., co-operativisation scheme, a rebate scheme, etc. which are under implementation for the promotion of coir industry in the country including Lakshadweep. However, the response from the entrepreneurs is not very encouraging. Under SEEYU Scheme, against the target of 50 each during 1987-88 and 1988-89, the number of applications sanctioned by banks was 9 during 1987-88 (for a loan of Rs. 0.75 lakhs) and 8 during 1988-89 (for a loan of Rs. 1.30 lakhs).

The views of the Committee that the Administration should take vigorous steps so as to attract the entrepreneurs particularly the educated youths for setting up of industrial units have been noted for guidance.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 30 (Para 7.13)

The Committee note that Administration has been offering various facilities/incentives to private sector for setting up of small industrial units. The Committee are happy to find that 10 such units were set up in 1985-86 11 in 1986-87, 18 in 1987-88 & 15 in 1988-89 (till December, 1989). The Committee desire that the Administration should continue making efforts for setting up more such units by extending facilities/incentives as already being drawn.

Reply of Government

Recommendations of the Committee have been noted by the Lakshadweep Administration for necessary action.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 30 (Para 8.21)

The Committee note that the tourism development in the Lakshadweep Islands is still in its infancy though it has been declared as an industry so as to avail concessions under industrial policies. Proposals for reorganisation of the Department have been sent to the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India who have agreed to the proposal in principle, but the formal orders are awaited. A proposal has also been sent to the Government to establish a branch of the National Institute for Water Sports in Lakshadweep to which the response of the Ministry of Tourism is stated to be favourable, though further action in this regard is still in the pipeline. The Committee would like the Ministry of Tourism to take expeditious decision and communicate the same to the Lakshadweep Administration so that implementation thereof takes place without any further delay. The Committee also commend establishment of the branch of the National Institute of Water Sports as this would be an attraction for the foreign tourists. Since the Ministry has agreed to the proposal in principle, the NIWS may be directed to move in this direction early.

Reply of Government

The Department of Tourism has already approved from the technical angle the setting up of a Department of Tourism in Lakshadweep. The reorganisation of SPORTS in Lakshadweep has also been approved. The setting up of branch of the National Institute of Water Sports in Lakshadweep is dependent on National Institute becoming operational first in Goa. In the meantime, Department of Tourism has sanctioned a sum of

Rs. 29.67 lakhs for the purchase of water sports equipment by the Administration.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 32 (Para 8.22)

The Committee have been informed that the Lakshadweep Administration has during the recent past encouraged the organisation known as Society for Promotion of Recreational Tourism and Sports (SPORTS) and has also been giving financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 2 lakhs per annum after 1985-86 to strengthen infrastructural facilities in the islands to attract foreign and demestic tourists. It is the only organisation for arranging tourists' visit to the islands in ships of the Administration in the fair season. The Committee commend this step and desire that the arrangements with SPORTS may be strengthened further in accordance with the increase in tourist traffic to the islands.

Reply of Government

The staff of SPORTS has been increased to 50 during 1988-89 and further strengthening will be made in response to the inflow of tourists. A suitable restructuring effort has already been made to ensure that further staffing can be quick and smooth.

The Department of Tourism, Lakshadweep has also entered into an agreement with INTACH who will act as consultants to Administration for the promotion of tourism, which will include strengthening of SPORTS by way of improvement of accommodation facilities, training of staff etc.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 33 (Para 8.23)

The Committee find that the Lakshadweep Administration itself has constructed tourists complex, bathing huts, family huts, homeymoon huts etc. in the islands of Kavaratti, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Minicoy and uninhabited island of Bangaram. The Committee suggest that a constant review of these facilities should be undertaken so as to make necessary adjustments depending upon the tourist traffic.

Reply of Government

The Administration has appointed INTACH as consultants who are expected to keep the whole tourism efforts under constant reievew especially from the environmental angle to ensure high class services to tourists.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 35 (Para 8.25)

The Committee find that a scheme has been launched by the Administration whereunder the local people can get loans for putting up two room prefabricated cottages which could be hired out to the tourists. The

Committee feel that such an accommodation can suit the domestic/budget tourists. They commend this scheme and would like it to be encouraged amongst local people.

Reply of Government

Efforts are being made to motivate entrepreneurs to provide further accommodation.

[M / o Home Affairs No. U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 36 (Para 9.12)

The Committee have been informed that apart from M.V. Tipusultan which has already become operational, proposals have been included in the 7th Plan to acquire two more passenger vessels with limited cargo capacity, one similar to M.V. Bharatseema with more facilities for passengers, and another vessel having a capacity of 150 passengers and 50 tons cargo with a fairly high speed, capable enough to travel in between the islands and between islands and mainland. sanction for acquisition of these vessels has already been accorded and the contracts are being finalised. The committee, while appreciating the need to augment the facilities for inter-island and Islands and Mainland Shipping services, would like the Ministry of Surface Transport to finalise the contracts for acquisition of 2 vessels at the earliest and see that the same are acquired and put to operation within the 7th Plan period.

Reply of Government

Apart from the M.V. Tipu Sultan, the purchase of two high speed passenger vessels with a passenger capacity of 100 each has been approved for inter-island passenger traffic. Ministry of Surface Transport has entered into an agreement on 10.5.89 with M / s. Tilli Shipyard, Netherland for the procurement of the two vessels of which the delivery scheduled is 49 weeks. In addition, purchase of 4 cargo vessels of 300 tonne cargo capacity have also been approved and a contract has been concluded on 30th May, 1989 with M / s. Alcock Ashdown India for the construction of 4 cargo vessels. The vessels are expected to be delivered within 86 weeks, 94 weeks, 102 weeks and 110 weeks, respectively.

[M / o Home Affairs No.U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 38 (Para 9.14)

The Committee are happy to note that a Master Plan for transport system in the islands has been prepared by the Expert Committee set up by the Ministry of Surface Transport (Shipping Wing). This is a perspective plan in which a recommendation for the acquisition of passenger and cargo vessels for 8th Plan onwards has been made. The Plan has been accepted by the IDA. The Committee expect that

since the Plan has been approved by the IDA also, its implementation will not be delayed. All the spade work for its implementation should be done in right earnest and the Plan carried out in a time-bound manner.

Reply of Government

The recommendations made in the Master Plan has been incorporated in the draft proposals for 8th Five Year Plan.

[M / o Home Affairs No.U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANI dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 41 (Para 10.6)

The Committee are concerned to note the alarming situation of unemployment in the Union Territory. The number of educated unemployed persons estimated by the Badal Roy Committee is stated to be about 1600. Although the Badal Roy Committee have suggested some short and long term measures to solve the problem, the Committee are not convinced that some tangible results would be achieved. The sector like tourism can generate job opportunities for a limited number of people. The vocationalisation of education has been introduced only recently and will help the future generation to find employment in sectors like fisheries. The Committee, however, would like the Administration to implement the recommendations of the Badal Roy Committee so that the problem is solved to the extent possible.

Reply of Government

The final report of the Badal Roy Committee was presented to IDA meeting held on 11th July, 1989 and an Action Plan was drawn. Lakshadweep Administration has been requested to take appropriate action in accordance with the Action Plan. In the meanwhile, the Central Ministries having employment potential in Lakshadweep have been requested to start a special recruitment drive in Lakshadweep so that the unemployed youths from the Lakshadweep could be given employment.

[M / o Home Affairs No.U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 42 (Para 10.7)

The Committee feel that the ITI, which is being set up in the near future, can also make a dent into the problem. The unemployment youth who have educated themselves upto matriculation or 12th standard, could be motivated and given incentives to join the ITI for vocational courses and then equip themselves for self-employment. The Committee would like the UT Administration to make intensive efforts in this regard.

Reply of Government

The report of the Committee has been noted for implementation.

[M / o Home Affairs No. U. 16016 / 3/ 89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 43 (Para 10.8)

The Committee have been informed and the matter has been dealt with in an earlier chapter that a large number of vacancies exist in various offices of the Administration. Since the Administrator has the powers to create and fill category 'C' and 'D' posts, the existing vacancies may be filled from amongst the qualified people available. As recommended by the Committee earlier, plans for development of Tourism should be accelerated so that some of the unemployed youth could be absorbed in that industry.

Reply of Government

It is expected that upto 800 persons will get direct employment as a result of expansion plan for tourism in Lakshadweep.

[M / o Home Affairs No.U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 44 (Para 10.10)

The committee note that the draft regulations of Lakshadweep House Building Material Board, which will undertake procurement of building materials and transport it to the islands for distribution to the locals under various loans and subsidy schemes evolved by the Board, have not yet been finalised by the Ministry. They urge the Ministry to process the necessary proposals expeditiously so that construction activity in the islands is intensified and housing position is improved.

Reply of Government

Draft Regulations of the proposed Lakshadweep House Building Material Board are under active consideration of the Ministry of Urban development.

[M / o Home Affairs No. U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendations Sl. No. 5 (Para 2.31)

The Committee have been informed that the rat menace which affects the coconut plants adversely cannot be rooted out completely. Some chemicals which work as slow poison are however, used for the purpose. The chemicals act as anti-coagulant and help in reducing the rat population. On a suggestion by the Committee during evidence that some chemical may be developed which could help in controlling reproduction of the rats, the representatives of the ICAR stated 'we will look into it'. The Committee hope that a serious thought would be given by the ICAR to Committee's suggestion with due promptitude and experiments would be undertaken to develop a chemical which helps in controlling reproduction of rats.

Reply of Government

Control of reproduction in rats by the use of chemicals has not been a success anywhere due to the following reasons—

- (i) most of the chemicals identified for the control of reproduction in rats are carcinogenic and hence are potential health hazard to human beings.
- (ii) with the available chemicals the inhibition of reproduction in rats is temporary and normalcy is restored after a few weeks.
- (iii) At higher doses the chemicals are found to be lethal for rats.
- (iv) Further, the sterilised male rats are found to be less potent than the normal males for competing for females during breeding.

2. However, a chemical Bromodiolone anti coagulant rodenticides 0.005% concentration has been recommended by the ICAR for rat control. Lakshadweep Administration have started using the chemical from 1988-89 onwards. It is observed that by the use of 10 gms. bromodiolone baits per palm @ 30 per hec. two times at an interval of 10 days rat menaces for tender coconut could be successfully controlled. This has proved to be very effective against the species of rats found in Lakshadweep. The real impact of the chemical will however be known in the next couple of years.

Lakshadweep Administration is constantly in touch with ICAR on this matter.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANIL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 18 (Para 4.15 & 4.16)

While the Committee note with satisfaction steps taken to improve educational facilities in the Island and the training given to teachers, they desire that the implementation of the recommendations of the Expert Group should be given priority and the quality of education should be improved as recommended by them.

Reply of Government

Reports prepared by Director, NIFPA and Director NCERT on the educational system in Lakshadweep have been approved by the Ministry and are under implementation.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

The Committee are also of the opinion that the scheme for vocationalisation of education at SSLC stage is an essential step for providing jobs to educated youth and thus should be speedily executed and changes in syllabus / curriculum should be effected with a sense of urgency and implemented in all the High Schools in various Islands. As recommended by the Committee in an earlier Chapter, fisheries technology should be given due importance and the students provided adequate motivation and incentives to adopt fishery as a profession.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee can be considered after 3 years when the current first batch of students, given the life oriented education will pass out of class X.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANL dated 20.12.89]

Recommendation Sl. No. 21 (Para 5.14)

The Committee note with concern that a number of key posts in the medical services are vacant in Lakshadweep viz. (i) one post of Asstt. Director (Malaria) since 29.5.1984, (ii) one post of Deputy Director (Medical and Health Services) since 1.5.1987 and (iii) one post of Director of Medical and Health Services since August, 1987. The Ministry has stated that these posts could not be filled due to unwillingness on the part of doctors to work in this remote area. With regard to incentives offered to the doctors for being posted there, the Ministry has stated that the doctors, being the Central Government employees, get same incentives as are available to other Central Government servants. Some new benefits are

stated to be under consideration of the Ministry of Health. The Committee, however, find that the incentives indicated by the Ministry, as available at present, do not seem to be attractive enough for senior doctors to serve in the remote area like Lakshadweep. In the opinion of the Committee there is strong justification for attractive incentives being given to doctors who opt to serve in remote areas at the cost of personnel inconvenience. They would like the Ministry of Health to take a final decision regarding the additional benefits including grant of additional allowances which may be exempt from income tax urgently so that the vacancies of the senior doctors in Lakshadweep are filled up without any further delay. Any delay in the filling up of the above posts would only be at the cost of human life and health and nothing could be more precious than human life.

Reply of Government

At present only one post of Deputy Director of Medical and Health Services under the CHS is lying vacant. The post fell vacant on 9th October, 1989. Regarding the desirability of some additional incentives to the doctors posted in Lakshadweep, the proposal did not find favour with Ministry of Finance.

[M / o Home Affairs No. U. 16016 / 3 / 89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 37 (Para 9.13)

The Committee find that proposals have been included in the revised 7th Plan in regard to development of ports and harbours on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee set up by the Ministry of Surface Transport which submitted its report in Feb., 1986 regarding future harbour works in Lakshadweep. Specific proposals are also included for acquisition of four 300 tonne capacity mechanised barges. The Committee are constrained to observe that even after a lapse of more than 3 years since the report was submitted, the matter regarding development of ports and harbours is stated to be still 'under active consideration' of the Ministry and the 'final decision is yet to be taken'. However, orders are stated to have been passed for acquisition of four mechanised barges. The Committee consider this to be a very vital matter affecting the development of the Lakshadweep islands and, therefore, urge the Ministry to expedite process of their 'active consideration' and take 'final decision' in the matter without any further delay. The Committee would like to be apprised of the decision taken in the matter.

Reply of Government

Based on the recommendations of the two Experts Committees appointed by the Ministry of Surface Transport, Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works prepared detailed report for harbour facilities to be created on eastern side of Kavaratti, Minicoy and Kalpeni islands and northern side of Androth islands in September 1987, June, 1987 January,

1988 and November, 1987 respectively. The projects could not be taken up as there was no plan provision in the 7th Five Year Plan. The reports were also sent to the Department of Environment for clearance from environmental angle. That Department cleared the schemes in respect of Kavaratti, Minicoy and Androth subject to the condition that there was no dredging involved. In respect of Kalpeni, the Department required further data. However, in view of the severe accident in April, 1987 due to unprecedented waves at Campwell Bay in Andaman and Nicobar, the CEA, ALHW requested the Ministry of Surface Transport to get second opinion on the technical aspects of the project on the eastern side of the Lakshadweep in view of the proximity of very deep waters close to the shore, the paucity of observed meteorological data in the area. These technical aspects were examined by the Delft Hydraulics Institute of Netherland. The report received in June, 1989 indicated that the proposed harbour facilities on eastern side of Kavaratti and Minicoy are not feasible without dredging. Thereafter, the clearance from environmental angle given by the Department of Environment was withdrawn on 23rd June, 1989.

The outcome of the Desk study for Kalpeni and Androth is—

- (i) The planned harbours of Androth and Kalpeni can provide adequate shelter for the inter-island ferry especially during the south-west monsoon.
- (ii) These harbours must however accept considerable down time during the north-east monsoon. The harbour facilities being created at Kalpeni and Androth are for creating 1.8 m draft vessels.

An RCC jetty is already existing at Androth and to make it operational through out the year, works costing Rs. 170 lakhs, are under execution in the 7th Five Year Plan.

Ministry of Surface Transport again took up the case with Department of Environment for clearance in respect of Androth and Kalpeni. That Department has since cleared the proposal of Androth with certain conditions.

Regarding acquisition of four 300 tonne mechanised barges, an agreement has already been concluded with M/s. Alcock Ashdown India on 30th May, 1989.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 39 (Para 9.15)

The Committee have been informed that in order to augment embarkation and disembarkation facilities a proposals for construction of jetties on the eastern side of the harbour was mooted. After the visit of a high level delegation to Lakshadweep, it was decided to have jetties in four islands. The project needed an allocation of Rs. 67 crores. Since there was no provision for this project in the 7th Plan, a request was made for a specific

provision of Rs. 20 crores so as to start the project in the 7th Plan itself. But subsequently, in view of an adverse experience of similar project in the Campbell Bay area of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, affecting ecology and environment of the area, the project in Lakshadweep has been subjected to a revised study in consultation with the Dutch authorities. The technical studies in this regard are stated to be under scrutiny. The Committee would like all the authorities concerned to arrive at a decision in this regard at the earliest. The Committee are also of the opinion that the availability of jetties on the eastern side of the harbour are of paramount necessity. During their visit to the Lakshadweep Islands, the Committee had the practical experience that in the absence of jetties in various islands, the embarkation and disembarkation was not only difficult but also risky, particularly for old and infirm people, besides the difficulties in regard to embarkation and disembarkation of cargo. The Committee would, therefore, like the Ministry of Surface Transport to take an early decision in this matter after examining full implications of the problem. They would also like to be apprised of further developments in this regard.

Reply of Government

Based on the recommendations of the two Experts Committees appointed by the Ministry of Surface Transport, Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour works prepared detailed report for harbour facilities to be created on eastern side of Kavaratti, Minicoy and Kalpeni islands and northern side of Androth islands in September, 1987, June, 1987 January 1988 and November, 1987 respectively. The projects could not be taken up as there was no plan provision in the 7th Five Year Plan. The reports were also sent to the Department of Environment for clearance from environmental angle. That Department cleared the schemes in respect of Kavaratti, Minicoy and Androth subject to the condition that there was no dredging involved. In respect of Kalpeni, the Department required further data. However, in view of the severe accident in April, 1987 due to unprecedented waves at Campwell Bay in Andaman and Nicobar the CEA, ALHW requested the Ministry of Surface Transport to get second opinion on the technical aspects of the project on the eastern side of the Lakshadweep island in view of the proximity of very deep waters to the shore, the paucity of observed meteorological data in the area. These technical aspects were examined by the Delft Hydraulics Institute of Netherland. The report received in June, 1989 indicated that the proposed harbour facilities on eastern side of Kavaratti and Minicoy are not feasible without dredging. Thereafter, the clearance from environmental angle given by the Department of Environment was withdrawn on 23rd June, 1989.

The outcome of the Desk Study for Kalpeni and Androth is—

- (i) The planned harbours of Androth and Kalpeni can provide adequate shelter for the inter-island ferry especially during the south-west monsoon.
- (ii) These harbours must however accept considerable down time during the north-east monsoon. The harbour facilities being created at Kalpeni and Androth are for creating 1.8 m draft vessels.

An RCC Jetty is already existing at Androth and to make it operational throughout the year works costing Rs. 170 lakhs are under execution in the 7th Five Year Plan.

Ministry of Surface Transport again took up the case with Department of Environment for clearance in respect of Androth and Kalpeni. That Department has since cleared the proposal of Androth with certain conditions.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U.16016/3/89-ANL
dated 20.12.1989]

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation Sl. No. 2 (Para 1.17)

The Committee find that in the matter of coordination and Plan formulation, approval of Plan allocation of funds etc. the Union Territory is treated in the same manner as the States excepting that their budget is not independent and becomes a part of the Home Ministry. Evidently, the Ministry of Home Affairs is an intermediary agency between the U.T. and the other concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. The Committee feel that for faster development of the Lakshadweep Islands, there is a need for closer coordination amongst the Lakshadweep Administration Central Ministries/Departments and the Ministry of Home Affairs. In the opinion of the Committee the Ministry of Home Affairs should play a more positive and dominating role with a view to achieving expeditious and harmonious development of Lakshadweep Islands. The Committee would, therefore, urge the Ministry to consider the establishment of a cell which should be well appraised of the problems of Lakshadweep Islands and thus be in a better position to coordinate with other Ministries/Departments of the Government of India so as to expedite clearance of projects/schemes to be implemented. They are also of the view that the Government while sanctioning allocations for Lakshadweep Islands for the eighth plan would take into account the special factors like remote locations, transport difficulties, communication difficulties, etc. so as to ensure faster development of these Islands.

Reply of Government

The present system in the Ministry of Home Affairs with regard to proposals relating to Lakshadweep is functioning satisfactorily and proper coordination is maintained with other Ministries/Departments. No change is desired in the present set up.

[M/o Home Affairs No. U.F. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 15 (Para 3.20)

The Committee was informed during evidence that the Lakshadweep Administration have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Home Affairs for purchase of two tuna purse-seivers at the cost of Rs. 6-7 crores for which UNDP assistance is stated to be available. The Ministry of Home Affairs has in turn, projected the proposal to the Department of Economic

Affairs. The Committee would like the Ministry to pursue the matter with the Department of Economic Affairs so that the project is cleared at the earliest.

Reply of Government

Department of Economic Affairs have raised queries regarding DGTD clearance for items proposed for import, budgetary provisions, payment of counter Rupee fund etc. on the proposal received from Lakshadweep Administration to have such purse-seivers from Japan. The Administration has been looking into these matters.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 34 (Para 8.24)

The Committee were informed during evidence that if the required accommodation, telecommunication and the transport facilities are available, tourist traffic upto 15,000 could be expected in Lakshadweep. The Committee feel that it is imperative to make earnest efforts to achieve the optimum level in regard to tourist traffic at the earliest possible time. For this constant endeavour should be made after drawing an elaborate master plan. The Committee desire that the Ministry of Tourism may undertake such an exercise and draw a comprehensive plan to provide the required facilities in a phased manner.

Reply of Government

Further accommodation is to be provided by local businessmen under advice from SPORTS. Efforts are being made to motivate entrepreneurs to avail of this policy. However, there are constraints because of the discontinuation of the central investment subsidy.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation Sl. No. 23 (Para 5.16)

The Committee would also like the Ministry of Health to take a final decision regarding the proposal of the Health Department of Lakshadweep Administration for upgradation of primary health centres at Andrott and Amini to that of community health centers and also for sanctioning two posts of specialists viz. that of surgeon and a gynaecologist. The Committee desire that the proposed upgradation process should be completed before the end of 7th Five Year Plan as envisaged.

Reply of Government

The proposal is under consideration of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

Recommendation Sl. No. 40 (Para 9.21)

The Committee have been informed that Vayudoot Service between Cochin and Agatti commended during April, 1988. But this service is inadequate as it is operated from mainland to Agatti only and does not touch other islands, a proposal was mooted to introduce sea-planes in Lakshadweep. An expert team from Canada visited Lakshadweep in December, 1986 and is studying the possibility of introducing this service for inter-islands during fair season as also during monsoons. The Ministry has, however, stated that instead of going in for sea planes, the proposal at present is to go i for amphibian aircraft. A demonstration of amphibian aircraft is being planned by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Committee are at a loss to understand as to why earlier proposal for introducing sea-planes for which an expert team from Canada was making studies, has been dropped and a new proposal for amphibian aircraft has been conceived. The Committee would like to stress that unless serious drawbacks in the use of sea-planes, had come to light, the proposal should not have been dropped. This is indeed indicative of lack of planning and it should not be allowed to happen in future. The Committee would like the Ministry to critically analyse the implications of both the proposals before taking a final decision in the matter. They would like to be duly apprised of further developments in this regard.

Reply of Government

The decision to consider introduction of amphibian aircraft instead of sea plane is because the amphibian aircraft is in fact a more advanced version of the sea plane. It was agreed to wait for the technologically more appropriate model rather than rushing in at State expense to purchase a machine which may become obsolete later. Whereas sea plane is capable of landing only in the water unless modified, the amphibian plane can land both on water and on land and can thus avail of the airstrip in Agatti as well as lagoons. It will not be incapable of landing even during bad weather when lagoons may not be safe. However, the recommendations of the Committee have been noted for guidance before a final decision is taken in the matter.

[M/o Home Affairs No.U. 16016/3/89-ANL dated 20.12.1989]

NEW DELHI;
August 1, 1990
Sravana 10, 1912(S).

JASWANT SINGH,
Chairman,
Estimates Committee.

APPENDIX

(Vide Introduction of the Report)

Analysis of Action Taken by Government on the 76th Report of Estimates Committee (Eighth Lok Sabha)

I.	Total number of Recommendations	44
II.	Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by the Government:	
	Sl. Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44.	
	Total	34
	Percentage	78%
III.	Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies:	
	Sl. Nos. 5, 18, 21, 37, 39	
	Total	5
	Percentage	11%
IV.	Recommendations/observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee:	
	Sl. Nos. 2, 15, 34	
	Total	3
	Percentage	7%
V.	Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited:	
	Sl. Nos. 23, 40	
	Total	2
	Percentage	4%

**LIST OF AUTHORISED AGENTS FOR THE SALE OF LOK SABHA
SECRETARIAT PUBLICATIONS**

Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Sl. No.	Name of Agent
ANDHRA PRADESH		UTTAR PRADESH	
1.	M/s Vijay Book Agency, 11-1-477, Mylargadda, Secunderabad-500 361.	12.	Law Publishers, Sardar Patel Marg, P.B. No. 77, Allahabad U.P.
BIHAR		WEST BENGAL	
2.	M/s Crown Book Depot, Upper Bazar, Ranchi (Bihar).	13.	M/s Madimala, Buys & Sells, 123, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta-1.
GUJARAT		DELHI	
3.	The New Order Book Company, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-380 006. (T. No. 79065)	14.	M/s Jain Book Agency, C-9, Connaught Place, New Delhi, (T. No. 351663 & 350806)
MADHYA PRADESH		15.	M/s J. M. Jaina & Brothers, P. Box 1020, Mori Gate, Delhi-110006 (T. No. 2915064 & 230936).
4.	Modern Book House, Shiv Vilas Place, Indore City. (T. No. 35289).	16.	M/s Oxford Book & Stationery Co., Scindia House, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. (T. No. 3315308 & 45896)
MAHARASHTRA		17.	M/s Bookwell, 2/72, Sant Nirankari Colony, Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110 009. (T. No. 7112309).
5.	M/s Sunderdas Gian Chand, 601, Girgaum Road, Near Princes Street, Bombay-400 002.	18.	M/s Rajendra Book Agency, IV-DR59, Lajpat Nagar; Old Double Storey, New Delhi-110 024. (T. No. 6412362 & 6412131).
6.	The International Book Service, Deccan Gymkhana, Poona-4.	19.	M/s Ashok Book Agency, BH-82, Poorvi Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110 033.
7.	The Current Book House, Maruti Lane, Raghunath Dadaji Street, Bombay-400 001	20.	M/s Venus Enterprises, B-2/85, Phase-II, Ashok Vihar, Delhi.
8.	M/s Usha Book Depot, 'Law Book Seller and Publishers' Agents Govt. Publications, 585, Chira Bazar, Khan House, Bombay-400 001.	21.	M/s Central News Agency Pvt. Ltd., 23/90, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110 001. (T. No. 344448, 322705, 344478 & 344508)
9.	M & J Services, Publishers, Representa- tive Accounts & Law Book Sellers, Mo- han Kunj, Ground Floor 68, Jyotiba Fuele Road Nalgaum, Dadar, Bombay-400 014	22.	M/s Amrit Book Co., N-21, Connaught Circus, New Delhi.
10.	Subscribers Subscription Services India 21, Raghunath Dadaji Street, 2nd Floor, Bombay-400 001.	23.	M/s Books India Corporation Pub- lishers, Importers & Exporters, L-27, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110 052. (T. No. 269631 & 714465).
TAMIL NADU		24.	M/s Sangam Book Depot, 4378/4B, Murari Lal Street, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110 002.
11.	M/s M. M. Subscription Agencies, 14th Murali Street (1st Floor), Mahalingapuram, Nungambakkam, Madras-600 034. (T. No. 476558)		