

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

(FIFTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

**Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes in the Laccadive, Minicoy and
Amindivi Islands.**

(Presented on the 10th August, 1973)



सत्यमेव जयते

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

August, 1973/Sravana, 1395 (Saka)

Price : Rs. 1.60

२१.८७१

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

Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Agency No.	Sl. No.	Name of Agent	Agency No.
ANDHRA PRADESH			12.	Charles Lambert & Company, 101, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Opposite Clock Tower Fort, Bombay.	30
1.	Andhra University General Cooperative Stores Ltd., Waltair (Visakhapatnam).	8	13.	The Current Book House Maruti Lane, Raghunath Dadaji Street, Bombay-1.	60
2.	G. R. Lakshminpathy Chetty and sons, General Merchants and News agents, Newpet, Chandragiri, Chittoor District.	94	14.	Deccan Book Stall, Ferguson College Road, Poona-4.	65
ASSAM			15.	M/s. Usha Book Depot 585/A, Chira Bazar, Khan House, Girigaum Road, Bombay-2. B.R.	5
3.	Western Book Depot, Pan Bazar Gauhati.	7	MYSORE		
BIHAR			16.	M/s. Peoples Book House, Opp. Jaganmohan Palace, Mysore-1.	16
4.	Amar Kitab Ghar, Post Box 78, Diagonal Road, Jamshedpur.	37	RAJASTHAN		
GUJARAT			17.	Information Center Government of Rajasthan, Tripoli, Jaipur City.	38
5.	Vijay Stores, Station Road, Anand.	35	UTTAR PRADESH		
6.	The New Order Book Company, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad-6.	63	18.	Swastik Industrial Works, 59, Holi Street, Meerut City.	
HARYANA			19.	Law Book Company, Sardar Patel Marg, Allahabad-1	48
7.	M/s. Prabhu Book Service, Nai Subzimandi, Gurgaon, (Haryana).	14	WEST BENGAL		
MADHYA PRADESH			20.	Granthaloka, 5/1, Ambica Mookherjee Road, Belgharia, 24 Parganas.	10
8.	Modern Book House, Shiv Vilas Place, Indore City.	13	21.	W. Newman & Company Ltd., 3, Old Court, House Street, Calcutta.	44
MAHARASHTRA			22.	Firma K. L. Mukhopadhyay 6/1A, Banchharam Akur Lane, Calcutta-12.	82
9.	M/s. Sunderdas Gianchand 601, Girgaum Road, Near Princess street, Bombay-2.	6	23.	M/s. Mukherjee B House 8-B, Duff Lane, Calcutta-6	
10.	The International Book House, (Private) Limited, 9, Ash Line, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay-1.	22			
11.	The International Book Service, Deccan Gymkhana, Poona-4.	26			

Corrigenda

to the

Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Fifth Lok Sabha)

- - -

<u>Page</u>	<u>Para</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(iii)		17	Shri Bhaljibhai Parmar	Shri Bhaljibhai Parmar
3	1.10	9	course, education,	course, is education.
4	1.12	2	of	at
9	2.14	21	Boarder	Border
17	3.9	11	Rs. 98.08 lakhs	Rs. 98.38 lakhs
	3.10	3	100 lakhs	Rs. 100 lakhs
22	3.15	31	1.46 lakhs	Rs. 1.46 lakhs
32	4.17	3	lands).	Lands.
33	4.20	6	form	from
	4.22	4	alienanated	alienated
34	4.24	5	Laccadivers	Laccadives
		14	uninhabitated	uninhabited
35	4.25	4	Mincoy	Minicoy
		8	Conference	Conferment
		22	them	their
49	4.71	2	a	at
50	4.71	4	<u>delete</u> the line	
		6	Islands	Islands (Laws) No.2 regulation, 1970 were promulgated. The

52	4.72	16	Meterological	Meteorological	
54	4.78	2	Cancilation	Conciliation	
	4.79	1	from	form	
		10	bets	gets	as
55	4.81	2	Concilation	Conciliation	
64		18	Effects	Efforts	
65		6	at Kavaratti	at Calicut and the Headquarters of the Union Territory at Kavaratti	
67		9	Physicol	Physical	
		17	Urge	urged	
69		8			
	from		by	a	
	bottom				

CONTENTS

	Pages
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE	(iii)
INTRODUCTION	(v)
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTORY:	
A. Topography	1
B. The Inhabitants	1
CHAPTER II ADMINISTRATION :	
A. Administrative set-up	5
B. Reservations in Services	7
C. Advisory Committee and Advisory Council	10
D. Police and Law and Order	11
CHAPTER III FIVE YEAR PLAN:	
A. Formulation of Plans	14
B. Plan Provisions and Expenditure	17
CHAPTER IV EVALUATION	
A. Education	28
B. Land	32
C. Health and Drinking Water	36
D. Communications	42
E. Fisheries	43
F. Industries	47
G. Labour and Employment	49
H. Loans and Subsidy	54
I. Co-operation	57
J. Animal Husbandry	60
K. Housing	61
L. Development of Tourism	63
APPENDIX— Summary of conclusions/recommendations contained in the Report	64

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

(1971—73)

Sardar Buta Singh—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri B. K. Daschowdhury
3. Shri D. Deb
- *4. Shri Anant Prasad Dhusia
5. Shri Hukam Chand Kachwai
6. Kumari Kamla Kumari
7. Shri Arjun Shripat Kasture
8. Shri M. Kathamuthu
9. Shri Kinder Lal
10. Shri Nihar Laskar
11. Shri Kartik Oraon
12. Shri Bhaljibhai Parmar
13. Shri Dhan Shah Pradhan
14. Shri K. Pradhani
15. Shri Ram Dhan
16. Shri Ram Swaroop
17. Shri S. M. Siddayya
18. Shri Babu Nath Singh
19. Shri K. Subravelu
20. Shri Tulmohan Ram.

*Elected w.e.f. 19-12-1972 vice Swami Ramanand Shastri died.

Rajya Sabha

21. Shri G. A. Appan
22. Shri Balram Das
23. Shri Ganeshi Lal Chaudhary
- **24. Shri Kalyan Chand
25. Shri B. T. Kemparaj
26. Shri K. P. Subramania Menon
27. Shri Brahmananda Panda
- ***28. Shri Sundar Mani Patel
29. Shri Roshan Lal
30. Shri Melhupra Vero.

SECRETARIAT

Shri B. K. Mukherjee—*Deputy Secretary.*

Shri J. R. Kapur—*Under Secretary.*

**Elected w.e.f. 16-3-1973 *vice* Shri Sukhdev Prasad ceased to be member on being appointed as Deputy Minister.

***Elected w.e.f. 1-6-1972 *vice* Shri Golap Barbora resigned.

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, having been authorised by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty-fourth Report on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands.

2. The Committee took the evidence of the representatives of the Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance (Department of Banking) and of the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands on the 25th April, 1973. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of those Ministries and the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands for placing before the Committee material and information the Committee wanted in connection with the examination of the subject.

3. The Committee also wish to thank Shri P. M. Sayeed, M.P., who accompanied the Study Group of the Committee, which visited these Islands for an on-the-spot study of the socio-economic conditions of the inhabitants thereof in October, 1972, and who also made available to the Committee information desired by them. The Committee would also like to thank the Chairman and other officers of the Shipping Corporation of India for the courtesies extended and the assistance rendered to the members of the Study Group of the Committee visiting the Islands in October, 1972 on board the "MV Amindivi".

4. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on the 1st August, 1973.

5. A summary of conclusions/recommendations contained in the Report is appended (See Appendix).

NEW DELHI;
August 9, 1973.
Stravana 18, 1895 (S).

BUTA SINGH,
*Chairman,
Committee on the Welfare
of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes.*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

A. Topography

The Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, which form a small sprawling group of coral Islands in the Arabian Sea, lie about 200 to 400 kilometres off the Kerala coast between 8° and 21°-13' north latitude and between 70° and 74° east longitude. These Islands, twenty in number, including Bird Island of Pitti, were constituted into a Union Territory on 1-11-1956. The southern-most Island of this Union Territory lies close to the Republic of Maldives at a distance of only 72 miles. Geologically the Laccadives are considered to be a continuation of the Aravalli system of rocks of Rajasthan and Gujarat. The tops of the Islands are built of coral reefs from late tertiary times. Accumulation of corals is being continued even in the present time.

1.2. The Islands are identical in structure and formation. They rise no more than 3 to 4 metres above the sea, and their coral reefs encircle lagoons of varied sizes on the western side, some measuring twelve kilometres across, others barely a few metres. The lagoons are saucer shaped and are three to four fathoms in depth, having few passages from the open sea. On the eastern side, the slope from the reef flat is very abrupt.

B. The Inhabitants

1.3. The Committee have been informed that the total population of the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands according to 1961 census was 24,108. According to 1971 census, it is 31,810. The seamen, numbering about 950, persons who trade in odams (country boats) roughly about 1000 and students studying in mainland institutions nearly 120 or so have not figured in the enumeration done on the 1st April, 1971. The rate of growth of 31.95 per cent could be attributed to opening of various departmental offices, shifting of the headquarters of the Administration to the Island and the reduction of mortality rate on account of improvement of Health services. In respect of density the territory occupies the third rank among the States and Union Territories in India with 994 per sq. km. against the all India figure of 178.

1.4. The entire inhabitants of the Islands are Muslims, classified as Scheduled Tribes.* Like the Muslims of the West-coast, they belong to the shafi school of the sunni sect and acknowledge besides the Koran, the authority of the sunnet or customary law. The language of the people is Malayalam with many peculiarities of pronunciation, idioms and vocabulary. The Minicoyans speak "Mahl" which is said to be a primitive form of Sinhalese. A peculiarity in the social set-up of the Islands is the distinction between the different classes viz., Koyas, Malmis and Melacheris in Laccadives and Amindivis, Manikfans, Thakrus and Raveries in Minicoy. Inter-marriage between the classes is not allowed.

1.5. The people of the Laccadives and Amindivis wear the same dress as Moplahs of the mainland. Those of Minicoy, attire like Maldivians. The women do not observe gosha except a few in Androth Island. Their ornaments are much like those of Moplah women in Malabar.

1.6. The law of inheritance in the Island is a curious mixture of the ordinary Mohammadan law with the Marumakkathayam law of Malabar. Property is regarded as either ancestral or self acquired having different ways of inheritance in different Islands. The administration is making an attempt to codify such customs in order to bring about a unified system for all the Islands.

1.7. There are no scavengers and sweepers in the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands.

1.8. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands have not progressed side by side with the other parts of India in the matter of economic development, political awakening and social reform largely due to their isolation from the mainland. The primitive barter type economy is still prevalent in the Islands. The local population of the Islands though Muslim, has retained caste system and the system of local matrimony is operating among the people. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that Koyas, Malmis and Melacheris are the original inhabitants of the Islands. Koyas are originally the land owners and the priest. Malmis are the original navigators and Melacheris are workers who could be described as hewers of wood and drawers of sweet toddy. The Manikfans, Thakrus and Raveris of Minicoy could be equated with Koyas, Malmis and Melacheris in social

*The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union Territories) order, 1951—[The Schedule—Part I]

status. Fishing is a traditional profession accepted by every one without any class distinction. Though the class distinction still prevails, the rigidity is slowly fading away. Stray cases of inter-marriages, though without the sanction of society, have been reported. The lower classes are gradually drifting into the upper strata. There are persons among the Malacheris who call themselves as Koyas.

1.9. The Committee desired to know the principal language of the Islanders and the medium of instruction in schools. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the spoken language of the people could be termed Malayalam with many peculiarities of pronunciation, idioms and vocabularies to such an extent that it could be called a dialect, although in recent times Malayalam script has been followed. In Minicoy, people speak Mahl, a derivation of Sinhalese which, at the same time, is difficult to be identified fully with the former. The medium of instruction is Malayalam in all schools. In Minicoy, efforts are being made to impart instruction in Mahl in lower primary classes.

1.10. Asked to state the efforts made by the Government to integrate the tribes with the main stream of Indian life, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands has stated:

"Firstly, their isolation will be removed by an improvement in communications. We have established a road and telephone link between Minicoy and the mainland we have also a programme to link several main Islands with the mainland by road and telephone.

The next, of course, education, Twenty three per cent of the population is in schools and we teach them Hindi, Malayalam and English, Malayalam being taught in the primary stage and English in the Middle School stage. It is surprising to know that a good number of schools have taken up Hindi as their second language. In the educational sector, they are coming up. We have got a Junior College there and we are even sending students to Laccadive Islands from other parts of the country for education. For college students we pay stipend and scholarship and meet their actual expenditure.

Then, we are sending a selected team to the northern parts of the country like Delhi and other places—both students as well as Island leaders.

Through publicity also we effect communication. Feature films are brought over and shown to the people. In this way, we hope that in the long run, in a couple of years' time, there will be a complete assimilation with the main stream of the country."

1.11. In reply to a question, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy & Amindivi Islands, has stated that the *per capita* income of the Islanders has been assessed as Rs. 420 per annum. The Committee enquired about the steps taken by the Government to increase the *per capita* income of the Islanders. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands has stated:

"In the Islands, coconut is the only crop, though of course we are trying to introduce other items in between coconut groves. For coconut, we are giving manure and we are introducing better varieties of coconut to increase the yield of coconut.

The next is fisheries. In fisheries we have progressed considerably by the introduction of mechanised fishing boats. Canning has also been taken up.

We are going to introduce handicrafts based on the corals available in the Islands and we have planned for the introduction of animal husbandry and dairying in all the Islands, as also poultry raising. But I feel that fisheries is the only field in which real improvement can be effected, and for that purpose we have invited the Mysore Fisheries Corporation to come in and they are studying it. The Konkan Fisheries are also taking interest and in two to three years' time we are sure the *per capita* annual income will go up."

1.12. The Committee need hardly emphasise that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, situated as they are of considerable distance from the mainland, have to be developed rapidly so that the inhabitants could be integrated with the main stream of Indian life and provided with all the basic amenities that are available to their compatriots on the mainland. The Committee note that steps are being taken to remove the isolation of the Islanders by improvement in communication with the mainland. Efforts in this direction have no doubt to be intensified.

1.13. The Committee note with pleasure that Parliament has recently passed the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Alteration of Name) Bill, 1973, changing the name of these Islands to Lakshadweep.

CHAPTER II

ADMINISTRATION

A. Administrative Set-up

The Ministry of Home Affairs have stated in a note furnished to the Committee that prior to the Reorganisation of States in 1956, the Laccadive and Minicoy groups of Islands formed part of the then Malabar district, and the Amindivi group was included in the then South Kanara district, of the erstwhile composite State of Madras. With effect from the 1st November, 1956, these Islands were constituted into a Union Territory and are administered by the President under article 239 of the Constitution, through an Administrator. The Headquarters of this Union Territory, which was previously situated in Calicut (Kerala), was shifted to Kavaratti Island in 1965. For administrative and revenue purposes, the territory is divided into four tahsils, each under a Tahsildar. The following are the administrative departments in the Union Territory Administration:

- (1) General Administration.
- (2) Education.
- (3) Public Works Department.
- (4) Electricity.
- (5) Agriculture.
- (6) Fisheries.
- (7) Animal Husbandry.
- (8) Cooperation.
- (9) Industries.
- (10) Medical & Public Health.
- (11) Police.
- (12) Survey & Settlement.
- (13) Judicial Department.

2.2. In the Administration of the Territory, the Administrator is assisted by such officers as the Collector-cum-Development Commissioner, Executive Engineer, Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Special Officer (Fisheries), Director (Agriculture) and Education Officer. The Collector-cum-Development Commissioner is in overall charge of Development departments. Coordination is effected by the Development Commissioner and Administrator through periodical coordination meetings. In the Secretariat of the Administration at Kavaratti Island, the Secretary (Administration) functions as the head of the Secretariat and the Assistant Secretary to the Administrator as Drawing and Disbursing Officer. The technical officers in the various departments function as advisers in their respective spheres. The base office at Calicut is functioning under the Secretary to the Administrator. He attends to the work relating to movement of ships, shipping accounts, procurement and shipment of stores, etc. required for the Islands, Coir Monopoly scheme, Central Treasury work, Employment Exchange and payment of scholarships to students studying in mainland. Incidentally the Islands have to depend on the mainland for all essential commodities except coir, copra and fish. Since the entire local inhabitants of the territory are Scheduled Tribes, all the developmental and welfare programmes undertaken in this territory are primarily meant for the uplift of these Scheduled Tribes, and, as such, the entire Administration of this Union Territory is concerned with and is responsible for the Scheduled Tribes.

2.3. The Committee have been informed that the Laccadive and Minicoy group and Amindivi group of Islands had different types of judicial administration before 1st November, 1956, because of the separate laws enforced in these groups. The Islands were placed under the jurisdiction of the Kerala High Court with effect from the 1st November, 1956, and the Central Government promulgated two regulation, viz., the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Laws) Regulation, 1965 and the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Civil Courts) Regulation, 1965. By the former regulation some of the pre-constitutional laws were extended including the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, Civil Procedure Code, Court Fees Act, Registration Act, Police Act, etc. The Regulations had uniform application in the Islands with effect from 1-11-1967. The executive and judicial functions of the magistracy were separated with effect from 1-3-1970. The present set-up is as below:

(1) Chief Judicial Magistrate and Sub-Judge, Kavaratti.

(2) Judicial First Class Magistrates and Munsiffs, Androth and Amini.

(3) District Magistrate (Executive) at Kavaratti.

(4) Executive Magistrates of the Second Class. (Settlement Officer is functioning as District Magistrate (Executive) and Tahsildars are the Executive Magistrates at Kavaratti, Amini, Androth and Minicoy).

2.4. The District and Sessions Judge, Calicut, has jurisdiction over the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands also.

2.5. The Committee note the fact that the local inhabitants of the Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands have been classified as Scheduled Tribes and all the welfare and development programmes are primarily meant for their uplift. A heavy responsibility therefore lies on the Administration of the Union Territory for the amelioration of the conditions of the Tribals for whose welfare specific provisions have been made in the Constitution. Since the Islands have to depend on the mainland for all the essential commodities except coir, copra and fish, the Committee hope that there would be adequate coordination between the Base Office at Calicut and the Headquarters of the Union Territory at Kavaratti so that there is no hindrance in the flow of all essential commodities to the Islands.

B. Reservations in Services

2.6. The Ministry of Home Affairs have stated in a note furnished to the Committee that there is no reservation for Scheduled Castes in this Union Territory. Forty-five per cent of posts in Class III and Class IV are reserved for Scheduled Tribes. In the case of Class I and II posts under the Union Administration, appointments are made by the concerned Ministries of the Government of India. Where these posts are included in organised Central Services, reservation is made as applicable to such services as a whole. Other isolated posts are filled either by deputation from other States or by promotion as the number of such posts is too small for grouping them for reservation. Local people (Scheduled Tribes) are appointed to vacant posts when available. When such candidates with the requisite qualifications are not available, the posts are generally filled by deputation from the mainland, so that the deputationists can be reverted as and when suitable qualified local candidates become available.

2.7. In another note, it has been stated that there is no bar in the recruitment of Scheduled Tribe candidates against the unreserved vacancies. In any case, since 93 per cent of the population forms Scheduled Tribes and outsiders are not allowed entry in the Islands, the quantum of reservation may not make any difference.

2.8. The Committee have been informed, during evidence, that all the Government of India orders in regard to carry-forward of vacancies, dereservation of posts, separate interviews for Scheduled Tribes, reservations in promotions, *ad hoc* recruitment, maintenance of rosters etc. are being observed by the Administrator in regard to Scheduled Tribe employees.

2.9. The Committee enquired about the total strength of Class I, Class II, Class III and Class IV Officers in the various Departments of the Administration and the number of tribals and non-tribals in each category of posts. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that there is no Tribal in Class I posts. In Class II posts, out of 42 Officers, nine are Scheduled Tribes. In Class III posts, out of 854 Officers, 313 are Scheduled Tribes and in Class IV posts, out of 496 Officers, 346 are Scheduled Tribes. Asked to state the reasons for the insufficient representation of the Scheduled Tribes in the services, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has replied that it is partly due to non-availability of Tribal candidates and partly due to the reason that those posts are filled up by the Ministries concerned through the Union Public Service Commission.

2.10. The Committee asked whether local people were available for Class III posts, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands has replied:—

“They are coming up now. We have to maintain certain strength of technical posts. We have stopped any open recruitment from outside. We have decided to take only the people from the Islands for filling up the posts and if at all they are not available, we take deputationists and return them as and when we get the local people.”

2.11. In reply to a question the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that there are 12 Class II officers on deputation. In reply to another question he has said that there is no reservation in posts filled by deputation. The Committee pointed out that the Administration should take necessary steps to see that persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were included among the deputationists. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated:

“We are finding it difficult to find persons who are willing to go to the Islands on deputation. We requested the State Governments to form a panel of persons who are willing to go to these Islands on deputation but we are finding

it difficult to get persons. That is the reason why the progress in these Islands is very slow. Technical posts are there but we are not getting persons."

2.12. In reply to a question, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that three post-graduates, seven graduates and 57 matriculates in the Islands are still to be employed.

2.13. With regard to the steps being taken to improve the representation of Scheduled Tribes in the Services, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated in a note furnished to the Committee that appointments in Class IV posts in all Departments (except the Police Department) are made from among Scheduled Tribe candidates only. In the case of the Police Department, 50 per cent of the posts of constables are filled by appointment of Scheduled Tribes. In the case of Class III posts also, appointments are made from among Scheduled Tribes candidates to the extent that such candidates with the requisite qualifications are available.

2.14. In a written note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have detailed the following steps taken by them to remove the difficulties of students in securing employment:

"The educated Islanders face a number of difficulties in securing employment outside the Islands. Firstly, the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations do not give any special consideration to candidates from the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands in the matter of employment probably on account of their own unemployment problems; Secondly, the candidates of these Islands do not get intimation about vacancy position, calls for interviews etc. in time on account of lack of adequate surface communication facilities between the mainland and the Islands and thirdly, the candidates belonging to these Islands are unable to submit their applications in time with photographs, where such a condition is prescribed, due to lack of Photo-studios in the Islands.

The concerned authorities have been approached for absorbing as many candidates as possible from the Islands in the Central Reserve Police Force, Boarder Security Force and in the Armed Forces of the country especially in Navy. The Ministry of Railways and the Director General,

Posts and Telegraphs have also been requested for extending time limit for the submission of applications, appearing for tests and interviews, etc., in the case of candidates belonging to the Islands. The Administration has also written to the concerned departments to exempt candidates of these Islands from attaching their photographs at the time of submitting the applications. Steps have also been taken by the Administration to inform candidates telegraphically as soon as vacancies are notified to the Employment Exchange in the Islands. Besides, the Administration has included in their Fifth Five Year Plan suitable schemes for providing employment opportunities to the local candidates."

2.15. The Committee regret to find that the representation of the Scheduled Tribes in the services in the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands is much below the proportion of their population in the Islands and a number of educated tribals, e.g., three Post-graduates, seven graduates and fifty-seven matriculates are still unemployed. The Committee urge that these unemployed persons should be provided employment without any further delay.

2.16. The Committee desire that the Administration, while requesting the Government of India/State Governments to send their officials on deputation to the Islands, should specifically mention that, as far as possible, Scheduled Caste/Tribe officials with the requisite qualifications be sent on deputation.

C. Advisory Committee and Advisory Council

2.17. The Committee have been informed that there is a Home Minister's Advisory Committee and an Administrator's Advisory Council to advise the Administration. Regarding the constitution and functions of these bodies, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated:—

"The Advisory Committee associated with the Home Minister has six members, including the Member of Parliament from the Islands, besides the Administrator. The Advisory Council associated with the Administrator has thirteen members, including the Member of Parliament. The members are nominated by the President to the Committee/Council year by year on the recommendation of the Administrator. The members recommended and nominated are generally elected Presidents/Directors of

local Cooperative Societies, eminent and knowledgeable people, representative of women, etc. The Committee meets twice in a year.

The functions of these bodies are generally advisory. The Advisory Committee shall have to be consulted in regard to (i) general questions of policy relating to the administration of the Union Territory in the State field; (ii) all legislative proposals concerning the territory in regard to matters in the State list ; (iii) such matters relating to the annual financial statement of the Union in so far as it concerns the territory and such other financial questions as may be referred to it by the President and (iv) any other matter which may be considered necessary or desirable by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

As regards the Advisory Council, the Administrator is to seek the advice of the Council on (a) matters of administration involving general policy, schemes of development of agriculture, trade and industry, improvement of sanitation, communications, education, health and any other matter intended for the betterment of the conditions of population and to make the Islands self-supporting; (b) general questions touching the implementation of general policy and schemes of development and (c) any other matter which the Administrator or the Government may refer to the Council."

2.18. The Committee recommend that the Advisory Committee and Advisory Council should meet more frequently so that the representative of the people are associated more and more with the planning and development work of the Administration and the implementation of the welfare schemes for the people. The Committee also suggest that instead of the members of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee and the Administrator's Advisory Council being nominated by the Government, the feasibility of introducing a system of election to these bodies from select electoral colleges may be examined.

D. Police and Law and Order

2.19. The Committee have been informed that the Islands had no police force prior to 1958. In 1958, one Police Station was opened in Minicoy followed by three more Police Stations, one each in Kavaratti, Amini and Androth Islands. The posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police and Circle Inspector of Police were sanc-

1390 LS—2.

tioned in 1964. The present strength of the Police in the Islands consists of one Deputy Superintendent of Police, one Circle Inspector of Police, ten Sub-Inspectors, 36 Head Constables, and 168 constables which include 69 local recruits.

2.20. The Committee desired to know whether any cases were detected in the Islands during the last three years of persons entering the Islands surreptitiously without valid permits issued by the competent authorities and, if so, how many persons were prosecuted. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has replied that there was no such case. In reply to a question, it has been stated that there are nine Registration Officers, one in each of the inhabited Islands except Bitra, where the Registration Officer of Chetlat holds charge. The Registration Officers are the Sub-Inspectors of Police in the Islands concerned. In reply to another question, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that according to rules, any citizen of India could take permit from the concerned authority and settle down in the Islands. He has added that there are no cases in recent times asking for permission to settle down in the Islands.

2.21. The Committee asked about the present state of law and order in the Islands. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the law and order position in the Islands is good. No increase in crime has been noticed since the opening of the first Police Station at Minicoy. After the establishment of regular Police Stations in all the Island in 1968, crime has declined. The number of cases reported in 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972 were 53, 40, 81, 28 and 22 respectively. He has added that there has been a fall in the number of cases. Of the property offences reported, the majority of them related to theft of coconuts only. There are no major crimes at all. Mobility of the police from one Island to the other Island is ensured by means of the ships at the disposal of the Administration. There are also two pabo boats at the disposal of the Police which are used for patrols in the uninhabited northern Islands during the fair seasons. On being asked whether all the Islands were covered by wireless facilities, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that all the Islands, except the tiny Island Bitra with a population of 112 persons, are covered by wireless stations. Proposals have been submitted to establish a wireless station in Bitra Island as well. Asked whether the police officials were from the mainland or belonged to the Islands, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that they are from both sides. 45 per cent of the posts are reserved for Islanders, 5 per cent of the posts

are reserved for ex-servicemen and 50 per cent taken from mainland. In reply to a question, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that Amin is an executive at the village level. He is consulted and associated with the development programmes. He is a convener of the citizen's councils. He has certain other powers also.

2.22. The Committee are happy to note that the law and order situation in these Islands is satisfactory and that the incidence of crime is gradually on the decline.

2.23. The Committee would like more and more local people employed in the Police force of the Islands so that ultimately the proportion of their population is reflected in the Police services. The Committee hope that a Wireless Station at the Bitra Island would be set up without delay.

CHAPTER III

FIVE YEAR PLANS

A. Formulation of Plans

Salient Features of the Fifth Five Year Plan

The Ministry of Home Affairs have informed the Committee that apart from raising the standard of living of the people, the basic objectives of the Fifth Five Year Plan are:

- (1) improvement of agriculture and animal husbandry, viz. intensive intercropping, fodder cultivation, opening of more dairy and poultry units, distribution of cattle on subsidy basis;
- (2) improvement of surface communication between Islands and mainland;
- (3) provision of harbour facilities so as to develop the Islands into key fishing centres in the Arabian sea;
- (4) introduction of industrial ventures in conjunction with entrepreneurs from the mainland;
- (5) exploitation of natural resources of the sea;
- (6) encouragement of cooperative way of life; and
- (7) removal of the feeling of isolation from the minds of people.

The Planning Commission have given a general indication that the ceiling for the Fifth Five Year Plan is likely to be limited to twice the outlay of the Fourth Five Year Plan. This would mean an allotment of about Rs. 4 crores for this Union Territory. The provision for Harbour Development and Tourism would be additional.

3.2. The Committee desired to know the methodology for the formulation of Plan schemes for the amelioration of the conditions of Scheduled Tribes in the Islands. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

“The plan schemes for the amelioration of the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being formulated both as part of the sectoral programmes of develop-

ment as in the field of agriculture, village and small industries, social services as part of programmes for the welfare of backward classes. The plan schemes for backward classes are taken up at the Central and State Government levels. As far as the Planning process is concerned, I would just refer to the process obtaining in the country which is also operative there. The first stage of the formulation of the national plan devotes to the collection and analysis of basic data, review of existing programmes, and to work out the priorities. The second stage spells out objectives and strategy. But all these relate to formulation of national plan."

3.3. In reply to a question, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that voluntary organisations and non-official organisations have been participating in planning and in implementation of the Plan.

3.4. Asked to state the guide-lines that have been laid down by the Planning Commission/Ministry of Home Affairs for the formulation of schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in the Islands in the Fifth Five Year Plan, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the plan document 'Approach to the Fifth Five Year Plan' provides the general guide-lines for the formulation of the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Ministry of Home Affairs have issued instructions to ensure that the benefits under the Plan schemes should flow to the Scheduled Tribes in adequate manner. He has added that the recommendations of the Working Group set up by the Planning Commission are under consideration of the Planning Commission.

3.5. The Committee pointed out that in the All-India Report of the Study Team on Tribal Development Programmes, it had been stated that "while it cannot be denied that much work has been done and considerable sums of money have been spent in the field of tribal welfare during the three Plan periods, it is difficult to assess with any degree of accuracy what success has been achieved in the implementation of measures formulated for the social and economic advancement of the tribals." The Committee enquired whether Government proposed to conduct an economic survey before fixation of priorities and implementation of development programmes in respect of Scheduled Tribes in the Islands. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

"Although a precise assessment may be difficult but the impact is being felt and the implementation of the schemes

formulated for the social and economic advancement of the tribals can be measured physically in the sense that the number of students in schools, for example, has gone up from 1520 in 1956 to 7200. The percentage of literacy has increased from 23.27 in 1961 census to 43.66 in 1971 census. Fisheries development has gone up and the annual turnover is to the extent of about Rs. 10 lakhs now. Diseases such as leprosy, filaria, etc. prevalent in the Islands have been brought down. The cooperative societies in the Islands have progressed fast handling transactions worth about Rs. 1.14 crores. Communication facilities have been improved by the introduction of an all-weather ship, wireless facilities and tele-communication link. Progress achieved can thus be termed as substantial.

With regard to the proposal for an economic survey, we concede that it would be useful to have an economic survey conducted, but it need not necessarily precede the fixation of priorities, otherwise the work relating to the Plan would be retarded."

3.6. In reply to a question, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:

"We do propose to consider that a techno-economic survey be conducted. As we move on, in the light of the developments that have taken place and in the light of the findings of the survey team, changes can be made, as on the mainland, in the priorities. The operative plan is the annual plan, and within the Fifth Plan there is enough room for adjustments as we proceed."

3.7. The Committee enquired whether there was a periodical survey, after every five years, by the Administration, so as to make available the results achieved in each plan which might serve as a guideline for the next five years. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:

"It is conducted by the Administration, but a full-blooded techno-economic survey would be a different proposition."

3.8. The Committee desire that in order to assess the benefits derived out of the various schemes launched during the earlier Plan periods and to find out how far the development programmes undertaken hitherto have helped the social and economic advancement of the tribals, the Administration should conduct a techno-economic survey immediately. Such a survey would indicate the results achieved in the past and would also help the authorities in formulating their future programmes and fixing priorities to the best advantage of the tribals.

B. Plan Provisions and Expenditure

3.9. The Committee have been informed that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands could not derive the benefits under the First Five Year Plan of the country. Attempt was made in the middle of the Second Five Year Plan to implement an integrated short plan in the Islands with an outlay of Rs. 73.85 lakhs. The actual expenditure, however, came to Rs. 40.29 lakhs only. Surface communication and the absence of qualified technical hands were the factors responsible for this shortfall. During the Third Five Year Plan, activities under Fisheries and General Education were stopped and an expenditure of Rs. 108.5 lakhs was incurred against an outlay of Rs. 98.38 lakhs.

3.10. The Fourth Five Year Plan outlay was to the tune of Rs. 200.00 lakhs. Major schemes such as Harbour Works and Navigation facilities, etc. with an allotment of 100 lakhs was planned separately. Transport facilities had, however, been brought under non-plan schemes.

3.11. The following statement shows the approved outlay and expenditure during the Second and Third Five Year Plans and Annual Plans for 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69 and approved outlay for the Fourth Five Year Plan:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Head of Development	II Five Year Plan allocation	II Five Year Plan actual expenditure	III Five Year Plan allocation	III Five Year Plan actual expenditure	1966-67 allocation	1966-67 actual expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Agriculture	2.2800	1.6538	2.4500	3.0530	1.1400	0.5884
2	Animal Husbandry	0.3100	0.3354	2.5000	2.3935	0.7600	0.2684
3	Fisheries	14.1000	5.0443	18.0000	28.1311	15.0100	10.9762
4	Cooperation	2.5000	0.0354	8.0000	9.4564	2.4300	2.3550
5	Community Development	0.5000	0.0554	—	—	—	—
6	Power	1.0000	0.1947	5.5570	7.1514	4.3000	1.2440
7	Industries	4.1100	2.1035	6.0200	3.6110	0.7700	0.1150
8	Metric System	—	—	1.20000	0.6729	0.1000	0.1010
9	Education	12.4000	11.9803	18.8300	35.8945	8.6100	5.0148
10	Transport and Communication	19.7500	7.1462	17.5000	7.2783	25.6700	22.7693
11	Health	15.4000	9.0042	10.3600	7.8450	2.3000	0.8692
12	Village Housing Scheme (Loan)	—	—	2.0000	0.6456	0.0500	0.0340
13	Welfare Backward Classes (Housing scheme Subsidy)	—	—	5.0000	0.9749	0.5000	0.2223
14	Information and Publicity	0.9200	0.1920	0.8400	1.3376	—	—
15	Miscellaneous	105.800	2.5440	0.1200	0.0674	0.2100	0.0060
Total		73.8500	40.2892	98.3770	108.5130	61.7600	44.5636

1967-68 Allocation	1967-68 Actual Expenditure	1968-69 Allocation	1968-69 Actual Expenditure	Fourth Five Year Plan allocations
9	10	11	12	13
3.1220	0.9516	4.0000	1.8691	15.0000
1.0328	0.4615	0.8600	0.5976	5.0000
9.2900	6.5954	15.000	4.8086	72.1000
2.4045	2.0963	3.3600	1.2834	15.0000
—	—	—	—	9.0000
2.7200	2.7137	4.2500	2.9598	18.1100
0.5420	0.6445	0.6300	0.1240	4.0000
0.1560	0.1616	0.1500	0.0303	—
15.4760	6.4274	4.7100	0.9144	10.0000
3.4090	0.6764	1.8700	0.5616	12.0000
11.0905	7.9786	9.2900	8.7105	36.2900
0.0500	0.0133	0.0500	—	0.2500
0.2000	0.0864	0.1300	0.0534	1.2500
—	—	—	—	—
0.0912	0.0125	0.2600	0.0139	2.0000
49.5840	28.8193	44.5600	21.9266	200.0000

3.12. The statement below shows the actual expenditure incurred during 1969-70, 1970-71 and 1971-72, the anticipated expenditure for the year 1972-73 and outlay proposed in Annual Plan 1973-74:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Major Heads	Actual Expenditure			Anticipated expenditure 1972-73	Outlay proposed in Annual Plan 1973-74
		1969-70	1970-71	1971-72		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Agriculture	3·3058	2·9280	2·9083	3·2500	4·2800
2	Animal Husbandry	0·1688	0·6376	0·6051	0·9200	1·9550
3	Fisheries	10·3618	11·7815	11·1575	12·7600	18·0000
4	Cooperation	4·0539	4·1532	3·5478	3·1700	3·7422
5	Community Development	..	0·0598	0·9532	2·4650	3·5000
6	Power	1·0639	2·7491	3·7088	5·9152	1·5451
7	Industries	0·1868	0·3631	0·5439	2·2800	1·6800
8	Education	4·0497	5·2072	6·5910	6·6130	17·1070
9	Transport and Communications	2·3882	8·2976	0·2158	1·0000	1·5000
10	Health	0·2701	0·5419	1·4670	2·1000	3·5950
11	Village Housing				0·0700	0·1000
12	Welfare of Backward Classes	0·1293	0·1940	0·1762	0·2000	0·2500
13	Miscellaneous	0·0137	0·1338	2·3742	3·3450	2·6470
TOTAL;		25·9920	37·0468	34·1568	54·0882	60·3013

3.13. The Committee asked the reasons for the huge shortfalls in expenditure under the heads Agriculture, Fisheries, Cooperation, Industries, Education, Transport and Communications and Health during the Second Five Year Plan. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

“The Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands was constituted in November 1956, before which

these Islands formed a part of the composite Madras State. No schemes in the First Five Year Plan were implemented in this Union Territory. Though the Second Five Year Plan started from the year 1956-57 there was no integrated plan for implementation in these Islands. The Administrator of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands took charge late in November, 1956. There was no ship available for the mainland service at that time. Therefore, a vessel had to be chartered to visit all the Islands to ascertain the felt needs of the people and programme integrated schemes for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan for the development of these Islands. The Administrator could visit these Islands in the chartered vessel only during March, 1957. Of course, the Second Five Year Plan was drawn up in consultation with the concerned Development Officers in the Kerala State. The proposals were finally approved by the Planning Commission and they could be implemented only from the year 1958 onwards. Therefore, about half of the Second Five Year Plan was over when the scheme could be started in these Islands. Besides, the Administration had no technical officer at that time and the planning machinery then was ill-equipped and inadequate."

3.14. The reasons for the shortfalls under each of the heads of development are stated to be as follows:

"Agriculture

Shortfall was due to non completion of building works. PWD Division was constituted only at the end of the Plan period. Further, all the materials and skilled labourers for the building work had to be brought from the mainland and it was not easy to do this in view of the difficult conditions existing in the Islands at that time and lack of transport facilities.

Fisheries

In this case the shortfall occurred because of the fact that all the proposed mechanised boats could not be procured through the Directorate General of Supply and Disposal, complying with the formalities thereof. Also, there was short-fall due to non-completion of building works.

Cooperation

The short-fall was due to non-implementation of the schemes as the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands Cooperative Societies Regulation could be promulgated only in 1960 and rules framed and issued only in 1961. Thus the proposed co-operative societies could not be formed and the working capital loans, share capital loans, subsidy for buildings, etc. proposed under the Second Five Year Plan could not be utilised.

Industries

-The short-fall was due to non-implementation of cooperative schemes under which industrial units were to be started.

Education

The shortfall was due to non-completion of building works of schools.

Transport and Communication

- (a) *Steamer Service*—The shortfall was due to the fact that only small vessels could be chartered during the period from 1958-59 to 1960-61. Therefore, the expenditure proposed did not come upto the level anticipated. Bigger vessels with more accommodation could be chartered only subsequently.
- (b) *Inter-Island Service*—It was proposed to purchase two launches for inter-island traffic during the Second Five Year Plan period. But only one small launch was available for purchase. The second bigger launch was available only much later.
- (c) *Development of Ports and navigational aids*—The amount could not be spent due to non-implementation of the schemes for blasting of rocks at the entrance of lagoons and channels, construction of jetties, etc. The Ministry of Transport deputed an officer on special duty to inspect the sites, in 1960-61 but no work could be taken up before the end of the Second Five Year Plan for want of technical officers and machinery.
- (vii) *Medical and Public Health*—Short fall was due to non-completion of building works of the hospital and primary health centres."

3.15. In a note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have explained the following reasons for the huge differences in outlay and expenditure during the Third Five Year Plan on the heads, Agriculture, Fisheries, Cooperation, Power, Education, Industries, Transport and Communications, Health and Village Housing Schemes (Loans):

Agriculture: As against the target of growing 30,000 quality coconut seedlings, 49,000 seedlings were supplied during the Third Plan period. Further as about 30 per cent of coconuts were destroyed by pests about 1.10 M. Tons of pesticides and insecticides were distributed free of cost. As most of the trees suffered from malnutrition, 114 M. Tons of fertilisers as against the target of 100 M. Tons were also supplied at subsidised rates. On account of these unforeseen circumstances, the expenditure exceeded the allocation.

Fisheries: Originally, 12 boats were procured during the Third Plan period for increasing the number of mechanised boats. Considering the importance of fishery for the Islanders 19 more mechanised fishing boats were purchased under the Special Development Programme. Requirements for fisheries such as nylon yarn, nets, hooks, etc. were also supplied at subsidised rates. Also, in order to meet the growing demand for the mechanised boats and to accelerate the pace of mechanising, a boat building yard was started at Kavaratti in 1964. Further, Beacon lights were erected at Agatti and Kavaratti for the guidance of fishermen. The expenditure on all these items exceeded the plan allocation.

Cooperations: The expenditure exceeded the allocation by about 1.46 lakhs. Since all the rationed articles of consumer goods are sold through established cooperative societies the expenditure was considered essential.

Power: Kavaratti, Amini and Androth were electrified during the plan period. The expenditure exceeded the allocation due mainly to increased cost of electrification.

Education: The number of schools increased from 16 to 35 at the end of the Third Plan. Also students studying in professional and other colleges increased from 15 at the end of Second Plan to 42 at the end of the Third Plan. In addition, 30 students were under training in various technical courses as against one at the end of the Second Plan. The expenditure on scholarships also increased due

to increase in enrolment. Further, during the first two years of the Third Plan the expenditure which should normally have been booked under the committed budget, was charged to the plan budget. All these factors contributed to the excess expenditure over allocation.

Industries: Schemes under Coir and Carpet making, gur and vinegar making oil pressing by Wardha Ghanis and soap making originally included in the Third Five Year Plan were subsequently dropped/discontinued as they were not properly implemented. This has resulted in shortfall in expenditure.

Transport and Communications: The construction of cargo-cum-passenger vessel (*M. V. Laccadives*) and motor launch (*M.L. Bitra*) could not be completed by the end of the Third Plan as targetted. This has resulted in shortfall in expenditure.

Health: Reasons for shortfall are:—

- (a) The posts of Senior Medical Officer and Medical Officer (*Filaria*) could not be filled up as qualified hands from the Central Health Services did not join duty here.
- (b) Under Family Planning Programmes, only propaganda work could be carried out.
- (c) The posts of Nurses in the Primary Health Centres/Hospitals could not be filled up as timely sanction was not received from the Ministry.
- (d) Construction work of buildings could not be completed due to shortage of cement and also labourers who had to be imported from mainland.

Village Housing Scheme (Loans): The reason for shortfall was mainly due to lack of applications for loan."

3.16. With regard to the insignificant expenditure incurred on Transport and Communications during 1971-72, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated in a note as follows:—

The sum of Rs. 21,580 shown as expenditure under Transport and Communications' during 1971-72 relates only to expenditure incurred under 'Plan' for employment of Assistant Engineer (Shipping), and his staff. The major expenditure under Steamer Service came under 'Non-

Plan' which amounted to Rs. 37,73,098 plus Rs. 3,78,089 for boats service in 1971-72. The sum of Rs. 2.3882 lakhs and Rs. 8.2976 lakhs shown as expenditure in the previous years, i.e. in 1969-70 and 1970-71 under Plan in the same statement was due to payment of the balance amount of cost to the builders of M.V. Laccadives in those years."

3.17. The Committee pointed out that there had been continuous shortfalls in expenditure on Transport and Communications during the Second, Third and Fourth Five Year Plans and enquired the reasons therefor. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated:

"The expenditure under non-plan is heavy. We had kept provision for the cost of ships. In fact, the ship was delivered late and the instalments were paid late. Therefore, *prima facie* a shortfall occurred."

3.18. In a note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated:

"A major chunk of the provision made under the head Transport and Communication in the Third Five Year Plan was made for acquiring cargo-cum-passenger vessels. As these could not be made available till the end of the Third Plan Period, the provision made for the purpose could not be utilised and hence the shortfall."

3.19. The Committee enquired about the time taken between placing the order and getting the delivery of ships. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that a period of three years was taken in the case of one ship and ten years in respect of another ship. In reply to a question, it has been stated that order for the delivery of one ship was placed on Mazagon Docks and that of the other on an organisation at Calcutta.

3.20. The Committee desired to know the Plan schemes of the Fourth Five Year Plan period which were likely to be spilled over to the Fifth Five Year Plan period and the reasons why such schemes could not be completed during the Fourth Five Year Plan period itself. In a note submitted to the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated:

"Strengthening of the Hospital at Kavaratti, establishment of a Canning Factory and Cold Storage at Agatti, the electrification of Bitra Island and the construction of a school building at Kavaratti are the schemes likely to be spilled over to the Fifth Plan. Expenditure incurred on

these schemes are given below:

	Expenditure during Fourth Plan period (subject to recon- ciliation with Audit)
(i) Strengthening of Hospital at Kavaratti	Rs. 3·769 lakhs
(ii) Establishment of Canning Factory and Cold Storage at Agatti	Rs. Nil
(iii) Electrification of Bitra Island	Rs. Nil
(iv) Construction of school building at Kavaratti	Rs. 9·346

During the Fourth Plan period, strengthening of the Kavaratti Hospital with radiological and pathological laboratory facilities was sanctioned with a total outlay of Rs. 5.410 lakhs. The building programme envisages a casualty block, and operation theatre, an out patients' department, a kitchen block and a ward with 30 beds. The casualty block has been completed and commissioned last year. The ward of 30 beds is expected to be completed before the end of the Fourth Plan period. X-Ray Plant has been purchased and installed. X-Ray accessories and Pathological Laboratory equipments are being purchased. Radiographer is in position. Laboratory Technician and Laboratory Attendant's posts are being filled up. The post of Pathologist and Anaesthetist are not being filled in view of the stringent financial position. Thus, the spill over for the Fifth Plan will be as follows:

- (1) Construction of operation theatre, out patient department and kitchen blocks.
- (2) Posts of Pathologist and Anaesthetist to be filled up.

The Spill over in the Fifth Plan in respect of the Kavaratti Hospital will be Rs. 1,641 lakhs. The main reason for the shortfall is non-completion of the buildings for the hospital complex due to shortage of materials, especially cement, and non-availability of labourers who have to be brought from the mainland.

As regards the establishment of the Canning Factory and Cold Storage at Agatti, a provision of Rs. 4.00 lakhs re-

presenting a portion of the anticipated cost of the plant is included in the budget for 1973-74. The work is yet to be started and no expenditure has been incurred so far. The project will be completed only during the Fifth Five Year Plan. A sum of Rs. 9.00 lakhs will be required to complete this work during the Fifth Plan period. The shortage of material and labour which are all to be brought from the main land has been the reasons for the slow progress.

For the electrification of Bitra Island, a provision of Rs. 1.03 lakhs exist in the Fourth Plan. No expenditure has so far been incurred on this project during the Fourth Plan. Lack of demand for house connection has been the reason for not completing the electrification of Bitra Island. Since more development programmes have been proposed during the Fifth Five Year Plan, including establishment of Wireless Station and Fisheries development schemes, the Electrification of Bitra has been carried forward to Fifth Plan for which a provision of Rs. 1.03 lakhs is being made.

As regards the construction of school building at Kavaratti a provision of Rs. 11.50 lakhs is included in the Fourth Five Year Plan. So far an expenditure of Rs. 9.346 lakhs has been incurred on the construction of two blocks of school building, an auditorium and portion of hostel building. Work on the completion of the school building is expected to be completed by the end of the current year of the Fourth Plan. The completion of the Hostel building cannot be achieved during the remaining period of the Fourth Plan period on account of shortage of skilled workers in the Islands and difficulty of transporting material from the main land to Islands. Thus the spill over for the Fifth Plan will be the completion of hostel building for which a provision of Rs. 1.00 lakh is being made in the Fifth Five Year Plan."

3.21. The Committee enquired about the *per capita* expenditure incurred on the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in the Islands in each Plan. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that in the Second Five Year Plan the *per capita* expenditure was Rs. 168/- per annum. In the Third Five Year Plan, it was Rs. 450/- and in the Fourth Five Year Plan, the *per capita* outlay is of Rs. 629/-. In a note furnished to the Committee by the Ministry of Home Affairs, it has stated that during 1972-73, the *per capita*

expenditure incurred by the Administration in the implementation of Plan schemes is Rs. 203 and non-Plan schemes is Rs. 753.

3.22. The Committee are distressed to note that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands could not derive any benefits under the First Five Year Plan. It was only in the middle of the Second Five Year Plan, that an attempt was made to implement an integrated short plan in the Island with an outlay of Rs. 73.85 lakhs. They are unhappy to note that against this outlay, the actual expenditure incurred was to the tune of Rs. 40.29 lakhs only and that there has been continuous heavy shortfalls during 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69. It has been stated by the Administrator that shortfalls during the Second Five Year Plan are due to the fact that no technical officer was available and the planning machinery was ill-equipped and inadequate. The Committee are constrained to note that shortfalls continued even during the years 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69. The Committee need hardly emphasise that serious and sincere efforts are required on the part of the Administration to see that such shortfalls do not occur in future.

3.23. Apart from efforts to achieve the financial targets of expenditure, the Committee would suggest that physical targets should also be laid down in the Annual as well as Five Year Plans and their evaluation made in terms of physical targets achieved.

3.24. During the course of the visit of a Study Group of the Committee to the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands during October, 1972, various organisations, non-officials and elected representatives of the people urged that there should be increased allocations for the development of the islands under the Fifth Five Year Plan on account of the fact that the people were deprived of the benefits under the First Five Year Plan and even the Second Five Year Plan was half way through before any machinery could be set up for the proper implementation of the Plan schemes. Keeping in view the isolated and scattered nature of the Islands and the fact that the Islanders have to depend upon the mainland for their essential needs, the Committee feel that there is a case for making increased allocations to the Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands during the Fifth Five Year Plan. Increased provisions are necessary, especially in such spheres as development for transport and communications, setting up of agro-based cottage industries, and provision of drinking water facilities to the Islands.

CHAPTER IV

EVALUATION

A. Education

The Committee have been informed that every child who attains the age of five is enrolled in a school without any restriction. Education is free upto higher Secondary level in the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands. No fee is realised from students. Text books, notebooks and other writing materials are issued free to all children attending schools. Scholarships are granted to all students studying in standard VIII to XI, at the following rates:—

(a) Rs. 15/- for students studying in their native Islands.

(b) Rs. 30/- for students studying in Islands other than their native Islands.

4.2. Educational facilities upto Middle stage (Standard (VII) are available in all the Islands except Bitra. Bitra Island has a population of only 112, and educational facilities upto Standard II are available there. Students from Bitra Island are paid scholarships at the rate of Rs. 35/- per month for continuing their studies from Standard III on wards in other Islands. Free mid-day meals are given to all students upto Standard VIII. Two sets of uniforms are supplied to all students every year.

4.3. Percentage of literacy among the general population and the Scheduled Tribes, according to 1961-1971 censuses is furnished below:—

	1961 Census		1971 Census	
	General	Scheduled Tribes	General	Scheduled Tribes
Total percentage	23.27	22.27	43.66	41
Males	35.00	34.40	56.49	54
Females	10.98	10.61	30.56	29

4.4. Thirty-eight schools are functioning in this territory, as listed below:—

Higher Secondary School	1
High School	4
Senior Basic Schools	8
Junior Basic Schools	12
Feeder Schools	6
Nursery Schools	6
Single Teacher School	1

4.5. Since all the local inhabitants of this territory are Scheduled Tribes, these educational institutions are primarily meant for them and hence the question of separate reservation for them does not arise. During 1970-71, 7,121 students were enrolled in the various schools. Thus about 23 per cent of the population of this territory is in schools.

4.6. A scheme worth Rs. 13.39 lakhs was sanctioned by the Government of India for introduction of Fisheries Technology in all the High Schools in the Union Territory from Standards VIII to X. Main features of the course are training in sea-fishing, navigation and seamanship, maintenance and repairs of boats and marine engines, fish processing marketing and co-operation. Students will be given practical training and two mechanised boats will be kept at the disposal of each school. During the period of practical training students will be given allowance of Rs. 2/- per day plus a share of the catch.

4.7. Students from laccadives under going training in various technical courses on mainland institutions are paid scholarships and lumpsum grants at the rates prescribed by the Government of India. Those who are residing in the hostels attached to such institutions are paid the actual hostel expenses for boarding and lodging. They are also paid third class train fare and ship fare for their journeys to their native Islands and back during vacation period. When the hostels are closed for Ramzan, Christmas, etc. they are paid daily allowance at Rs. 3/- per day. They are also paid maintenance charges at Rs. 2/- per day when they are waiting for conveyance to the native Islands or for admission to a College. This payment is restricted to 15 days at a time.

4.8. There are five hostels at present, three for boys and two for girls. The hostels are attached to the College at Kavaratti, Higher

Secondary School at Kavaratti and the High Schools at Amini and Kalpeni. The number of boarders in each hostel is furnished below:

(i) Hostel at Amini	91 (Boys)
(ii) Hostel at Kalpeni	44 (Girls)
(iii) Hostel at Kavaratti	65 (Boys)
(iv) Hostel at Kavaratti	9 (Girls)
(v) College Hostel Kavaratti	45 (Boys)
	8 (Girls accommodated in Girls Hostel—No. iv).

Free boarding and lodging facilities are provided to the students residing in these hostels.

4.9. The following statement gives the percentage of literate and educated persons to total persons, males and females in each of the Islands:—

Union Territory	Percentage of literate and educated		
	Total	Males	Females
L.M. & A. Islands	43·66	56·48	30·56
1. Minicoy	51·03	60·34	43·25
2. Kalpeni	47·56	58·23	37·08
3. Androth	34·88	52·02	18·28
4. Agatti	43·17	55·86	29·18
5. Kavaratti	44·37	60·40	24·57
6. Amini	40·69	55·84	23·25
7. Kadmat	48·80	57·30	40·52
8. Kiltan	41·84	50·67	32·49
9. Chetlat	43·17	53·39	33·28
10. Bitra	42·86	51·79	33·93

4.10. The Committee pointed out that it has been represented to the Study Group of the Committee which visited Kadmat Island that the amount of scholarship given to the Island students studying in degree classes was insufficient in view of the rising cost of living. It was also represented that students who fail not more than three times in the S.S.L.C. should be continued to be given scholarships and other facilities. The Committee desired to know the reaction of the Government to these suggestions. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:

“Compared to the rates in Kerala, the rates of scholarships in the Islands are either equal or more. As regards lump-sum grants, the Kerala rates are higher. The Ministry of Education has already been moved for increasing the rates of the lump-sum grants. As regards granting scholarships to those students who fail once, it may be stated that since such students do not undergo regular courses by attending classes, they are not on the rolls of the schools. Therefore, it may not be feasible to provide monthly scholarships to such students. Such students appear in the examination privately, and not as regular students.”

4.11. The Committee enquired whether any decision had been taken on the proposal that the rate of scholarship for the scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students in the post-matric stage should be increased suitably. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that is being actively considered. The only difficulty experienced is the constraint of resources.

4.12. The Committee would like the Administration to conduct a survey in the Islands to find out whether all children in the age group of 5 to 14 are going to schools. If the survey shows that it is not so, concerted efforts should be made to ensure that they do so.

4.13. The Committee suggest that Ashram type schools, which are residential type of schools and where education is imparted up to primary and middle school levels, should be set up for the Scheduled Tribe children.

4.14. The Committee also desire that, as far as possible, local tribals should be appointed teachers in the schools as they are in a better position to read the mind on the tribal children.

4.15. The Committee recommend that in view of the rise in the cost of living, there should be substantial increase in the quantum

of the scholarship amounts given to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

B. Land

4.16. The Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished a note to the Committee stating that the total survey area of this small Union Territory is 2855 Hectares and 298 Acres only. The *Tarwad* properties (joint holdings of each family) get divided among the members of family. Naturally, the holdings are small in almost all cases which even run below one acre. The Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Land Revenue and Tenancy) Regulation 1965 and the Rules made thereunder (L.M. & A. Islands land Revenue and Tenancy Rules 1968) give security of tenure to all the inhabitants. About 2784 families have been benefited by the Land Reform. Right of every landholder including occupants, tenants and Kudiyans over the land and homesteads are well protected from any kind of eviction or restoration by Jenmis, as per the Regulation, the details of which are furnished below:

Conferment of occupancy rights

4.17. The Regulation provides to confer occupancy rights on cowledars, persons in occupation of 'Pandaram lands' (government lands) or any allottee of the Pandara lands). The occupancy rights are permanent, heritable and transferable. Besides, the occupant is entitled to make improvements by way of construction of buildings, wells, tanks, etc. for better cultivation of land or its convenient and profitable use. He is also entitled to plant trees and enjoy their produce.

Rights of Tenants:

4.18. The 'Nadappu Tenancy' which was peculiar in the Islands of Agatti, Amini, Androth and Kavaratti, defined as a tenancy under which a tenant is required to render following customary services, was abolished with effect from 1-11-1968:—

- (i) to work as a member of the crew of the Jenmis' or Cowledars' sailing boat;
- (ii) to thatch the boat-shed of the Jenmi or Cowledars;
- (iii) to repair and maintain Jenmis' or Cowledars sailing boat; and
- (iv) to carry out seasonal repairs of the house of the Jenmi or Cowledar, or to render services in their houses on occasions of birth, marriage or death.

4.19. On abolition, three fourths of the land held by the Nadappu tenant with trees vests on him and the remaining one fourth of the land with trees thereon reverts to the Jenmi or the Cowledar. By this the obligations of the Nadappu tenant to Jenmi stands extinguished. Thus the settlement effected by mutual agreements between Nadappu tenants and the Jenmis or Cowledars is given a statutory recognition.

4.20. Tenants other than Nadappu tenants are also given fixity of tenure. The right of such tenants are made heritable, but not transferable except to a member of the family. These provisions will not apply to the tenants of land owners who are members of the Armed forces, as they will interfere with the right of such persons to resume land on release from the Armed Forces.

4.21. Provisions are there for prescribing grounds of eviction regulating surrenders, restoration of lands to tenants wrongfully evicted on or after 1-6-1963 or who were made to surrender their lands without their consent, payment of compensation to the evicted, tenants, future lease etc. It is also provided that a tenant shall have the right to acquire ownership of the land on payment of 10 times the rent and shall have the first option to purchase the land in case the owner wants to sell the same.

Kudiyan: (Persons who have neither homestead nor any land either as owner or as a tenant in possession on which he could erect a homestead).

4.22. The Kudiyan is given fixity of tenure. His right is heritable but not transferable except to his wife or husband or unmarried minor child. He can be evicted from his Kudi (the land and the homestead or the hut) only if he has alienated his right in the Kudi to another, or rented or leased out his Kudi or has ceased to reside in the Kudi continuously for two years or has another Kudi or obtained land with ownership fit for erecting a homestead.

Rents:

4.23. A tenant is made liable to pay a maximum rent equal to one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) only of the produce or its value where it is payable in kind and four times the land revenue in other cases. Provision is also there for conversion of rent in kind into cash.

4.24. The Committee enquired about the position regarding survey of land holdings and settlement operations undertaken by the Ad-

ministration. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

“Prior to 1959 there were no records of rights or basic records showing the details of lands held by the individuals in the Union Territory of Laccadivers. The land tenure that prevailed was feudal in character. In the past, the property was estimated in terms of coconut trees and houses possessed by a person. The Cadastral survey has been completed in all the Islands. The first stage of settlement work which mainly aims at finalising the survey records observing the requisite formalities has been completed in six major inhabited Islands, viz. Kavaratti, Agatti, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Amini and Kiltan and the then uninhabited island attached to them. First state of work in the remaining Islands has almost been completed barring some survey disputes pending disposal.

The survey operations were started in 1959 under the provisions of the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands Survey and Boundaries Regulation, 1959. The survey was done on the basis of ownership and possession. Since survey and settlement work had been taken up for the first time and, as there were no basic data or documents for guiding the survey, there were many problems to be tackled by the Administration in the initial stage. The different local systems regarding title of land, tenancy etc. prevailing in each Island had also to be satisfied. The sudden impact of survey work had caused innumerable land disputes between the parties, especially as there were no well-defined boundaries or ridges for the holdings belonging to the individuals. The Administration has tackled the problems effectively. The settlement work is in the initial stage. It may take some time more to reach the stage of the preparation of record of rights. Unless that stage is reached it is not possible to state exactly the size of holding held by the individuals.

However, it is expected that the entire survey and settlement work would be completed in another three years time.”

4.25. The Committee asked about the manner in which the land reforms introduced under the Laccadive Minicoy and Aminidivi

Islands (Land Revenue and Tenancy) Regulation, 1965 had benefited the inhabitants of the Islands. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated:—

“The Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Land Revenue and Tenancy) Regulation, 1965 was introduced in this Union Territory on 1-8-1968. This comprehensive law which contemplated more progressive land reforms such as abolition of Nadappu Tenancy, Conference of occupancy right on cowledars and other persons in occupation of pandaram (Government) land, fixity of tenure to tenants and Kudiyans etc. brought a new era of prosperity and security to the people of this Union Territory. As per this Regulation, the right of a tenant over the land is permanent having the right of inheritance and alienation and the inhabitants have security of tenure in land held by them. Apart from the cowledars Jenmis and tenants, there are agricultural labourers in the Islands who hold small plots of land belonging to Jenmis for residential purposes, on payment of nominal rent. They are called ‘Kudiyans’ under the Regulation. These Kudiyans are well protected as it prevents eviction of such Kudiyans from their homesteads. The Regulation also enables the Administration to confer occupation of pandaram lands and once this is done, they will become virtually the land owners and their right over such a pandaram land will be permanent, heritable and transferable. Another salient feature of the Regulation is that it brought about the termination of the landlord and tenant relationship and the abolition of the forced compulsory service to Jenmis, called ‘Nadappu Tenancy’. With the implementation of the Regulation, the tenants have obtained the status of independent landowners and both the Jenmis and tenants are enjoying ownership of one-fourth and three-fourths of the land respectively. The inhabitants of these Islands are also given protection against attachment and sale of their land in execution of any decree or orders of a civil or revenue court.”

4.26. The Committee enquired whether the rights of the tenants had been fully ensured. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the rights of the tenants have been fully ensured in all Islands by the enforcement of the provisions of

the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Land Revenue and Tenancy) Regulation, 1965.

4.27. With regard to the reclamation of land, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated in a note furnished to the Committee that land available in the Islands is very limited and there is further demand for more land for cultivation and other purposes. Reclamation is proposed mostly in the lagoons where the depths are shallow and the sea actionless. This facilitates easy and economical reclamation of land. This reclamation is proposed mostly with the materials available from the dredging work that are proposed simultaneously for deepening the channels for entry of ships into the lagoons. Reclamation is proposed to be carried out under the Fifth Five Year Plan in Kavaratti, Minicoy, Kalpeni and Kiltan.

4.28. The Committee have been informed that no regulation and rules have been framed for the allotment of reclaimed land. Only local Scheduled Tribes are entitled for allotment of reclaimed land.

4.29. The Committee note that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Land Revenue and Tenancy) Regulation, 1965 and the rules made thereunder have protected the rights of every land holder, including occupants, tenants and Kudiyaans over the land and homesteads and that the Regulation has brought about the termination of the landlord and tenants relationship and the abolition of the forced compulsory service to Jenmis.

4.30. During evidence, the Committee have been informed that prior to 1959 there were no records of rights or basic records showing the details of land held by the individuals. The Cadastral survey has been completed in all the Islands. The Committee would like the work of settlement and preparation of records of rights to be given high priority and completed without any delay.

C. Health and Drinking Water

4.31. The Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished a note to the Committee in which it is stated that in the Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, there are two hospitals

and seven primary health centres with a total of 120 beds, as detailed below:

Hospital Kavaratti	30 Beds
Hospital, Minicoy	20 beds
Primary Health Centre, Kalpeni	10 beds
Primary Health Centre, Androth	10 beds
Primary Health Centre, Amini	10 beds
Primary Health Centre, Agatti	10 beds
Primary Health Centre, Kadmat	10 beds
Primary Health Centre, Kiltam	10 beds
Primary Health Centre, Chetlat	10 beds
TOTAL	120 beds

4.32. All the inhabited Islands are covered by these institutions. Bitra, where there are only 112 people, is covered by Primary Health Centre, Chetlat. There are no separate maternity centres in this Union Territory, but the hospitals|Primary Health Centres in each Island are providing to the public an integrated health package in Medical, Public Health, Family Planning, Maternity, and Child Health Services, Immunisation programmes, Nutrition etc. Regular Antenatal clinics are conducted in a fixed day in a week|month in the hospitals|Primary Health Centres and suitable advice and treatment given wherever necessary.

Future expansion programme:

4.33. There are seven Primary Health Centres at Androth, Kalpeni, Agatti, Amini, Kadmat, Kiltan and Chetlat (including Bitra) with ten beds each. In Kadmat, a separate Leprosy Ward at a distance of about 3 Km. is attached to the Primary Health Centre and there are 10 leprosy cases at present there. As per the scheme in the Fifth Five Year Plan, for the strengthening of these Primary Centres, one Staff Nurse each is being appointed in the Primary Health Centres. Nurses are in position at Androth, Kalpeni, Amini and Agatti Primary Health Centres already. Action is being taken to appoint one cook each in the seven Primary Health Centres. Proposals have been submitted to the Ministry for sanctioning the appointment of two Leave Reserve Medical Officers and also one Pharmacist at Bitra.

4.34. The Hospital at Kavaratti, the headquarter Island is now in the process of up gradation to a 30 bedded hospital with Radiological and Pathological laboratory facilities. One 30 MA—X—Ray Plant has already been installed. One post each of Pathologist, Laboratory Technician and an Anaesthetist have already been sanctioned .

4.35. The Approach Paper for the Fifth Five Year Plan contains the following expansion programme:

- (i) Operation Theatres to be air conditioned in addition to provision of terrazzo floor and walls in Kavaratti and Minicoy Hospitals.
- (ii) Construction of compound wall, Dhobigat and mortuary in the above hospitals.
- (iii) Installation of one 100 MA—X—Ray Plant to include special Radiological investigation.
- (iv) Provision of T. B. Clinic and 20 bedded T. B. Ward .
- (v) Appointment of T.B. Specialists, Radiologist, Surgical Specialist, Obsterician and Gynaecologist, Dental Surgeon, Ayurvedic Physician and other extra staff according to the norms and standards prescribed for a 30 bedded hospital.
- (vi) Hospital at Minicoy is a 20 bedded Hospital now. A leprosy colony at a distance of about 3 Km. is attached to this hospital and at present there are seven cases of leprosy housed in a separate hutment.
- (vii) Installation of one 30 MA—X—Ray Plant at Minicoy Hospital.
- (viii) All the seven Primary Health Centres are to be upgraded as ten bedded hospitals and augmentation of necessary staff for this purpose.
- (ix) Ten bedded T. B. Ward one each at Androth and Amini for isolation of open cases of Pulminatory T. B.

4.36. As regards the steps taken by the authorities to combat diseases, such as, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Filariā and Malaria, the Ministry of Home Affairs have informed the Committee in a written note as follows:

"Tuberculosis:—The incidence of TB was about 2 per cent in this Union Territory which is gradually coming down. Mostly the ladies and children are affected. Out of the target of about 13,00 persons for B.C.G., nearly 10,000 have been covered by the end of 1972. The balance of 3,000 for B.C.G. is being covered this year. Steps proposed in the Fifth Plan are:

- (a) Mass Miniature X-Ray.
- (b) Establishment of UT level TB diagnostic centre with 10 beds, incharge of a T.B. Specialist attached to the Primary Health Centre, Kadmat instead of Kavaratti as originally proposed.

In addition, efforts are made to build the resistance of the persons by special nutrition programme and also distribution of folifer tablets to pregnant and lactating mothers and pre-school children.

Leprosy:—The last survey was conducted in 1969 to detect new cases and to bring them under treatment to prevent the spread of the disease. The incidence of leprosy in this Union Territory is 1½ to 1 per cent. All detected cases are under treatment. The contacts (near relatives) of the patients are periodically examined to find out further spread of infection. Against 181 cases in 1968, the latest figures show 30 new cases only.

Filaria was very much prevalent in this Union Territory especially in Androth Island. From 1371 new cases in 1968, it has come down to 197 in 1972. The Filaria Control Unit which now consists of one Medical Officer (Filaria) and one Assistant Entomologist, is being strengthened by the appointment of one Laboratory Assistant-cum-Insect Collector and nine field workers (one in each Island) so as to intensify indoor spraying of insecticides.

Malaria was detected for the first time in this Union Territory at Minicoy Island in July, 1972, perhaps on account of constant movement of sailors. Since then rigid anti-malaria measures have been undertaken, with the help of N.I.C.D. in all the Islands. As against 102 positive cases of malaria in November, 1972, there were only 9 positive cases in the month of March, 1973. An outlay of Rs. 75,000/- has been

proposed in the Fifth Plan towards anti-malarial measures."

4.37. The Committee desired to know how far under-nutrition or mal-nutrition was responsible for diseases among the Islands. In a note furnished to the Committee, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated:

"No organised study has so far been conducted to see how far under-nutrition or mal-nutrition is responsible for diseases among the Islanders. But it is seen from daily O. P. attendance that most of the children are suffering from mal-nutrition and Avitaminosis cirrhosis of the liver is quite common among the children and majority of the people especially women suffer from anaemia of nutritional type."

4.38. As regards the steps taken to check mal-nutrition by the Administration, it has been further stated in the note:

"As prophylaxis against nutritional anaemia, prenat and nursing mothers and children of age group of 2—6 years are given Folifer Tablets. In addition to this a special nutrition programme has been started in Kadmat, Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra Islands with effect from 1-1-1972. It is proposed to extend this programme to the remaining Islands also during 1973-74."

4.39. The Committee enquired about the efforts made by the Administration to fill up the vacant posts of Lady Medical Officers in the Primary Health Centre, Amindivi. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has replied that 12 Lady Doctors have been posted but none of them has joined. He has added that lady doctors are reluctant to go to outlying areas. In spite of the Island Allowance given to them, they are not willing to join the posts. In reply to a question, it has been stated that the problem is only regarding lady doctors. Male doctors are available and are appointed straightway. In reply to another question, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that a few doctors have been appointed on contract basis but they are being regularised through Union Public Service Commission. In reply to query, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that the Ministry of Health and Family Planning have been approached for sanction of a post of Pharmacist for the sector at Bitra.

4.40. The Committee note with concern that the Islanders are suffering from a number of diseases due to under-nutrition and mal-nutrition. The Committee desire that immediate and effective steps should be taken to check under-nutrition and mal-nutrition. . .

4.41. The Committee are also unhappy to note that a number of posts of Lady Medical Officers are lying vacant. They would like the Administration and the Ministry of Health and Family Planning to give a serious thought to it and remedy the situation.

Drinking Water

4.42. The Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished the following note on providing clean drinking water to the Islanders:

During the Fifth Five Year Plan, desalination of sea water for all purposes is obtained mainly from draw wells (to a smaller extent step wells) which are shallow and containing sub-soil water. The yield is poor. If the draw wells are deepened to improve the yield, the water is likely to become brackish and unfit for consumption. The same is the case with the draw wells which have been under use for some time. However, construction of new draw wells and renovation of old draw wells are going on in an effort to meet the demands to some extent. Geological Survey of India has reported after their survey that the existence of fresh water in these Islands is very limited.

During the Fifth Five Year Plan, desalination of sea water as a pilot project in Kavaratti Island and for collection of rain water from house tops in underground cement/masonry tanks and periodical disinfection with bleaching powder have been proposed. Moreover, it is also proposed to try bore wells, boring quite deep beyond the saline strata to reach sweet water based on the experience in some parts of Kerala."

4.43. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated during evidence:

"Geologists believe that fresh water collected over the earth is flowing into the sea water and if we pump up water, the natural fresh water resources will be depleted. We have been asked by the Geologists not to dig more wells, in fact, not to use any pumps at all. They have included a programme of geological exploration to determine the

seismic profile and find out the bed-rock of the coral Islands. They have suggested deep-well drilling upto 5,000 or over 5,000 feet to see what is inside and, after exploration, they say they might strike water. If they strike water, the problem is solved once and for all. But they have only programmed it; it is yet to be implemented."

4.44. In another note furnished to the Committee it has been stated that the Public Health Engineering Wing of the Ministry of Works and Housing is being consulted to find out which of the methods will ensure adequate potable water supply to the Islands. It is expected that experts of that Wing will visit the Islands shortly. Details of the schemes could be worked out after the visit of the experts.

4.45. The Committee are unhappy to note that there is lack of adequate drinking water facilities in the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands. The Islanders are getting drinking water from draw-wells and step-wells which are shallow and contain sub-soil water. The yield is poor. The wells are not properly maintained and water is unclean and unhygienic. The Committee hope that the scheme of providing clean drinking water to all the Islanders during the Fifth Five Year Plan will be given top priority and this critical problem solved at the earliest.

D. Communications

4.46. The Committee have been informed that there are two ships now doing Laccadive-mainland service, namely (1) *M.V. Amindivi*, with a passenger capacity of 155 during fair season and 112 passengers during monsoon, and (2) *M.V. Laccadives*, a fair weather vessel having passenger capacity of 49. *M.V. Laccadives*, being a fair weather ship, is out of commission during monsoon period. *M.V. Amindivi* is an all-weather vessel which can ply between Island and mainland during monsoon weather also.

4.47. Both these vessels are cargo-cum-passenger ships. The passengers are put to certain difficulties because they have to wait in the ship till the cargo is unloaded in an Island before the ship can proceed to the next Island. However, to relieve these difficulties, recently, the Administration has fixed standard programmes in conjunction with the Shipping Corporation of India for ships to cater mainly to the requirements of passengers, without halting in each Island for longer period. *M.V. Amindivi* is to have standard voyages in the first fortnight of the month and *M.V. Laccadives* in

the second fortnight of the month. Perhaps, it will be enough if another cargo ship, with provision for deck passengers, is made available for Laccadive-mainland service. The Administration is including a scheme in the Fifth Five Year Plan for purchase of one cargo vessel for transport of cargo exclusively to Islands so that *M.V. Amindivi* and *M.V. Laccadives* could make passenger voyages with greater frequency.

4.48. Regarding inter-Island transport, there are two launches at present with limited capacity. These two launches are not sufficient. The Administration is, therefore, including a scheme in the Fifth Five Year Plan for purchase of ten 38-footer mechanised boats and ten 30-footer mechanised boats for inter-Island passenger transport between Islands which are not situated far away from each other. It is hoped that these schemes will relieve the problem of passenger traffic between Island and mainland and inter-Island.

4.49. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the question of setting up of a wireless station in the Bitra Island is under consideration in consultation with the Posts and Telegraphs Department. It is also proposed to link all the Major Islands with radio-telephone with Kavaratti and mainland during the Fifth Five Year Plan. The Committee have been also informed that the Administration has already requested the Department of Light-Houses and Lightships to establish a proper light-house at Bitra Island during the Fifth Five Year Plan.

4.50. The Committee hope that the acquisition of a cargo ship and mechanised boats will relieve the transport difficulties experienced by the Islanders.

4.51. They also trust that a Wireless Station and a Light House will soon be set up in Bitra Island and all the Islands will be linked with radio and telephone with Kavaratti Island, as planned by the Administration.

4.52. The Committee would like to suggest that the feasibility of linking these Islands with the mainland by air and establishment of an airport or at least a helipad might be examined.

E. Fisheries

4.53. The Ministry of Home Affairs have stated in a note furnished to the Committee that till the year 1959 primitive methods of fishing were in vogue in the Islands using row boats. The Administration
1890 LS-4

tion introduced the first mechanised fishing boat in 1959 and started experimental fishing with different fishing equipments. Along with this, local fishermen were given training in the handling of boats and engines. The mechanised boats became popular in the Islands and the traditional Tuna fishing was mechanised. At present there are 95 mechanised boats in this Union Territory, including 65 boats issued to fishermen at subsidised cost. Originally, fishing boats were issued to fishermen at 100 per cent subsidy on engines and 25 per cent subsidy on hull. The subsidy on engines was subsequently reduced to 75 per cent and 50 per cent retaining the subsidy on hull at 25 per cent. The year-wise introduction of mechanised boats and the fish catch by mechanised boats are given below:

Year-wise introduction of mechanised boats and fish catch of mechanised boats :

Year	No. of boats	Fish catch
1959	4	..
1960	3	8,933
1961	3	29,162
1962	Nil	34,578
1963	9	86,533
1964	10	91,660
1965	13	1,33,840
1966	13	1,58,725
1967	1	1,81,737
1968	5	4,39,099
1969	Nil	6,52,681·65
1970	9	5,15,539·40
1971	15	8,43,057·80
1972	20	6,38,889
	<hr/> 95 <hr/>	

4.54. In addition, 17 boats are now under construction. The earnings by way of fishing by mechanised boats have been very satisfactory. Net earning of Rs. 5,000—10,000 per cent per boat is not

unusual. The progress in the introduction and popularisation of Tuna fishing and location of deep water shark fishery is satisfactory.

4.55. Amini, Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra Islands have been lagging behind in fisheries development. Work on the deepening of the lagoon entrances and clearing the lagoons has been taken up already. Simultaneously, training-cum-demonstration fishing by way of share basis fishing has been started in all the above Islands with good results. Sanction for enhanced subsidy is now awaited for the issue of boats in the above Islands.

4.56. There is only one Fishermen Training Centre in the Islands. Twenty trainees are given training in a batch for a period of ten months. This training Centre will continue during the Fifth Five Year Plan period. The Administration proposes to give training for the following courses during the Fifth Five Year Plan period:—

1. In Master Fishermen Course at Central Institute of Fisheries Operatives, Cochin	100
2. Diploma in Fisheries Science at the Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Bombay	8
3. Shore Mechanics	6
4. Engine Drivers	10
5. Diploma in processing in the Marine Products Processing Training Centre, Mangalore	2

Ten fisheries units have been opened for imparting training to local people in fishing methods.

4.57. The Committee desired to know the efforts made for development of in-shore fishing, deep sea fishing and fisheries industries. The Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished the following note on it:—

In shore Fishing:—In-shore fishing in the case of Laccadives is defined as the Lagoon and area within ten miles radius of each Island. This classification is not in conformity with the usual classification based on depth. In so far as the fishing in the "In-shore" waters is concerned, satisfactory progress has been made in pole and line fishing in almost all the Islands. Trell-line fishing in the inshore area for seer fish Baracuda, sail fish etc. also has been satisfactory.

Deep Sea Fishing:—The Ministry of Agriculture have plans to tap the deep sea resources by introducing deep sea vessels. The Ad-

ministration proposes to tap the resources through joint venture with the Mysore Fisheries Corporation and other industrialists, such as Konkan Fisheries.

Fisheries Industries:—One Tuna Canning Factory established at Minicoy Island in 1969 is still in operation. The Boat Building Yard at Kavaratti which was established in 1963 continues construction of boats. Proposals have already been sent to the Ministry of Agriculture for the establishment of another Canning Factory and cold storage at Aggatti. The work on the factory will be started during 1973-74. Deep freeze for export of frozen tuna, shark liver oil extraction units are proposed in the joint sector undertakings.

4.58. The Committee pointed out that it was represented to the Study Group of the Committee, which visited Kadmat Island on the 24th October, 1972, that the Fisheries Department, since it started working in the field, had introduced modern methods of fishing aided by mechanised boats, which had revolutionised the activity in this field resulting in fruitful returns which reduced labour. In the beginning, the Department gave these mechanised boats to the fishermen at a subsidised cost commensurate with the financial capacity to pay. The Islanders, being socially and economically backward and there being meagre harbour facilities at Kadmat, the fishermen of Kadmat Island could not fully derive the benefits contemplated under that scheme and could not get a single mechanised boat. The scheme had now been withdrawn. The benefits available to them under the scheme, it was represented, should be restored.

4.59. The Committee desired to know the views of Government in this regard. The Ministry of Home Affairs have in a written note, informed the Committee as follows:—

“Proposals have already been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture to restore the subsidy as it stood in late 60's for the Islands of Amindivi group which could not derive the benefit earlier.

The statement that no boats have been issued in the Amindivi group of Islands is not correct. It is true that there were difficulties due to the rocky entrance to the sea and shallow nature of lagoon. The deepening of the lagoons etc., are now undertaken and the progress in the introduction of mechanised boats, it is hoped, would be fast hereafter. The total number of boats now under operation in these Islands both private and departmental are 19. Fishing requisites were issued at 50 per cent subsidy till recently.”

4.60. During evidence, the Committee invited the suggestions of the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, for the development of Islands. The Administrator has said:

"We at one stage, thought of starting a Fisheries Corporation, in the process of discussions. It has not come up; but ultimately, after detailed discussions, we felt that we should have a joint sector undertaking to tap the fisheries resources of the Islands—a joint sector undertaking in conjunction with the Mysore Fisheries Corporation and with Konkan Fisheries. We must do something so that the natural resources are not wasted, but for that purpose, the Administration is not at all competent to go out and form a Corporation and even if it forms a Corporation it will be another Department without any technical know-how. Therefore, I would request that you might very kindly consider the joint sector undertaking being given importance in the Fifth Plan. We have of course provided for funds and we have invited the Konkan Fisheries as well as the Mysore Fisheries Corporation to conduct surveys. But this has to be a policy decision."

The Committee enquired whether any Government agency was engaged in fishing. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has replied in the negative.

4.61. The Committee hope that, after the completion of work on deepening of lagoon entrances and clearing the lagoons, Amini, Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra Islands would make satisfactory progress in fisheries. They also trust that, as intimated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, all the mechanised boats would be given at subsidised costs to the Islanders.

4.62. The Committee recommend that in order to tap the fisheries resources of the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands for the greater benefit of the Islanders, the demand of the Administration to set up a joint sector undertaking in conjunction with the Mysore Fisheries Corporation and with the Konkan Fisheries should be accepted by the Government.

F. Industries

4.63. The Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished a note to the Committee stating that the raw material mainly available in the Islands is coir fibre. Local people are twisting coir as a house-hold

cottage industry and they take their coir product to Coir Depot in each Island for exchange with rice under the Coir Monopoly Scheme of the Administration. For the past few years it has been difficult to find market for the sort of thick variety of coir produced in these Islands. Better markets are available for the thinner variety of coir. Therefore, in consultation with the Coir Board, Cochin, the Administration has organised training centres in all the Islands for training local people in the production of this particular thin variety of coir. This training is being imparted in all the Islands batch by batch on payment of stipend of Rs. 1.50 per day for 36 people in a batch. Two hundred and eighty eight persons have already been trained so far.

4.64. The Administration has also started a coir production centre at Kadmat Island for production of coir ropes under the special employment programme of the Planning Commission. There are 31 trained local people employed in this Centre and they are paid Rs. 3/- per day as wages. For the time being the Centre will work for 1½ years.

4.65. There are also corals and shells to be developed as handicrafts in these Islands. A scheme has been included in the Fifth Five Year Plan for training local people in handicrafts out of these coral items. A Senior Industries Officer of Kerala State is expected to visit shortly the Islands for drawing up different schemes for the Fifth Five Year Plan taking into account the availability of raw materials and the aptitude of the people.

4.66. There is a boat-building yard at Kavaratti. It is proposed to establish one more boat-building yard in the Fifth Five Year Plan period, one shark-fin curing centre and a shark liver extraction unit under the fisheries development programme. The question of granting transport subsidy is being examined.

4.67. The Committee desired to know whether there was any scope for setting up ancillary industries such as canning/preservation and refrigeration in the Islands. The Ministry of Home Affairs have stated the following in a note furnished to the Committee:—

“One canning factory is in operation in Minicoy Islands. Another of similar pattern is planned for Agatti during 1973-74. Walk-in-Cooler will be set up in Kavaratti during current year. Similar programmes are thought over for other Islands as well. Fish production would be more than sufficient for internal consumption. Programmes are oriented for export of fish products from Laccadive,

Minicoy and Amindivi Islands. Laccadives canned Tuna has earned good reputation even in foreign markets. Dried fish known as 'Mas' is also being sold in mainland. Smoke curing of fish will be attempted under Fifth Five Year Plan. State Trading Corporation has recently agreed to undertake the marketing of Laccadive Fisheries products."

4.68. The Committee note that the Administration has planned to impart training to the inhabitants for the production of their variety of coir handicrafts made of corals and shells found in the Islands and other industries taking into account the availability of raw materials and aptitude of the people. This will help in starting new industries in the Islands and in providing gainful employment to the inhabitants.

4.69. The Committee feel that there is great scope in the Islands for setting up and expansion of industries for preservation and canning of fish and fish products for export not only to the mainland but also to foreign countries. The Committee trust that the local Administration and the Government of India will take necessary measures in this direction at an early date.

4.70. The Committee hope that another boat-building yard, besides the one at Kavaratti, will be established on a priority basis.

G. Labour and Employment

4.71. The Committee pointed out that it was represented to a Study Group of the Committee a Kavaratti Island that Labour Laws of the Central Government were not made applicable to the Islands even though all works were being executed departmentally. The Ministry of Home Affairs have explained the position in a note furnished to the Committee as follows:—

"The Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands occupied a special position right from very early days in the southern zone under the Scheduled District Act (XIV of 1874) *vide* Notification No. 83, Judicial dated 19th February, 1889 and as Backward Tract as per Notification No. 1-G, dated 3rd January, 1921 of the Government of India. Acts of local Legislature of the composite State of Madras were not applicable in the area. The Islands subsequently found a place under Article 240 of the Constitution and according to the 'Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Union

Territories) Order, 1951 the inhabitants were classified as **Scheduled Tribes**. In order to enforce some beneficial pre-Constitutional Acts, the Laccadive, Minicoy and (Laws) No. 2 Regulation, 1970 were promulgated. The **Amindivi Islands (Laws) Regulation, 1965, (No. 8 of 1965)** and the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands said Laws and Regulations, were enforced with effect from 1st October, 1967 and 15th October, 1970 respectively. Out of a total of 127 Pre-Constitutional Acts extended to the Territory only 57 were enforced.

Environmental limitations, sub-marginal existence and outlook of the people tied down to custom and traditional practices etc. stood against the introduction of laws and enactments. The Regional Labour Commissioner had recommended enforcement of 14 Labour Acts, Regulations and Rules of which 11 were pre-Constitutional Acts. This recommendation was placed before the Advisory Council associated with the Administrator on 27th January, 1973. The members were against immediate enforcement of the said Labour Acts, Regulations and Rules and demanded that they should be given sufficient time to study the various provisions and implications thereof. After prolonged discussions, the Council recommended that the following Acts might be considered for enforcement:

- (i) Payment of Wages Act, 1936.
- (ii) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.
- (iii) Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
- (iv) The Children (Pledging of Labour) Act, 1923.

The Advisory Council members were unanimous in their opinion that it would be difficult to classify the people in the Islands as labourers, under specific trades such as Agricultural Workers, Fishermen, Dock and Port Workers and Boatmen, etc. The Councillors maintained that the works in the Islands were multifarious and seasonal with the result people who went for fishing in season were found tapping coconuts, twisting coir and attending to all other odd jobs when not employed in fishing venture. Similarly people in turn worked as boatmen and attended to stevedoring and transport of cargo as and when

necessary irrespective of their social standing. The position of comparatively developed Minicoy Islands was pointed out as an example where specialised trade like seamanship was in existence since long. The seamen when they returned on leave to the Island worked even in stevedoring and transport of materials along with other Islanders. Similarly, they went out for fishing in fishing boats when their services along with others were not required for transportation of materials. The Advisory Councillors thus maintained that the labour problem was limited to departmental labour only drawn from mainland and from Islands who could be classified by virtue of their continuous service as carpenters, masons, agricultural labourers, divers, etc. in relation to the specialised field of work of the department which engaged such workers.

We are of the view that immediate introduction of the Labour Laws, Regulations and Acts without adequate preparation on the part of the local set-up and the people would not be smooth. It should be taken up in a cautious and phased manner. The present practice of observing the spirit contained in the pre-Constitutional Labour Acts and Rules while dealing with Labour should continue. The Regional Commissioner's Report fully endorses this stand.

Even though coconut farming and plucking of coconuts are important types of employment on the Islands, it is felt that these need not be brought within the purview of the Minimum Wages Committee for some time to come considering the fact that payment for such employment are given in kind in terms of coconuts, etc. as per custom and practice on the Islands which vary from Island to Island. It is considered advisable not to disturb this pattern of payment for the present until conditions on the Island change considerably and the workers engaged in these employment become inclined to receive payment in cash.

The Regional Commissioner's Report further observed that—
 'Considering backwardness of the Islands and its workers and the fact that the Islands are classified as "Scheduled Tribes", the urgency for development works under the Five Year Plans or otherwise, cannot be far too stressed

Multiplicity of trade unions in such circumstances is to be deprecated as the tendency of the unions for placing demands in competition to each other and agitation to achieve their aims are bound to effect adversely the progress of the developmental works. This is especially so in the case of trade unions which may sponsor the cases of the Islanders and the mainlanders separately leading to immediate clash of interests.

In deference to the wishes of the Islanders, it is felt that as long as the Islanders are deemed as "Scheduled Tribe", it may be better and advisable to go slow in regard to registration of several unions of the Island and also in regard to the permanent settlement of mainlanders on the Islands. The strategical location/importance of the Islands may also have to be taken into consideration in deciding these matter finally'."

4.72. The Committee pointed out that it was represented to the Study Group of the Committee during the course of its discussion with non-officials at Kavaratti on the 25th October, 1972, that there was much discontentment among the educated unemployed. Their efforts to get employment elsewhere in the country had been unsuccessful as they were not able to compete with others even for reserved vacancies. Separate reservation for Island candidates was, therefore, demanded, both in technical and non-technical posts. The Committee asked for reaction of the Ministry of Home Affairs to this representation. The Ministry of Home Affairs have furnished the following note:—

"As a matter of fact, no efforts what-so-ever have been made by the educated employed of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands to get employment elsewhere in the country. Those who were given employment in Andamans and in other departments such as Indian Meteorological Centre returned to the Islands after a couple of months' stay in service. A few of them are, however, working in P & T and Central Excise in Kerala State. This was discussed at the meeting of the Advisory Committee associated with the Home Minister on 19th December, 1972 and it was pointed out that it would not be possible to make a formal or legal provision for reservation of vacancies exclusively for candidates from L.M. & A. Islands, in public sector undertakings in the mainland. It was, however, mentioned that efforts could be

made to absorb some boys in the Defence Services, C.R.P., B.S.F., etc. and also in the catering and shipping industries in the mainland. Steps are being taken towards this end."

4.73. With regard to employment opportunities available to the educated unemployed, the following note has been submitted to the Committee by the Ministry of Home Affairs:—

"As there are no big industries or undertakings in this Union Territory, the educated unemployed have to be fitted into Government jobs, for which the opportunities are very limited in this small Union Territory. However, every effort is made to get them employed in private/public sector undertakings and Central Government/Offices in the mainland. For vacancies arising in the Administration recruitment from mainland is now resorted to *only* when eligible and qualified local candidates are *not* available. In these cases too, persons are appointed on deputation basis from other State Governments/Union Territories, so that when a candidate belonging to this Union Territory becomes qualified for such a post, he could be appointed reverting back the deputationist."

4.74. The Committee have been informed during evidence that the Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) have allowed reimbursement of sea passage by the lowest class, exclusive of diet charges, for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates called for interview for Class III and Class IV posts provided the distance covered by sea is more than 30 Kms. each way. For the Scheduled Tribe candidates from within the Islands coming for interview, the employer who calls for them, has to pay this.

4.75. In reply to a question, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Admindivi Islands, has said that skilled masons and carpenters were not available in the beginning, so the Administration got them from the mainland. He has added that local people are available now.

4.76. The Committee believe that in order to check the exploitation of the labour, it is essential that the Central Labour Laws are made applicable in the Islands. The Committee would like the Administration to draw up a phased programme of introduction of the Central Labour Laws in the Islands keeping in view the local requirements.

4.77. The Committee would also like the Administration to draw up schemes to provide employment to the educated unemployed in the Islands.

H. Loans and Subsidy

4.78. The Committee have been informed that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Debt Cancellation and Grant of loans) Regulation, 1964, was brought into force to scale down debts owed by the local people to the creditors in the Islands. The local inhabitants of this territory being Muslims, religious sentiment prevents them from receiving or paying interest, and hence the practice of lending money at interest is not prevalent here.

4.79. Since coconut trees form the main source of income of the local people, they have adopted a system of taking loans on the security of their coconut trees. Anyone desiring to take a loan or to take goods on credit from a local merchant, gives his coconut trees to the merchant on a system called 'Pattom' which, in practice, is a usufructory mortgage. The coconut trees belonging to the borrower are entrusted to the merchant (creditor) for a stipulated period (usually one year), giving the merchant the right to pluck the nuts from the trees and to sell the copra obtained therefrom. The borrower gets, as his share, a specified quantity of copra as stipulated by mutual agreement when the 'Pattom' is finalised. This quantity, however, is stipulated by the merchant who usually keeps it much lower than the estimated yield of the trees. The difference is, virtually, the element of interest which will not be mentioned anywhere in the document. The rate of interest thus collected by the merchant will be very high, but the borrower has to submit to it as he has no other choice. Further, the merchant usually pays the borrower the value of his share of copra only after marketing his produce on the mainland during January or February, when the market value of copra is usually very low. The merchant also deducts all his other incidental charges in transport and marketing.

4.80. This practice is widely prevalent in the Islands of Kadmat, Kalpeni and Androth and, to some extent in the other Islands of this territory. Often the borrower keeps running accounts with the merchant and obtains further credit by purchasing consumer goods from his shop. Since the market value of his share of copra may not be sufficient to clear his instalment of debt, the borrower would be perennially indebted to the merchant. Consequently, the loan is continued year after year by renewing the agreement. At the time of renewal, the borrower's share of the yield of copra from

his mortgaged trees is reduced so as to enhance the profit portion of the merchant.

4.81. It was with a view to eradicate rural indebtedness that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Debt Conciliation and Grant of Loans) Regulation, 1964, was promulgated. The tribunals set up under this Regulation went into the details of the indebtedness after holding discussions with the merchants and the borrowers, and brought about an amicable settlement. Under Section 9(1) of that Regulation, no creditor can be allowed, in satisfaction of both the principal and interest of a debt, an amount greater than twice the amount of the principal. Section 9(2) of the Regulation also prescribes the mode of calculation of the money value of the coconuts of copra obtained from the mortgaged trees. The Regulation also provides for the grant of loans by the Administration to the borrowers to clear the debts. The coconut trees which stood mortgaged for long terms were released to the borrowers after conciliation by the Tribunals. During the year 1970-71, 43 applicants were sanctioned loans amounting to Rs. 27,058|-.

4.82. The nationalised Syndicate Bank has opened its branches in Kavaratti, Minicoy, Androth and Amini Islands, as the lead bank for this Union Territory. Co-operative Credit societies and the nationalised Bank will be coordinating their activities in the issue of cheap agricultural short term and medium term credit to the deserving medium, poor and small sized agriculturists.

4.83. The Committee pointed out that it was brought to the notice of the Study Group of the Committee which visited Kadmat Island in October, 1972 that the Syndicate Bank was advancing loans to individuals and cooperative societies under the various schemes for agricultural and industrial development but was charging different rates of interest from individuals and cooperative societies for loans advanced for similar purposes. The Islands had represented that this anomaly should be removed. The Committee desired to know the views of the Government in this regard. The Director, Department of Banking, Ministry of Finance, has stated:—

“It is ascertained from the Syndicate Bank that they had advanced a loan of Rs. 20,000|- to a canteen at 9 per cent interest last year and that this amount has since been fully repaid. As such, the question of removing any anomaly in interest rate does not arise now.

Generally, the Bank charges 10 per cent to 12 per cent interest on loans to individuals. For cooperative societies, they lend at a slightly lower rate. In the case of certain primary societies they give even at 7 and half per cent rate of interest because they get refinance facilities from the Reserve Bank. Thus, the interest rate depends on the cost of serving of a loan and it will not be possible to have a uniform rate for all the loans.

These Islands are covered by a special scheme—differential interest rate scheme. Under this scheme, the bank will be charging interest at 4 per cent only at all its four branches on loans taken by eligible persons for productive ventures. Under this scheme, a person whose family income does not exceed Rs. 2,000/- per annum is entitled for the loan. This special benefit is also extended to a number of organisations like organisations for physically handicapped, women's home etc. This 4 per cent interest which is charged under this scheme is much below the cost of money for the bank and I am sure the Committee will agree that it will not be possible to extend the same interest rate to other organisations.

The Syndicate Bank has recently proposed to finance, on a concessional basis, coconut cultivation. Since most of the farmers here dependent on coconut cultivation are poor, they should be eligible for the loan at the concessional rate of 4 per cent only. Other persons who do not come under the differential interest rate scheme but at the same time are small farmers would also be given loans at a concessional rate of 9 per cent to 10 per cent instead of at 12 per cent."

4.84. With regard to supply of mechanised boats, fishing implements, fertilisers, etc., to the Islanders at subsidised rates, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the subsidised sale of boats, fertilisers, fishing equipments and other implements, was introduced in the Second Five Year Plan as the economic conditions of the people then was very bad and they were not used to such development programmes. The subsidies at that time had served as an incentive to the people to take up improved methods of farming, fishing etc., in order to raise their own standard of living. The position has changed now. People have generally realised the benefits of these development programmes and, by and

large, they could also afford to pay a little more for these items. Therefore, Government is withdrawing this subsidy portion of the cost of these items, stage by stage. It would not be advisable to maintain the grant of subsidies indefinitely.

4.85. The Committee desired to know whether Government proposed to bear the freight rates for import of rice from the mainland. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that the question of free transport at any time did not arise. Rice was issued to the people in this Union Territory through the Cooperative Supply and Marketing Societies at fixed price. No subsidy was given on rice upto 30-6-1971. From 1-7-1971 a subsidy of Rs. 8/- per quintal is being allowed. The Ministry of Home Affairs has conveyed the sanction to the grant of Rs. 2,40,000/- per annum to meet the expenditure either in whole or in part on the transportation of foodgrains from the mainland to Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands. Consequent on the increase in the rates of transportation charges in the Islands, detailed proposals were sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs requesting for sanction of Rs. 3 lakhs per year to give a transport subsidy at Rs. 10/- per quintal with effect from 1-2-1973. The proposal is under examination in the Ministry.

4.86. The Committee note that with a view to eradicate rural indebtedness, the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Debt Conciliation and Grant of Loans) Regulation 1964, has been promulgated. The Committee trust that the Administration will ensure that the indebted tribals derive the fullest benefit under this Regulation. Now that a nationalised bank has opened its Branches in the Islands, the Committee would like the Administration to take necessary steps to popularise banking habits among the tribals.

4.87. The Committee feel that the economic conditions of the Islanders have not improved to such an extent that the grant of subsidy on the supply of mechanised boats, fishing implements, fertilisers, etc., to the Islanders should be withdrawn. The Committee would like the Administration to examine the feasibility of continuing the grant of subsidy on a graduated scale during the Fifth Plan period also.

I. Co-operation

4.88. The Committee have been informed that the Cooperative Credit movement introduced in 1968 on a purely experimental basis in one Island is now covering all the inhabited Islands. Out of ten Islands, seven are now covered by Service Cooperative Societies and

three by Supply and Marketing Societies. Five Government Employees Cooperative Stores and Canteens are functioning in Kavaratti, Androth, Agatti, Amini and Kalpeni Islands. All the inhabitants of this Union Territory are availing of the cheap agricultural short term and medium term credit. On 30-6-1972, a sum of Rs. 2,48,455/- was outstanding as loans, to members. Due to heavy demand for more loans, an amount of Rs. 1 lakh as loan was disbursed to Societies for augmenting the issue of credit in March, 1973. Till 31-3-1973, sums of Rs. 3,48,000/- and Rs. 15,20,528/- were given as aid towards share capital contribution and loan respectively to Cooperative Societies of various types.

4.89. The Committee desired to know how far the tribals had been trained and educated in cooperation by the Administration so as to enable them to hold responsible positions in the cooperative societies. The Ministry of Home Affairs in a note sent to the Committee have stated:

“As per the approved pattern of financial assistance Member-Education Programmes were conducted in all the Islands during the past three years. In these Member-Education Camps of short term duration, ordinary as well as members of the Board of Management were trained. This Member-Education Programme has enabled the Tribes to acquire a better knowledge of the Cooperative movement and as a result they are actively participating in the management of the Cooperative Societies.

Further 28 Islanders were given Junior Personnel Training in Cooperation. Out of this, 19 persons are holding responsible positions like Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Clerk etc. in the societies. Only two are yet to be employed in the societies for want of vacancies while others have been absorbed in other Departments of the Administration.”

4.90. The Committee pointed out that during the visit of the Study Group at Kavaratti in October, 1972, the following demands were made by non-officials:—

- (a) To improve the financial position of the Cooperative and Marketing Society, Government of India should sanction an interest free share capital loan of Rs. 50,000/-.

- (b) Lower rate of interest on loans advanced by the Syndicate Bank to the Society as the Bank was charging from individuals.
- (c) Exemption of the sales tax levy on the goods purchased by the purchase offices of the Cooperative Society at Calicut and Mangalore for and on behalf of the Island societies inasmuch as no sales were effected by these purchases offices at the mainland.

4.91. The Committee wanted to know the views of the Ministry of Home Affairs on these representations. The Ministry of Home Affairs have sent the following note:

- “(a) Out of the total loan of Rs. 15,20,528/- sanctioned up to 30-1-1973, an amount of Rs. 1,50,000/- was sanctioned during 1972-73 as interest free loan. The proposal for granting an interest free loan of Rs. 50,000/- to the Cooperative Marketing Society was taken up with the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Cooperation). It has been clarified by that Ministry that the proposal was examined by them in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. Since the granting of interest free loan is against the accepted policy of the Government of India and is not a desirable form of assistance, the proposal has not been accepted.
- ✓(b) Under the scheme of differential interest rate, eligible individuals could be given credit for productive purposes at 4 per cent rate of interest. Advances at this rate of interest could also be given to institutions for physically handicapped persons pursuing a gainful occupation where some durable equipment and/or continuous supply of raw material is useful and also for orphanages and women homes where saleable goods are made and for which no adequate and dependable sources of advances e.g. endowments or regular charities exist. Under this scheme, there is no provision for extending credit at the same low rate of 4 per cent for other types of societies or organisations.
- (c) The Kerala Sales Tax authorities have assessed sales tax on goods purchased by Federation on behalf of the Primary Supply and Marketing Societies. The tax assessed is for the period from 1968-69. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Kerala and their reply is awaited.”

4.92. The Committee enquired whether Government proposed to set up a Sales Depot for foodgrains and other essential commodities in Bitra Island. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy & Amindivi Islands, has said that under the Fifth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to open a Service Co-operative Society in Bitra Island. This Society would be given necessary finance for construction of godown-cum-sales section for stocking foodgrains and other essential commodities and for retail distribution.

4.93. The Committee are glad to note that the Co-operative Credit movement introduced in the Islands in 1968 now covers all the inhabitants of these Islands. The Committee recommend that the Administration should intensify its programme of educating the tribals in the working of the co-operatives so that more and more tribals may take advantage of the co-operative societies.

J. Animal Husbandry

4.94. The Committee have been informed that livestock rearing is a difficult task from the point of view of fodder and grazing facilities. The entire cultivable area is covered with thick growth of coconuts and fodder has to be grown along with other crops in between coconut trees. Dairy Unit in Kavaratti started functioning during 1964 with seven animals. At present there are 33 animals. Milk production is not at all sufficient to meet the requirements of the local population, staff and various institutions. Demand for milk has been steadily increasing. There are no dairy units run by private persons. Expansion of this Unit is planned together with starting of small units in Minicoy, Kalpeni, Kadmat and Androth Islands. Pedigree calves/heifers are proposed to be distributed to genuine persons interested in Animal Husbandry.

4.95. In order to assist local people to maintain good quality of cows, it is proposed to purchase 25 pedigree cows from mainland of which 10 have been brought to Islands. Five have been distributed in Minicoy Island. Remaining cows will be purchased and distributed during 1973-74. The scheme carries subsidy of 75 per cent on cost of animal. One heifer per cow would be returned by the recipients which would again be distributed to others.

4.96. Three veterinary clinics are available at Kavaratti, Androth and Minicoy. One more clinic will be opened in Amindivi group of Islands under the Fifth Five Year Plan.

4.97. The Committee enquired, during evidence, how the requirements of milk for the inhabitants of the Islands were met. The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that local people are not in the habit of taking milk. Their protein requirements are met by fish. Part of the requirement now coming up is met by milk powder imported from the mainland. A small portion of the requirement of milk is being met from the dairy unit at Kavaratti and from the cows and goats distributed to the inhabitants under subsidy scheme and from the locally reared goats and cows. In the Fifth Five Year Plan, dairy units would be established in all Islands with ten pedigree animals each. Further, 200 cows/heifers would be distributed on subsidy basis to the Islanders. In order to maintain cows, large scale fodder cultivation is proposed in coconut gardens.

4.98. As regards development of poultry in the Islands, the Administrator, Laccadive Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated that at present there are four poultry units in the Islands on an average of 300 birds, one each at Kavaratti, Androth, Minicoy and Kadmat. It is proposed to start poultry units in all the Islands during the Fifth Five Year Plan period. Poultry and ducks are distributed to the local people at subsidised rates. Further, it is proposed to train enterprising Islanders for raising small poultry units of their own with the assistance of the Administration and Banks. Grants are given to the local people for construction of deep litter units.

4.99. The Committee would like the Administration to give greater attention to fodder cultivation and setting up of more dairy units as early as possible. The tribals should also be encouraged to take to poultry farming. The proposal of the Administration to train the Islands to set up their own small poultry units is a step in the right direction. This should be given effect to immediately.

K. Housing

4.100. The Committee pointed out that the Study Group of the Committee during their visit to Kadmat in October, 1972, noticed that the housing conditions of the tribals were not satisfactory. The houses did not have adequate protection from rain. There was also no provision for proper lighting. It was stated that there was only one generator in the Island and that electricity had been provided within an area of one square mile only. The Committee desired to know the steps which had been taken to improve the housing conditions of the Islands and to provide electricity to the residents. The

Ministry of Home Affairs have informed the Committee in a written note as follows:—

“There are two housing schemes existing in this Union Territory—(1) a subsidy scheme under Welfare of Backward Classes and (2) Loan scheme under the Village Housing project. Under No. 1, the estimated cost of the building is to be Rs. 1,600/- towards which the Administration gives a subsidy of Rs. 1,200/- in four instalments. Under No. 2 the estimated cost of the building work is to be upto Rs. 5,000/- towards which the Administration gives a loan upto Rs. 3,000/- in four instalments.

Nobody in Kadmat Island has so far availed of the loan scheme (No. 2).

So far 200 persons have been given subsidy under the Welfare of Backward Classes (Housing) Scheme of which 29 persons are of Kadmat. The total amount so far disbursed under this scheme is Rs. 2,06,710 in all Islands.

These schemes are not now popular among the local people in view of the high cost of materials and labour for building works at present.

In the Fifth Five Year Plan, two new schemes have been included: (1) Subsidy Scheme upto Rs. 5,000/- for the poor people and (2) Interest Free Loan Scheme upto Rs. 10,000/- for people who can afford to repay the money.

Regarding electricity, this Administration have now one 5.6 KW and two 2.6 KW generators at Kadmat. One 9 KW generator is expected shortly. These generators are enough for Kadmat. But the expansion work has been impeded due to lack of concrete poles to extend the lines because cement is in short supply. Steps have been taken to make poles quickly with the assistance of the P.W.D.”

4.101. During evidence, the Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has agreed to consider the suggestion made by the Committee that houses should be constructed by the Administration and given on hire-purchase system.

4.102. The Committee note that the prevalent housing schemes are not popular with the local people in view of the high cost of materials and labour for building works. They hope that the new

schemes, namely, the Subsidy Scheme upto Rs. 5,000 for the poor people and Interest Free Loan Scheme upto Rs. 10,000 for people who can afford to repay the money, which the Administration intends to start during the Fifth Five Year Plan would help the local people in constructing their houses and solving their housing problem.

4.103. The Committee would also like the Administration to formulate a scheme under which it may construct houses for the low and middle income groups of people and give them to the inhabitants on hire-purchase system.

L. Development of Tourism

4.104. The Ministry of Home Affairs have stated in a note furnished to the Committee that it is proposed to open Tourist Centres in the Islands during the Fifth Five Year Plan at an outlay of Rs. 50 lakhs. Two or three uninhabited Islands like Suheli, Bangaram, Tinnakara can be developed as places of tourist attraction. There are no beauty spots except natural beauty of the lagoons with crystal clear water having multi-coloured small fishes roaming around. Tourism Department of the Government of India is examining certain schemes to develop a few Islands as beach resorts.

4.105. As regards development of tourist resorts, the Administrator. Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, has stated during evidence that recently the Central Tourism Department had organised trips of an Italian Group and two German Groups. Those Groups visited the Islands and they found that these Islands were really beautiful and expressed that there was scope for tourism. They had themselves suggested uninhabited Islands for development of tourism. The final report on it is awaited.

4.106. The Committee commend the proposal for development of certain uninhabited Islands as beach resorts.

BUTA SINGH,

Chairman,

Committee on the Welfare of

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes.

NEW DELHI:

August 9. 1973

Sravana 18. 1895-(S).

APPENDIX

(Vide para 5 of Introduction)

Summary of conclusions|Recommendations contained in the Report

Sl. No.	Reference to para number in the Report	Recommendations
(1)	(2)	(3)
1	1.12	The Committee need hardly emphasise that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands, situated as they are at considerable distance from the mainland, have to be developed rapidly so that the inhabitants could be integrated with the main stream of Indian life and provided with all the basic amenities that are available to their compatriots on the mainland. The Committee note that steps are being taken to remove the isolation of the Islanders by improvement in communications with the mainland. Effects in the direction have no doubt to be intensified.
2	1.13	The Committee note with pleasure that Parliament has recently passed the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Alteration of Name) Bill, 1973, changing the name of these Islands to Lakshadweep.
3	2.5	The Committee note the fact that the local inhabitants of the Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands have been classified as Scheduled Tribes and all the welfare and development programmes are primarily meant for their uplift. A heavy responsibility therefore lies on the Administration of the Union Territory for the amelioration of the conditions of the Tribals for whose welfare specific provisions have

(1)	(2)	(3)
		<p>been made in the Constitution. Since the Islands have to depend on the mainland for all the essential commodities except coir, copra and fish, the Committee hope that there would be adequate coordination between the Base Office at Kavaratti so that there is no hindrance in the flow of all essential commodities to the Islands.</p>
4	2.15	<p>The Committee regret to find that the representation of the Scheduled Tribes in the services in the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands is much below the proportion of their population in the Islands and a number of educated tribals, e.g., three post-graduates, seven graduates and fifty-seven matriculates are still unemployed. The Committee urge that these unemployed persons should be provided employment without any further delay.</p>
5	2.16	<p>The Committee desire that the the Administration, while requesting the Government of India State Governments to send their officials on deputation to the Islands, should specifically mention that, as far as possible, Scheduled Caste Tribe officials with the requisite qualifications be sent on deputation.</p>
6	2.18	<p>The Committee recommend that the Advisory Committee and Advisory Council should meet more frequently so that the representatives of the people are associated more and more with the planning and development work of the Administration and the implementation of the welfare schemes for the people. The Committee also suggest that instead of the members of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee and the Administrator's Advisory Council being nominated by the Government, the feasibility of introducing a system of election to these bodies from select electoral colleges may be examined.</p>
7	2.22	<p>The Committee are happy to note that the law and order situation in these Islands is satis-</p>

(1)	(2)	(3)
		factory and that the incidence of crime is gradually on the decline.
8	2.23	The Committee would like more and more local people employed in the Police force of the Islands so that ultimately the proportion of their population is reflected in the Police services. The Committee hope that a Wireless Station at the Bitra Island would be set up without delay.
9	3.8	The Committee desire that in order to assess the benefits derived out of the various schemes launched during the earlier Plan periods and to find out how far the development programmes undertaken hitherto have helped the social and economic advancement of the tribals, the Administration should conduct a techno-economic survey immediately. Such a survey would indicate the results achieved in the past and would also help the authorities in formulating their future programmes and fixing priorities to the best advantage of the tribals.
10	3.22	The Committee are distressed to note that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands could not derive any benefits under the First Five Year Plan. It was only in the middle of the Second Five Year Plan, that an attempt was made to implement an integrated short plan in the Islands with an outlay of Rs. 73.85 lakhs. They are unhappy to note that against this outlay, the actual expenditure incurred was to the tune of Rs. 40.29 lakhs only and that there has been continuous heavy shortfalls during 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69. It has been stated by the Administrator that shortfalls during the Second Five Year Plan are due to the fact that no technical officer was available and the planning machinery was ill-equipped and inadequate. The Committee are constrained to note that shortfalls continued even during the years

(1)	(2)	(3)
		1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69. The Committee need hardly emphasise that serious and sincere efforts are required on the part of the Administration to see that such shortfalls do not occur in future.
11	3.23	Apart from efforts to achieve the financial targets of expenditure, the Committee would suggest that physical targets should also be laid down in the Annual as well as Five Year Plans and their evaluation made in terms of physical targets achieved.
12	3.24	During the course of the visit of a Study Group of the Committee to the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands during October, 1972, various organisations, non-officials and elected representatives of the people urge that there should be increased allocations for the development of the Island under the Fifth Five Year Plan on account of the fact that the people were deprived of the benefits under the First Five Year Plan and even the Second Five Year Plan was half way through before any machinery could be set up for the proper implementation of the Plan schemes. Keeping in view the isolated and scattered nature of the Islands and the fact that the Islanders have to depend upon the mainland for their essential needs, the Committee feel that there is a case for making increased allocations to the Union Territory of Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands during the Fifth Five Year Plan. Increased provisions are necessary, especially in such spheres as development for transport and communications, setting up of agro-based cottage industries, and provision of drinking water facilities to the Islands.
13	4.12	The Committee would like the Administration to conduct a survey in the Islands to find out whether all children in the age group of 5 to 14

(1)	(2)	(3)
		are going to schools. If the survey shows that it is not so, concerted efforts should be made to ensure that they do so.
14	4.13	The Committee suggest that Ashram type schools, which are residential type of schools and where education is imparted upto primary and middle school levels, should be set up for the Scheduled Tribe children.
15	4.14	The Committee also desire that, as far as possible, local tribals should be appointed teachers in the schools as they are in a better position to read the mind of the tribal children.
16	4.15	The Committee recommend that in view of the rise in the cost of living, there should be substantial increase in the quantum of the scholarship amounts given to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.
17	4.29	The Committee note that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Land Revenue and Tenancy) Regulation, 1965 and the Rules made thereunder have protected the rights of every landholder, including occupants, tenants and Kudiyans over the land and homestends and that the Regulation has brought about the termination of the landlord and tenant relationship and the abolition of the forced compulsory service to Jenmis.
18	4.30	During evidence, the Committee have been informed that prior to 1959 there were no records of rights or basic records showing the details of land held by the individuals. The Cadas- tral survey has been completed in all the Islands. The Committee would like the work of settlement and preparation of records of rights to be given high priority and completed without any delay.

(1)	(2)	(3)
19	4.40	The Committee note with concern that the Islanders are suffering from a number of diseases due to under-nutrition and mal-nutrition. The Committee desire that immediate and effective steps should be taken to check under-nutrition and mal-nutrition.
20	4.41	The Committee are also unhappy to note that a number of posts of Lady Medical Officers are lying vacant. They would like the Administration and the Ministry of Health and Family Planning to give a serious thought to it and remedy the situation.
21	4.45	The Committee are unhappy to note that there is lack of adequate drinking water facilities in the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands. The Islanders are getting drinking water from draw-wells and step-wells which are shallow and contain sub-soil water. The yield is poor. The wells are not properly maintained and water is unclean and unhygienic. The Committee hope that the scheme of providing clean drinking water to all the Islanders during the Fifth Five Year Plan will be given top priority and this critical problem solved at the earliest.
22	4.50	The Committee hope that the acquisition of a cargo ship and mechanised boats will relieve the transport difficulties experienced by the Islanders.
23	4.51	They also trust that a Wireless Station and by Light House will soon be set up in Bitra Island and all the Islands will be linked with radio and telephone with Kavaratti Island, as planned by the Administration.
24	4.52	The Committee would like to suggest that the feasibility of linking these Islands with the mainland by air and establishment of an airport or at least a helipad might be examined.

(1)	(2)	(3)
25	4.61	The Committee hope that, after the completion of work on deepening of lagoon entrances and clearing the lagoons, Amini, Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra Islands would make satisfactory progress in fisheries. They also trust that, as intimated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, all the mechanised boats would be given at subsidised costs to the Islanders.
26	4.62	The Committee recommended that in order to tap the fisheries resources of the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands for the greater benefit of the Islanders, the demand of the Administration to set up a joint sector undertaking in conjunction with the Mysore Fisheries Corporation and with the Konkan Fisheries should be accepted by the Government.
27	4.68	The Committee note that the Administration has planned to impart training to the inhabitants for the production of their variety of coir handicrafts made of corals and shells found in the Islands and other industries taking into account the availability of raw materials and aptitude of the people. This will help in starting new industries in the Islands and in providing gainful employment to the inhabitants.
28	4.69	The Committee feel that there is great scope in the Islands for setting up and expansion of industries for preservation and canning of fish and fish products for export not only to the mainland but also to foreign countries. The Committee trust that the local Administration and the Government of India will take necessary measures in this direction at an early date.
29	4.70	The Committee hope that another boat-building yard, besides the one at Kavaratti will be established on a priority basis.

1	2	3	..
30	4.76	The Committee believe that in order to check the exploitation of the labour, it is essential that the Central Labour Laws are made applicable in the Islands. The Committee would like the Administration to draw up a phased programme of introduction of the Central Labour Laws in the Islands keeping in view the local requirements.	
31	4.77	The Committee would also like the Administration to draw up schemes to provide employment to the educated unemployed in the Islands.	
32	4.86	The Committee note that with a view to eradicate rural indebtedness, the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Debt Conciliation and Grant of Loans) Regulation 1964, has been promulgated. The Committee trust that the Administration will ensure that the indebted tribals derive the fullest benefit under this Regulation. Now that a nationalised bank has opened its Branches in the Islands, the Committee would like the Administration to take necessary steps to popularise banking habits among the tribals.	
33	4.87	The Committee feel that the economic conditions of the Islanders have not improved to such an extent that the grant of subsidy on the supply of mechanised boats, fishing implements, fertilisers, etc., to the Islanders should be withdrawn. The Committee would like the Administration to examine the feasibility of continuing the grant of subsidy on a graduated scale during the Fifth Plan period also.	
34	4.93	The Committee are glad to note that the Co-operative Credit movement introduced in the Islands in 1968 now covers all the inhabitants of these Islands. The Committee recommend that the Administration should intensify its programme of educating the tribals in the working of the co-operatives so that more and more tribals may take advantage of the co-operative societies.	

1	2	3
35	4.99	The Committee would like the Administration to give greater attention to fodder cultivation and setting up of more dairy units as early as possible. The tribal should also be encouraged to take to poultry farming. The proposal of the Administration to train the Islanders to set up their own small poultry units is a step in the right direction. This should be given effect to immediately.
36	4.102	The Committee note that the prevalent housing schemes are not popular with the local people in view of the high cost of materials and labour for building works. They hope that the new schemes, namely, the Subsidy Scheme upto Rs. 5,000 for the poor people and Interest Free Loan Scheme upto Rs. 10,000 for people who can afford to repay the money, which the Administration intends to start during the Fifth Five Year Plan would help the local people in constructing their houses and solving their housing problem.
37	4.103	The Committee would also like the Administration to formulate a scheme under which it may construct houses for the low and middle income groups of people and give them to the inhabitants on hire-purchase system.
38	4.106	The Committee commend the proposal for development of certain uninhabited Islands as beach resorts.