

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE
OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(1987-88)**

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

THIRTY-FIFTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF WELFARE

**Socio-Economic Conditions of Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 26.4.1988

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 26.4.1988



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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C O R R I G E N D A

to the

Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes (Eighth Lok Sabha)

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**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

(1987-88)

Shri Ram Ratan Ram—Chairman

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1. Shri N. N. Mehra, *Additional Secretary*
2. Shri D. M. Chanan, *Deputy Secretary.*

* Ceased to be Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 2 April, 1988.

@ Ceased to be Member of the Committee on his appointment as Deputy Minister w.e.f. 14-2-88.

** Ceased to be Member of the Committee on his appointment as Governor w.e.f. 16-2-88.

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 Thirty-fifth Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Welfare Socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

2. The Committee took the evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Welfare and Union Territory of Lakshadweep on the 12, 13 January, 1988. The Committee wish to express their thanks to the officers of the Ministry of Welfare and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep for placing before the Committee material and information the Committee wanted in connection with the examination of the subject.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on 19 April, 1988.

4. A summary of conclusions|recommendations contained in the Report is appended (Appendix-I).

NEW DELHI;

April 19, 1988

Chaitra 30, 1910(S)

RAM RATAN RAM

Chairman,

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled
Castea and Scheduled Tribes.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL

A. Tribal Area and Population

According to the written information furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee the total area of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is 32 Sq. Kms. .

1.2 The total population of the Union Territory as per 1971 and 1981 census has been stated to be 31810 and 40249 respectively.

1.3 The Scheduled Tribe population and its percentage to the total population as per 1971 and 1981 census has been stated to be as under:—

ST Population		Percentage of ST population to total population	
1971	1981	1971	1981
29,540	37,760	92.86	93.82

1.4 Regarding the Principal Tribes living in the Union Territory, the Committee have been informed that indigenous inhabitants are Muslims and they are classified as Scheduled Tribes. No Tribes has been classified as primitive and lives in isolation.

B. Administrative set-up

1.5 The Administrative Set-up of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is stated to be as under:—

“Lakshadweep has a single line Administration. The Administrator appointed under Article 239 of the Constitution is assisted by Collector-cum-Development Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, Superintending Engineer, Port Officer, Collector-cum-Development Commissioner is assisted by the Director of Education, Director of Agriculture, Director of Animal Husbandry, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Senior Medical Officer etc. on different subjects

of developments. The Administrator is assisted by an Advisory Council of 20 non-officials including the local Member of Parliament. An elected set up, with Island Councils and a Pradesh Council is likely to be introduced by the Government of India in the near future."

1.6 As regards the present position of the proposal of an elected Set-up with Island Councils and a Pradesh Council, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated during evidence as under:—

"The Prime Minister during his recent visit announced that the Union Government in principle has accepted to have an elected Government in Lakshadweep."

1.7 About the setting up of the elected Island Council and Pradesh Council, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs added during evidence as under:—

"A Cabinet Note has been prepared outlining the structure of the Pradesh Council and the Island Council and the note has not yet been considered by the Cabinet. As soon as the Cabinet approves it, we will issue a regulation under Article 240 of the constitution and it will not go to Parliament."

1.8 The Committee have been informed that as announced by the Prime Minister recently, the Union Government has in principle accepted to have an elected Government in Lakshadweep and that a decision on the structure of Pradesh Council and Island Council is pending at the highest level. The Committee recommend that the Home Ministry should pursue the matter vigorously and do necessary planning in advance to ensure expeditious setting up of an elected administrative set-up in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

C. Co-ordination in matters relating to tribal welfare

1.9 The Committee probed into the aspect of coordination in matters relating to tribal welfare. The Committee have been further informed in a written reply:—

"There is no separate Directorate as such set-up to deal with and Co-ordinate the matters related to tribal welfare. The subject matter departments are also looking after the matters relating to tribal Welfare in Lakshadweep. There is no need for any separate Directorate since the tribal population comprises virtually the entire population of the territory, rather than being a sepa-

rate group. This Administration has however provided the services of the clerk dealing with the subject as and when the Liaison Officer wants to make inspections of the Reservation Roster/statements etc."

1.10 During evidence the Committee asked the representative of the Ministry of Welfare as to how the Inter-Departmental Coordination in the matter of tribal Welfare was done. The Secretary, Ministry of Welfare stated as under:—

"It is entirely a tribal area. Whatever is done there is done for the benefit of the tribals. The Home Ministry coordinates their budget and deals with most of their requirements."

The Administrator, Lakshadweep Administration further clarified:—

"All the Developmental Programmes are made for the Welfare of the tribal people of the area. The coordination is effected through the mechanism of administration. The Collector-cum-Development Commissioner is the Head of the Department. The Department deals with public and their welfare. Any problem that may be there is sorted out by me. We have a Liaison Officer who deals with problems in service matters. We have people from outside also who are working there in the government departments. So far as other development functions are concerned, they are exclusively for the benefit of the tribes."

1.11 When asked as to how coordination was effected among the various departments in the Union Territory, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated during evidence as follows:—

"A Collector-cum-Development Commissioner is to do day-to-day administrative coordination. There is only one Collector."

1.12 When asked as to who was incharge of administration of the three Islands, the Administrator, Union Territory submitted:—

"In Minicoy, we have a Deputy Collector. The other areas are looked into by Tehsildars and SDOs. At present, the population there is 44000."

1.13 On being asked to explain the manner in which the proposed set up would be more productive to ameliorate the conditions of

tribals especially against the background of illiteracy among the tribals, the Administrator Lakshadweep explained during evidence as follows:—

“So far as Lakshadweep is concerned, we have a very high rate of literacy among the tribals. 65 per cent among the males and 45 per cent among the females, and the average comes to roughly 55 per cent according to 1981 Census. I think, at present, it would be sixty per cent. The people of Lakshadweep have political aspirations and if they are allowed to elect their own Council, it will have a salutary effect.”

1.14 The Committee have been informed that in Lakshadweep there is no separate Directorate as such to deal with and coordinate the matters relating to tribal welfare. The day-to-day administrative coordination at present is done by the Collector-cum-Development Commissioner. The Committee are not convinced by the argument of the Union Territory Administration that there is no need for separate Directorate. The Committee feel that since various islands in the Union Territory are situated at a distance from each other there should be some administrative set up that may effect coordination not only in day-to-day administrative matters but also in policy matters pertaining to tribal welfare.

1.15 The Committee have been informed that in Minicoy a Deputy Collector looks after the administration of the Island and the other areas are looked after by Tehsildars and SDOs. The Committee feel that Tehsildars and SDOs are too junior officers to be entrusted with the administration of islands and recommend that on the pattern of administrative set up of Minicoy, the administrative set up of Islands should also be strengthened and as far as possible each island or group of islands depending upon the population should be administrated by an officer of the rank of Deputy Collector.

D. Advisory Council

1.16. The composition of the Advisory Council associated with Administrator of Lakshadweep is stated to be as under:

“The Advisory Council associated with the Administrator consists of:

- (i) Administrator, Union Territory of Lakshadweep, who will preside over meeting of the Council;

- (ii) Eight non-official members of the Advisory Committee associated with the Advisory Committee associated with the Home Minister and Member of Parliament representing the Union Territory of Lakshadweep;
- (iii) Eleven non-official members nominated by the president of India for a term of one year."

Recently the number of non-officials has been increased to 13.

1.17 When asked about the nature of the work done by the Advisory Council, the Administrator, Lakshadweep informed the Committee during evidence as follows:—

"The work of the Advisory Council has been laid down in the notification:

- (a) Matters of administration involving general policy schemes or development on agriculture, trade and industry. Improvement of sanitation, communication, education, health and other matters for the betterment of the conditions of the population and make the Island self-supporting and not matters of day to day administration or matters of any appointment, whatever.
- (b) General question touching the implementation of general policies and the schemes of development. D
- (c) Any other matter, which the Administrator or the Government of India refer to the Council.

This is as per the notification. But as a matter of practice, anything and everything that the Council wishes to discuss normally is discussed except service matters or matters concerned with Defence."

1.18 When asked whether all the Members of Advisory Council belonged to Scheduled Tribes and mode of their selection, the Committee were informed as follows:—

"All the Members of the Advisory Council excepting one, belong to the Tribal community. One Mr. Syed Ali did not belong to the Tribal Community. His father did not belong to the Island, but his mother belonged to the Island. He was born and brought up in the Island. Excepting him, all other Members belong to the Scheduled Tribes.

The nomination of members is actually made by the Home Ministry on the basis of the recommendations sent by the Local Administration. The local Administration prepares a list in consultation with the M.P., other local influential people, leaders of public opinion, etc. and sends the same with their recommendations to the Home Ministry. Normally, the Local Administration select people running cooperative societies and doing other public welfare activities."

He further stated that the Members of Advisory Council were nominated for a term of one year only and the Council was supposed to meet quarterly i.e. four times a year. He added that the question of increasing the tenure of the Advisory Council was before the Central Government.

1.19 On being asked about the reasons for delay in constitution of the Advisory Council during 1985-86 and 1986-87, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated as under:—

"The main reason for the delay in the constitution is lack of communication between us and the Lakshadweep, which, of course, is now in a much better shape. When the term is over on the 31st March, we normally write to the Administrator to send his suggestion. It takes about 15 days one-way. Then, we put it up to the Minister. Normally, he would like to consult the people's representative there or we may ask for some clarifications whether all the islands have been represented. Some correspondence does take place. In such cases, we extend the life of the previous committee for 3 months or 6 months so that at least, a meeting can be held.

There was, however, one mistake that we started the whole process after March. Now since delays are taking place, we have decided to start the whole process in November or December of the previous year so that time is not wasted, after the term is over."

1.20. When asked about any other authority which discharged the functions of the Advisory Council during the period it had not been constituted, the witness submitted as under:—

"In the past, a sort of informal inter-action is continued regularly with the people who were there or who have been proposed for the Advisory Council so that the actions

taken by the Administration have the broad endorsement of the leaders of public opinion and these are formally placed before the Council when it meets. Of course, it would always be better if the new Council could be there on the first of April and we could have regular quarterly meetings, instead of trying to put two or three meetings in the last 5 months of the year."

1.21. When asked what problems were faced by the Administrations due to the delay in the constitution of the Advisory Council, the Administrator, Lakshadweep submitted as follows:—

"The problem arose because there were certain matters in which we wanted to be guided by the advice of the leaders of public opinion and of the Scheduled Tribe community and we have devised an informal system where we can have consultations and we can formally place the matter before the Council when it is formally notified. It would be better if the Council is there from the very beginning and we could go straightaway to the Council and have regular quarterly meeting. If we can, at the beginning of the year, notify in advance the date for the meetings of the Council. That would make matters very easy for us because the Members give their views in time and we could hold meetings at least four times a year. This is going to be done provided we could complete the whole procedure in the current year so that the new Council will be there in the New Year. For the current year, there is a Council but its term will expire at the end of March. If we can have a new Council in April, then we can notify the dates and it can meet every quarter. It can review the progress and give endorsement to strike down any policies of the Administration. That would be very much helpful if it is a regular Council. The present Council was constituted in October, 1987."

1.22 As regards the meetings held by the Advisory Council during the years 1984-85 to 1986-87, the following information was furnished to the Committee:

"Year	Dates on Which Advisory Council met
1984-85	10-11/10-84
1985-86	6/7-2-86
1986-87	25/26-7-86 and 8/9-11-86."

1.23 When asked about the contribution made by the Advisory Council in the field of Tribal Welfare, the Administrator, Lakshadweep submitted as follows:—

“The contribution of the Advisory Council in the field of tribal welfare can be known by the number of meetings held. In this context, all aspects of development in the island are discussed in the Advisory Council. In fact, I have some difficulties. The meeting which was held on 6th February and 7th lasted 18 hours. The meeting on 25th July was held. The meeting on 26th July lasted 6 hours and on 6th August lasted 18 hours. Recently I held a meeting on 5th and 6th December which lasted 29 hours. In this meeting, all the aspects of development are taken up and the Administration is being guided in various directions for development. We have developed a programme on the advice of the Advisory Council and we have taken up certain development programmes which had been suggested in the Advisory Council because all the schemes are discussed with them. We are also going to place the entire plan of the Lakshadweep Administration before the Council for its comment so that they can comment on our plans also. The plan as a whole has not been before the Council but various schemes in the Plan are discussed. We will place them before the Council so that their views on each of the items can be taken into account. This will also be in line with the Planning Commission's recent directive that there should be greater participation in formulation of the Plan.”

1.24 Asked whether there was any monitoring body for looking after the implementation of the decisions taken in the meetings of the Advisory Council, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as follows:—

“Yes. We have a department in our Secretariat which is doing this job. It is headed by an officer who is designated as Secretary (Administration). There is a tribal officer who is holding that position. As we are holding the meeting of the Advisory Council, the minutes of the previous meeting are taken into account plus a report on the action taken by the Administration on the decisions which were taken in the last Advisory Council meeting. All pending issues are brought back for consideration of the Council.”

1.25 When asked whether the decisions taken at the meetings of Advisory Council were properly implemented, the Administrator, Lakshadweep stated as follows:—

“..... In the recent meeting which we had on the 5th and 6th December—I myself had taken part—dissatisfaction was expressed regarding certain things. The point is that implementation had been done but they were not satisfied because no action had been taken on the desired lines. They were mainly dissatisfied because of the type of action that has been taken. If any decision has not been implemented and if it comes again before the next meeting, then the Council has an opportunity to express itself as to the nature of implementation, whether it is satisfied or dissatisfied about it. We certainly ensure that all the decisions are implemented. Many of them have already been implemented. For example, we have certain reservations for certain students belong to ST and others who are sent to various technical institutions and certain criteria are there. They have been drawn up by the administration. In the recent meeting, the Council had taken objection to certain categories of persons who were also being sent taking advantage of these allotment of seats. At last, we have dropped that category. So, this is one example. Second example is that there was a plan for building air-strips in all the major Islands in Lakshadweep. One, of course, is in Kavaratti. In respect of certain air-strips, objection was taken because that would be environmentally unacceptable. Therefore, in certain cases where we had earmarked land for air-strips, we had to drop the proposal. The land was utilised for some other purpose. Like this, there are so many things about which the Council criticised the action that has been taken by the Administration and we normally had taken action is see that was changed.”

1.26 When asked whether any Annual Report on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Advisory Council was prepared, the Administrator Lakshadweep submitted:—

“No Sir. But I think it is a good suggestion and we will do that.”

1.27 The Committee regret to note that the Advisory Council of the Administrator which is the chief consultative body to aid and

advise the Administration on the Tribal Development and which is supposed to meet at least once in a quarter i.e. four times a year, has not been able to make any worthwhile contribution in the development of tribals because of its delayed constitution year after year and consequent lesser number of meetings it is able to hold. It is highly regrettable that the Advisory Council which should have been functional on the 1st April, 1987 was constituted as late as in October, 1987. Under these circumstances the Advisory Council has been able to hold one or two meetings a year at the most. The Committee find from the facts placed before it that meetings of the Advisory Council when convened, continue for more than 24 hours at a stretch which shows that there are enough matters to be considered but these keep on piling because the meetings are held after long intervals. In the opinion of the Committee this is not a happy situation and there is urgent need for reviewing the entire system and streamlining it so that meetings are held more frequently and issues are considered without any constraint of time.

Delay in constitution of the Advisory Council has been attributed to the delayed initiation of the action to constitute the Advisory Council. The Committee have been informed that the action to constitute the successor Advisory Council was initiated after the term of the preceding Advisory Council had come to an end i.e. after 31 March each year. This naturally results in inordinate delay in the constitution of the Advisory Council.

The Committee have been assured by the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs that from 1987 onward the action to constitute the Advisory Council would be initiated 3 to 4 months before the expiry of the term of the earlier Advisory Council so that succeeding Advisory Council is in position as soon as the term of the earlier Advisory Council comes to an end. The Committee hope that the new line of action now introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs will obviate the possibility of any delay in the constitution of the Advisory Council.

1.28 The Committee feel that a tenure of one year of the Advisory Council which meets hardly four times in a year is too short. The Committee recommend that the Advisory Council should have a minimum term of two years.

1.29 The Committee further recommend that an annual report on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Advisory Council may be prepared and circulated to its members as assured by the Administrator, Lakshadweep.

E. Advisory Committee of the Home Minister

1.30 The Committee have been informed that to advise the Minister of Home Affairs about affairs of Lakshadweep there is an Advisory Committee of the Home Minister which consists of 8 members. All of them belong to Scheduled Tribe. Apart from these 8 members nominated by the Government the MP from the Union Territory who is also an ST and the Administrator of Lakshadweep are ex-officio members.

1.31 When the Committee enquired about the manner in which the Advisory Committee of the Home Minister was constituted, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated during evidence as under:—

"We invite the suggestions from the Administrator regarding non-official members. Apart from 8 non-official members, the MP and the Administrator are also members of this committee. We normally go by the recommendations of the Administrator. Their term is for one year. In this way, we try to have two meetings a year. But our experience is that we have been able to hold only one meeting in the last two or three years."

1.32 On being asked whether the tenure of one year of the Advisory Committee was sufficient, the Administrator, Lakshadweep stated that it was not so.

1.33 When pointed out that a period of one year was too short for the members of the Advisory Committee to understand the difficulties faced by tribals of Lakshadweep, the Administrator replied:

"Normally we try and see that the same people are repeated. But I definitely agree that the period is too short."

He further submitted that consultations were going on to increase the tenure of the Advisory Committee.

The Committee has further been informed that the Advisory Committee of the Minister has no secretariat of its own.

1.34 On being asked that in the absence of a Secretariat of the Home Minister's Advisory Committee which was the authority that kept a record of the decisions taken at its sittings and was

responsible for the follow-up action, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated as follows:—

“There is a Division, called the Union Territory Division. They process the agenda papers for the meeting. When the meeting is held, there is a regular system of recording of the minutes with the help of tape-recorders, and the officials also note down the points. Then the minutes are issued. There are certain items where action is to be taken in cooperation with the other Ministries. We in the Home Ministry pursue with the other Ministries. There are certain items on the agenda where the follow-up action has to be taken by the Administrator. The minutes are sent to the Administrator and he is directed to take follow up action as far as the items relating to his jurisdiction in the Island are concerned.”

1.35 When asked whether any report was called for from the Administrator about the action taken and the progress made on the decisions taken by the Advisory Committee, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated as under:—

“Yes, Sir, Normally we pursue each and every item of agenda where follow-up action has to be taken because in the next meeting we have to give a statement regarding the follow-up action taken. This is item No. 1 to be discussed in the next meeting.”

1.36 On being asked about the number of meetings of the Advisory Committee held each year, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted:

“If Parliament session is there, then normally it is not possible to hold the meeting. The whole exercise takes about two months because we have to invite the items from the island itself. Then we screen the items and call for the comments, both from the Administrator as well as from several Ministries. So, this whole process takes about two months. So, normally we hold these meetings in between the Parliament sessions. In the last two years, we have been holding only one meeting in a year.”

1.37 When asked whether it was sufficient to hold only one meeting in a year, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated as under:—

“No, Sir. We feel that it should be at least twice a year. As you might be aware now the Island Development

Authority has been established under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in which several Ministers are also members, apart from the Administrators of Lakshadweep and Andaman Islands and the two M.Ps. Then there is a Steering Committee also under the IDA which is headed by Prof. Menon, Member, Planning Commission. They also hold about 5-6 meetings in a year. So, I think the major problems of Lakshadweep and Andamans, such as transport, communications, All India Radio coverage, health, etc. are covered. Most of these problems are now adequately taken care of by these new bodies."

1.38 On being suggested by the Committee that at least two sittings of the Advisory Committee should be held each year, the witness submitted "that will be noted for action."

1.39 The Committee regret to note that the Advisory Committee attached to the Minister of Home Affairs which is supposed to meet twice a year has been meeting only once a year during the last two or three years which in the opinion of the Committee is too insufficient for the Committee to make any worthwhile contribution towards welfare of Lakshadweep tribals. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Home Affairs should ensure that the Committee met at least twice a year if not more often.

1.40 The Committee have been informed that the tenure of the Advisory Committee at present is one year which is too short for the Members of the Committee to grasp even the difficulties faced by the tribals in Lakshadweep. Although in actual practice the same members are nominated on the Committee for more than one year consecutively. The Committee feel that this should be put on a regular footing by suitably enhancing the tenure of the Committee if nothing more, to at least two years.

F. Voluntary Organisations

1.41 As regards the work done by the voluntary organisations in Lakshadweep Islands for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, the position has been stated through a note furnished to the Committee by the Ministry as under:—

"Most of the Voluntary Organisation in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep were organised and administered by the local inhabitants of Lakshadweep, in their respective

islands. The main aims and objectives of these organisations are for the promotion of arts and culture and sports among the youth etc. of the locality."

1.42 On being asked about the nature of activities of voluntary organisations, the Administrator, Lakshadweep stated during evidence that they were organising cultural activities.

1.43 The total grant-in-aid given to each Voluntary Organisation during the last three years has been stated to be as under:

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
1. Lakshadweep Sahithya Kala Academy	1.56	0.98	2.00
2. Northern Brothers Club, Kavaratti	—	0.10	—
3. Agatti Poor Welfare Society, Agatti	—	0.10	—
4. Leaders Youth Recreation Club, Amini	—	0.10	—
5. Mahilasamajam, Kavaratti	—	0.05	—
6. Kasthurba Mahilasamajam, Kavaratti	—	0.05	—
7. Mahilasamajam, Andrott,	—	0.05	—
8. Mahilasamajam, Minicoy	—	0.05	—
9. Mahilasamajam, Amini	—	0.05	—
10. Mahilasamajam, Kalpeni	—	0.05	—
11. Mahilasamajam, Agatti	—	0.05	—
12. Mahilasamajam, Kiltan	—	0.05	—
13. Mahilasamajam, Chetlat	—	0.05	—
14. Mahilasamajam, Kadmat	—	0.05	—
Total	1.56	1.78	2.00

1.44 During evidence when asked whether any check was kept to ensure that grant-in-aid given to voluntary organisations was spent on the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, the Administrator, Lakshadweep, informed the Committee as under:

"Whatever the expenditure is, it is always on the ST only. We have a regular audit system. Now we are facing some stresses. We are thinking of employing auditors from Kerala who will come and do audit of those institutions whose accounts to be audited are in arrears."

1.45 The Committee note that there are arrears in the audit of the accounts of some of the voluntary institutions in Lakshadweep and the Administration proposes to requisition the services of auditors from Kerala to clear the backlog of the arrears in audit. The Committee recommend that it should be done without any further loss of time to ensure proper utilisation of funds.

1.46 The Committee feel that voluntary organisations can play a vital role in improving the social, educational and environmental conditions of Scheduled Tribes in Lakshadweep. The Committee therefore, recommend that dedicated voluntary organisations should be encouraged to work among the Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory and necessary grant-in-aid provided to them. The Administration should keep a close watch on their functioning so as to ensure that the money given to them is gainfully spent for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and there is no misuse of funds.

Self employment to ladies

1.47 It has been stated that "in Mahilasamajams, craft training to local ladies are given in every islands for the promotion of self employment for the local ladies. Since the local inhabitants of these islands have been declared as Scheduled Tribes, all the activities are aimed for the improvement of local Scheduled Tribes only."

1.48 During evidence when asked about the nature of training given to ladies in Mahilasamajams and average monthly income of a lady after completing the training, the Administrator stated as under:—

"Normally, there are schemes meant for ladies. We get a group of ladies to work together in book-binding unit or coir producing unit. They pool their resources. The earnings from that unit are distributed among the ladies. Some units are very successful. In Book-binding, a lady earn Rs. 10—15 a day. In coir yarn making units, some of them are okay. But in one of them, I inspected, a lady is earning Rs. 5 a day. We have to see the productivity of the units where they are earning less. We have a number of ladies who have gone in for this art."

He further clarified that:—

"Mahilasamajam, we are providing with composition of a woman worker on a voluntary basis and she is providing training to the ladies in various arts and crafts."

1.49 When asked whether the Lakshadweep Administration would explore the possibility of setting up units by Khadi and Village Industries Commission the witness informed the Committee that the Administration would take up the matter with the K.V.I.C. authorities during their visit to Lakshadweep in January, 1988.

1.50 The Committee note that in Lakshadweep, in Mahilasamajams, craft training is given to ladies in book-binding and coir yarn production which is an additional source of income for them. The Committee recommend that such training should be imparted to ladies in other trades also keeping in view their physical limitations.

1.51 The Committee have been informed that the ladies given training pool their resources and start working as a unit. They recommend that the Administration should render requisite help to these units so that their productivity increases resulting in better earnings by the ladies as assured by the Administrator, Lakshadweep.

1.52 The Committee have been assured that the Union Territory Administration would take up the matter with the KVIC Authorities to set up their units in Lakshadweep. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the efforts made by the Administration for setting up of KVIC units in the Union Territory.

CHAPTER II

PLAN PROVISIONS

A. Plan Outlay and Expenditure

According to a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare to the Committee "the total Plan Outlay of the Union Territory during Seventh Plan is Rs. 4,390 lakhs against which an expenditure of Rs. 1,511 lakhs was incurred upto 30 June, 1987."

2.2 The year-wise outlay and the actual expenditure incurred during the years 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 has been stated to be as follows:—

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	Outlay	Revised	Expenditure
1984-85	666.00	666.00	654.68
1985-86	765.00	679.51	680.16
1986-87	840.00	760.00	755.55 (Provisional)

2.3 The shortfall in expenditure during the years has been ascribed to the following reasons:

"The shortfall in 84-85 is due to the non setting up of Agar Plant, Lakshadweep Fisheries Corporation, Marine park under Fisheries sector and non completion of the mechanised barge under power etc. The outlay of Rs. 765 lakhs for 85-86 was reduced to Rs. 685.19 lakhs in the R.E. stage by the Ministry of Home Affairs. This was further revised at the time of 10-monthly estimates and fixed the revised outlay as Rs. 679.51 lakhs. The expenditure against this revised outlay (10 monthly) was Rs. 680.16 lakhs. Thus there is no shortfall in 1985-86. The approved outlay of Rs. 840 lakhs for 86-87 was reduced and fixed the ceiling to Rs. 760 lakhs. Against this revised outlay the expenditure for that year was Rs. 756 lakhs (Provisional). Thus the shortfall is very negligible (less than one per cent of the revised outlay) in 1986-87."

2.4 During the evidence when the Committee asked about the reasons for the non-completion of the projects which hampered the full utilisation of funds in 1984-85, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as follows:—

“So far as this Agar Plant is concerned, it was proposed that a provision will be made on a closer scrutiny but it was not found feasible and was rejected. This matter had been pending with the Ministry of Agriculture and other concerned ministries. It was being under examination with the Government of India but there were strong reservations among the residents of Lakshadweep itself. In fact this scheme was opposed in the Administrative Advisory Council by no less a person than the MP himself and the matter also came up for discussion in the Island Development Authority. It remained under discussion and examination and now final approval has been given. So far as the mechanised barge is concerned, orders were placed for it but it was not purchased during the year. It was produced subsequently and I do not know if it is the fault of the supplier or somebody else's fault. What we have been doing is that only after the Budget year starts, we place orders for these things although we know before hand as to how much money we are going to get. From this year onwards we have decided to place the orders in advance so that by the time we receive the fund we will be able to utilise them.”

2.5 When asked whether the barge had since been purchased, the Administrator stated that:

“The mechanical barge is there. It is used for carrying diesel. Also, the Lakshadweep Development corporation has been registered.”

2.6 When the Committee asked the reasons for cutting down the original plan outlays through revised estimates the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated as under:—

“Normally during the revised estimate stage when we feel that the outlay which has been provided for a certain scheme, if it is not going to be implemented in the rest of the area, we either cut it down or we appropriate it for some other purpose. In most of these cases what

happened that I will tell you. You take the case of posts. Some posts have been sanctioned, but we have not been able to fill up the posts. so, there is a likely shortfall for the rest of the year. At that time, the Planning Commission along with the Administrative Ministries had this exercise, to reduce that, so that at least the shortfall is not there on account of the implementation part."

2.7 When asked what steps the Administration proposed to take to ensure full utilisation of the funds allotted for the plan outlays the Administrator, Lakshadweep informed the Committee that full utilisation of the funds for the plan outlays could not be made in the past due to delayed placing of orders. He further submitted that from now onwards the Administration will process the plan schemes well in advance and place the orders in such a manner that the deliveries are made by the suppliers before the financial year came to an end so that no plan funds lapsed.

2.8 The Committee regret to note that the actual expenditure incurred by Lakshadweep administration during the year 1984-85 to 1986-87 was far too less as against the funds allocated for the plan outlays. In the year 1984-85 funds were allocated for a plant which had not been cleared by Union Government and for which final approval has not been given till date. In the same year orders for mechanised barge were placed so late that Administration itself knew that it could not be acquired during that financial year. The Committee expect the Administration to realise that earmarking of the funds for projects which cannot be completed during the year of allocation of which have not been finally approved results in tying up of funds which could have been better utilised in other spheres or developmental activities. The faulty planning is always at the cost of other projects. The Committee cannot condone the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry in this regard. They recommend that the administrative machinery of the Union Territory Administration should be streamlined and revamped so that plan outlays are provided only for such projects that are likely to be executed during that financial year and will not remain on paper only.

2.9 The Committee have been assured that now onwards orders for acquisitions will be placed in such a manner that by the time the funds are received the administration is able to utilise them fully. The Committee hope that the Administration will take whatever steps they deem fit to minimise the chances of lapsing of funds allocated for the plan outlays.

Budget allocation

2.10 The Committee have been informed through a written note that the following allocations in the Budget of the Union Territory (Revenue/Capital Account) during the year 1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87 were made:

	(Rs. in lakhs)		
Revenue/Capital	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Revenue	418.67	578.00	632.66
Capital	217.33	187.00	207.34
Total	666.00	765.00	840.00

“Against these allocations the expenditure has been shown as follows:

	(Rs in lakhs)		
Revenue/Capital	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Revenue	542.65	474.72	518.59
Capital	112.03	205.44	236.96
Total	654.68	680.16	755.96

2.11 During evidence the Committee enquired the reasons why the allocations under the revenue account could not be fully utilised during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as under:—

“I cannot exactly say what weighed with the Administration at that time. But adjustment of allocation as between revenue and capital has been permitted to the administration there. These adjustments are being made regularly. In certain years sometimes the revenue may exceed what was originally planned. In certain others, the capital may be more and revenue less. This is the process which is continuously going on.”

2.12 When asked whether the entire allocation on revenue account or on capital account came from the Union Government and no money was raised locally at all, the Administrator, Lakshadweep stated as under:—

“By and large, the substantial portion comes from the Centre. But certain amount is raised in the form of recoveries and so on. For example we charge for various facilities that are given and this money is put in the Treasury. Sale of tuna cans from the government factory fetches some money and this money goes into the Government account. Also, certain amount of money is recovered from the sale of coir from Government units.”

The witness continued:—

“If not one hundred percent, at least upto 98 percent, we are dependent on the Centre. There is very little scope at present for raising the revenues from within the Islands. The economic base of the Island is extremely slender. If we tax it, it may be counter-productive. At present the main problem is that the local people have developed the habit of looking to the Government for everything. We are trying to change this type of attitude. Subsidising the economy entirely is also not healthy and we do have to make some modifications.”

2.13 When suggested that the Union Territory Administrator should make efforts to make the people of Lakshadweep self-reliant, the witness observed:—

“That, in fact, is our aim. That is precisely the reasons why the new TV factory is set up on a cooperative basis. We are also encouraging private people to come forward to start enterprises in the Island to make their economy better.”

2.14 When asked whether there were people in the Islands with taxable incomes, the witness submitted:—

“The number may be so small that the cost of recovering that tax would be higher than the tax returns. Anyway, it can be examined. We will make a study.”

2.15 The Committee note that the entire financial requirements of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep are met by the Union Government and the Union Territory has no self-generating means to raise

Finances. They have been informed that the local people have developed the habit of looking to the Union Government for every thing. However, some schemes have been undertaken by the Administration like setting up a T.V. Factory in the cooperative sector to make the Union Territory financially self-reliant. The Committee are of the opinion that ethos of Union Territory needs a complete overhaul. The attitude of the people will have to be moulded in such a way that in the years to come schemes of generating internal financial resources are preferred by them to depending on subsidies alone. The Committee recommend that while making plan outlays, the Administration should not lose sight of this aspect and may undertake schemes in the public and the private sectors which may have a substantial capacities to generate funds to meet the financial needs of the Union Territory Administration and for undertaking more welfare schemes for the tribals.

2.16 The Committee are rather surprised to find that Lakshadweep is virtually tax-free union territory where no one pays the income tax. The Committee recommend that the Administration should make a study to find out how many persons in the Union Territory are liable to pay income tax as assured by the Administrator during the evidence.

Plan outlay and the expenditure on various sectors during 1986-87

2.17 According to the preliminary material furnished to the Committee. in 1986-87 against a plan outlay of Rs. 81 lakhs for fisheries the amount utilised was Rs. 42.87 lakhs; against an outlay of Rs. 4 lakhs for I.R.E.P. there was no expenditure; against the outlay of Rs. 24.80 lakhs for Community Development the expenditure was Rs. 1.41 lakhs. Similarly shortfalls in expenditure against plan outlays have been indicated against N.R.S.E., Social Welfare, Special Nutrition, transport etc.

2.18 During evidence when asked about the reasons why amounts allocated under the plan could not be fully utilised during the year 1986-87, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as under:—

“So far as the plan as a whole is concerned, the amount was almost fully utilized. It is only in some sectors where the scheme could not be implemented we asked the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Resource to suggest alternatives. So far alternatives have not come up. But this year we have succeeded in using this money. Earlier they did not have any schemes but they made some provision. Similarly under the community deve-

for want of scheme there were not sufficient number of programmes, but the money, so far as total plan was concerned, was generally utilized. So, there has been only a marginal shortfall."

2.19 When asked as to which Ministry did the monitoring of the implementation of programmes and schemes undertake and proper utilisation of funds, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated as under:—

"The correct position is that the Administrative Ministries are supposed to monitor along with the Planning Commission the progress and the implementation of these schemes. Then every quarter a review is made by the Planning Commission and the Ministries for plan implementation. We just consolidate the budget. The actual monitoring is done by the Administrative Ministries."

2.20 When asked whether the Ministry of Welfare had any role to play in monitoring welfare schemes for the tribals in the Union Territory, the Welfare Secretary, submitted that in States where the Special Component Plans and Tribal Sub-Plans are implemented the monitoring is done by the Ministry of Welfare. As the Lakshadweep Union-Territory has the entire population of tribals and all the schemes are implemented for their welfare and no Tribal-Sub Plan was implemented there, it was the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs to coordinate.

The position was further clarified by the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs as follows:—

"When there is no Tribal-Sub Plan, the individual Ministry and the Planning Commission monitor it. Every Quarter a review is being done on Plan implementation, targets achieved, expenditure incurred, etc."

2.21 Asked about the difficulty in monitoring the Welfare schemes implemented in the Union Territory, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs explained as follows:—

"Actually there has been some confusion after this bifurcation from the Home Ministry. The work of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was transferred to the new Ministry. There has been some confusion from that time as to the role to be played by both the Ministries."

Since Lakshadweep is almost a tribal populated area, some sort of monitoring is done, which you can say is a little loose."

2.22 When asked why the allocations made in 1986-87 for Community Development could not be utilised, the Administrator of the Union Territory submitted as follows:—

"There is no Panchayat Raj system in Lakshadweep. It is not that this money is not utilised. This money is utilised for other developmental schemes."

2.23 When asked why funds were obtained for the Community Development Schemes, in the absence of Panchayat Raj, the witness explained that for the small schemes for community welfare undertaken there was no special allocation. A small amount was spent on the block system. He further explained because of this reason no funds had been asked for in 1987-88 under the head 'Community Development'.

2.24 The Committee regret to note that at present no monitoring of the schemes implemented by the Lakshadweep Administration is done either by the Ministry of Welfare or the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Welfare have excused themselves on the plea that they monitor the schemes only in States where these are implemented under Special Component Plan or Tribal-Sub Plan Schemes. As Lakshadweep Union Territory is totally inhabited by the tribals and all schemes are for their welfare and there is no Tribal Sub-Plan they are not concerned with the monitoring of the schemes implemented there. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has deposed that a loose monitoring is done. The Committee are not happy with the present position and recommend that the Ministry of Home Affairs should revise a suitable mechanism to monitor the tribal welfare schemes undertaken in Lakshadweep properly so that eventuality of the lapsing of funds is altogether avoided. The Committee are sure that full utilisation of the funds will help the tribals in the Union Territory a good deal more.

2.25 The Committee are surprised that the plan allocations are made for schemes which are not altogether implemented by the Union Territory Administration. In this connection, the Committee will like to draw the attention of the Administration to the allocation of Rs. 24.80 lakhs for the Community Development in the year 1986-87 when no scheme has been undertaken under this head. The Committee are of the opinion that such a casual approach in asking for funds for Plan schemes does not reflect well on the planning

process for the welfare of tribals. The Committee desire that in future the Administration as well as the Ministry be more careful in asking for funds for Plan schemes and ensure that allocations are made only for schemes which are to be actually implemented.

B. Socio-economic survey

2.26 The Committee have been informed:

"In October, 1986 the National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a house to house socio-economic survey in Lakshadweep. Taking the entire Union Territory as a whole, only less than 1 per cent of the house-holds spent Rs. 50 or less per month per person on consumer necessities. Nearly 80 per cent of the house-holds spent more than Rs. 100 per month per person. In Kiltan, Kalpani, Kadmat, the position is not as good as in other Islands. The proportion of house-holds which can afford to spend Rs. 100 or more than that per month per person is about 62 per cent in Kiltan, 65 per cent in Kalpani and 66 per cent in Kadmat as against about 98 per cent in Bitra, 94 per cent in Minicoy and about 90 to 91 per cent in Agatti and Chetlat. The proportion is about 88 per cent in Kavarati and 71 to 73 per cent in Andrott and Amini."

2.27 During evidence when asked about the reasons for the backwardness in Kiltan, Kalpani and Kadmat Islands, the Administrator, Lakshadweep stated as under:—

"So far as the Kalpani is concerned, it suffered with a severe cyclone in 1977 and not a single coconut tree was left standing. Although there was no loss of life but all the coconut trees were destroyed. Although it has recovered considerably but the level of the productivity is still lower than the average. In the case of Kalpani though the people may be living outside they are sending back the money and I think the NSO has not taken into account that fact. So Kalpani is not in a serious position. These islands which are rich Islands as they have the highest level of spending. People go out and work in merchant marine and earn good money. They are also good fishermen. These are the islands where they have not taken up fishing in a large way. Unless they do go in for that in a big way the prosperity will always remain elusive. If they depend only on their income from

land then this naturally is a shrinking resource. Then so far as the Kadmat is concerned, we have already started a new unit for TV manufacturing. It is a joint Venture, with the Keltron. So far as the Kiltan is concerned, we are planning greater expansion of the coir yarn but again, as I mentioned earlier, we are now planning for the training facilities from various departments, to get these people involved more in the fisheries Sector."

2.28 When asked about the steps proposed to attract people to fisheries in a big way, the Administrator, Lakshadweep submitted as follows:—

"We can but people do not have that tradition. We are trying to re-introduce it by having training programmes and insisting them to go for more fisheries. The reason why they do not go in for the fisheries is that they work in various programmes which are being undertaken by the NREP and other such programmes and earn quite a good amount of money. We also have to try and motivate them by giving higher wages in the fisheries."

2.29 The Committee have been informed that the present backwardness of Kalpani is the result of a severe cyclone in 1977 that left not even a single coconut tree standing. Although coconut trees have been replanted yet the productivity level is still low. The Committee recommend that the Administration should initiate schemes to protect the cultivators as much as possible against the vagaries of nature, like cyclones, tornadoes etc. so that they do not have to suffer huge losses of the nature suffered by them in 1977.

2.30 The Committee have been informed that unless the Islands take to fishing in a big way their prosperity will always remain elusive. Keeping this in view, the Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take steps to attract more and more families to fishing and fisheries so that their economic conditions improve. The Administration should also explore the possibility of setting up industries especially based on coir yarn in these islands to ameliorate the living standard and the quality of life of tribals living there.

CHAPTER III
SCHEMES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A. Land

Rights of tribals in land

The Committee have been informed that "the Laccadive Minicoy & Amindivi Islands Land Revenue & Tenancy Regulation, 1965 empowers the Administrator to confer occupancy right on those who are in lawful occupation of pandaram land (i.e. Government land) and after this is done they will become virtually the Land Owners and their right over such pandaram land will be permanent, heritable and transferable."

It has further been stated:—

"under the Laccadive Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Protection of Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1964, for transfer by way of sale, mortgage lease, exchange, gift or otherwise of land belonging to a Scheduled Tribe member to a non-Scheduled Tribe member, previous sanction of the Administrator is necessary."

3.2 During evidence when asked about the number of tribals so far allotted Pandaram land under the 1965 Regulation, the Administrator, Lakshadweep stated:

"Under this regulation, 438 families have been allotted Pandaram land."

3.3 When asked whether the Pandaram land was equivalent to 'Gaon Samaj' Land in the main land, the witness submitted as follows:—

"It is something like Nazul land. It is there in Minicoy. The Historical background is that all the cultivable land is owned by the Government, not by the community. The community was allowed ownership right of the land on which they actually lived. So there is a village system in Minicoy, whereas it is not there in other islands. It is occupied by community, he is only a tenant of the

Raja. After these islands were taken over by the British Government, gradually the local people started occupying this Pandanam land. So, this has really recognised the reality and given the right to the people who were in occupation of that land."

3.4 Asked whether the lease hold rights or occupancy rights in land are given to tribals, the witness informed that only occupancy rights were given.

3.5 The Committee enquired of the witness whether occupancy rights were given to outsiders also. The witness replied that nobody who was a non-Scheduled Tribe could get the occupancy right.

3.6 When asked whether any Scheduled Tribe from the main land could be given occupancy right in the Lakshadweep, the witness submitted, "yes, he can, provided he is a notified Scheduled Tribe."

3.7 When asked whether any application to this effect has ever been received, the Administrator replied in the negative.

3.8 Pursuing the matter further, the Committee asked whether any provision of the regulations had laid down any limitations in regard to the tribals who could acquire occupancy rights in the land in Union Territory. In case, the regulation applied to the Lakshadweep Tribes only, then how could the land be transferred to a person belonging to Scheduled Tribe from the main land.

3.9 In a subsequent note furnished to the Committee, the position in this regard was clarified by the Ministry as follows:—

"Under section 3(1) of Laccadive Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Protection of Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1964, no member of the Scheduled Tribe shall, except with the previous sanction of the Administrator, transfer by way of sale, mortgage, lease, exchange, gift or otherwise, any land to any persons other than any such member. Under section 4, no persons other than a member of the Scheduled Tribes shall, except with the previous sanction of the Administrator, acquire any interest in any land situated in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep or in any product of, or crop raised on such land. In the said regulation the word Scheduled Tribe means the Scheduled Tribe of the LM&A islands as specified in the constitution [STs (U.Ts.) Order 1951] [Vide Sec. 2(b)]

Therefore no tribal from the mainland can acquire land in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, except with previous sanction of the Administrator. No case of land acquired by a mainland tribal from local tribal has been reported."

3.10 When asked whether land was allotted to the 438 families was on the basis of lease hold or occupancy rights, the Administrator explained as follows:—

"They are virtually the owners. They can transfer the land, they can mortgage the land they can pass on the land."

3.11 In regard to check the illegal transfer of land to anybody other than a Tribal belonging to the Union Territory, the position was explained by the Administrator, Lakshadweep as follows:—

"the penal provisions will apply to such person who in violation of the regulation acquire any land of the Scheduled Tribe member of the Union Territory."

3.12 The Committee have been informed that occupancy rights in development land in Lakshadweep have been given to the tribals of the Union Territory. These rights the tribals can transfer, by way of sale, mortgage, lease, exchange, gift or otherwise to any person other than a Scheduled Tribe by getting the previous sanction of the Administrator. Keeping in view the cultural and economic background of the tribals of Lakshadweep, the Committee recommend that in order to safeguard the interest of tribals in land it is imperative that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Protection of Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1964 should be amended to provide that no tribal has the right to transfer his occupancy right in land to any person other than a tribal of Lakshadweep even with the previous permission of the Administrator. The Committee would like to be apprised of the amendments made in the Regulation.

B. Agriculture

Plant protection

3.13 The Committee have been informed that in Lakshadweep "the Seventh Five Year plan contemplates more accelerated activities under plant protection. Traditional rat eradication campaign which were an important feature of local life involving public parti-

cipation is proposed to be revived during the plan period. During last year, rat eradication campaign could be conducted in a few islands only. The remaining islands will be covered during the current financial year."

3.14 When asked about the reasons for conducting the rat eradication campaign in a few islands only, the Administrator, Lakshadweep during evidence replied:—

"This requires a large degree of public participation. Earlier we were applying time oxide medicines and other poisonous foods, but the rats were not taking them. Last year, we were trying to take this programme. But it depends on the public who have to cooperate in the programme. People have not been coming forward to do things. Now, we hope to contact every year people of each and every island. We will contact them each and every year and we hope that in the coming years all the citizens and public will come forward in combating these rats."

3.15 When asked whether any incentives were given to public to participate in the campaign the witness submitted:—

"I think we have to make them realise and they should come forward to help the administration. We have got the equipment and the poisonous foods and anti-blood clotting system."

The witness added that the eradication of rats was in the interest of the people and that there was no necessity of giving any incentives. The witness further clarified that earlier people readily participated in such campaign but now were reluctant because of prosperity.

3.16 The Committee note that in Lakshadweep the traditional rat eradication campaign for plant protection could be undertaken in a few islands only because of the lack of people's participation. The Committee are not convinced by the argument adduced by the Administrator, Lakshadweep that the people were not participating in the campaign because of Prosperity. In their opinion mere awareness without any incentives will not make the tribals to participate in the campaign. The Committee recommend that the Administration should provide proper incentives in cash or kind to enthruse people to participate in the campaign for rat eradication.

3.17 As the existing rat combating techniques have not proved successful, the Committee recommend that some expert advice should be taken in the matter and based on that a more practical and scientific approach be evolved for the eradication of rats.

High value cash crop

3.18 In the information furnished to the Committee, it has been stated that "considering the need for a high value cash crop as coconut, mulberry cultivation which proved successful, was again being tried experimentally during the Seventh Plan period. Sprouting and survival rates in these experimental plots are 15 per cent in Kavaratti, 60 per cent in Andrott and 70 per cent in Kalpeni. This activity could lead to productive utilisation of the resources of land lying between the coconut trees."

3.19 During the evidence, the Committee enquired of the witness when the mulberry cultivation was taken up and the reasons of it dis-continuance earlier. The Administrator Lakshadweep stated as follows:—

"This matter had come up before the Island Development Authority recently. Mulberry cultivation has been tried on and off since 1982. Results in Andrott and Kalpeni proved to be good but this was open land. Mulberry is recommended as an inter-crop. It has been tried in Kavaratti as an inter-crop. It was a failure with very low survival rate. This plant requires a great deal of energy. Our soils are energy starved and calcereous and for this reason mulberry is not suitable for Lakshadweep. For mulberry cultivation land has to be cleared of coconut trees. But coconut trees are more profitable than mulberry. The yield per hectare from coconut fetches about Rs. 12000 per year while from mulberry cultivation it is only Rs. 8,000. It can only be used as an inter-crop for which is proved to be a failure. We have therefore closed this chapter so far as Lakshadweep is concerned. With the concurrence of the Island Development Authority, we are not proceeding with it.

Instead, we are promoting fruit crops as an inter-crop. Central Crop Research Institute has suggested papaya, banana guava and sapota as inter-crops and not mulberry."

3.20 When asked whether the prospects were good for cultivation of Papaya, Banana, guava and sapota in the Union Territory the witness replied:—

“These fruit bearing varieties are all indigenous plants in Lakshadweep. The reason for not going ahead with these crops was non-availability of market. Now we intend to plan tourist development and that will create the market for these products. The quality of fruit grown in Lakshadweep is very high and especially in the case of papaya, it is the best in the country. Since these fruits are highly perishable, it is not easy to transport them to the mainland and to sell them at a good price. Now, with the introduction of tourism, market should be available in the Island itself.

This is what the Central Crop-Research Institute in their study had recommended. They had also recommended inter-cropping for certain vegetables and other things. So we will be trying all these things.”

3.21 The Committee note that as suggested by the Central Crops Research Institute, the Lakshadweep Administration intend to promote the cultivation of fruits like papaya, banana, guava and sapota as inter-crops. It has also brought to the notice of the Committee that the quality of fruits grown in Lakshadweep is very high especially in the case of papaya which is said to be the best in the country. The Committee are not convinced by the reason put forward by the Lakshadweep Administrator that the reasons for not going ahead with fruit cultivation was non-availability of market. In the case of papaya also, although it is a perishable item but it too takes a few days to ripe after it is harvested. In the opinion of the Committee if no local market is available for selling the fruits in Lakshadweep these can always be sent to the main-land where these can bring good price. Also these can be put on sale in the ships of the Shipping Corporation of India which connect the Islands with the mainland. In the opinion of the Committee it may take a long time for the tourist facilities to come into full bloom in the Lakshadweep Islands. Instead of exploring local market for these fruits, it will always be more profitable to sell those in the main-land. Keeping in view these factors, the Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should immediately take steps to popularise the cultivation of the fruits as an inter-crop by giving suitable incentives and creating necessary infrastructure for preservation and storage of the fruits which will be an additional source of income for the tribals.

Agricultural Demonstration Units

3.22 The Committee have been informed that "the economic analysis of the Agricultural Demonstration Units in the islands during 1984-85 shows a net loss of about Rs. 12 lakhs in monetary terms. Economic non-viability affects their demonstration value, therefore more emphasis is being given for transferring the departmental programme of intercropping etc. to the private sector."

3.23 During the evidence when asked how the programme of inter-cropping etc. are viable for the private sector and uneconomical for agricultural Demonstration units, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as under:—

"This is because the agricultural farms are not run on commercial lines. They are running their demonstration units by employing some people on daily wages and so forth, thereby the wages and other inputs which the agricultural farm is put in plus all the other overheads which are there to run the agricultural farms, they have been added to this. The agricultural farm is not only a commercial proposition, in fact it is also an experimental development.

But so far as private farms are concerned, what is intended is that for these inter-cropping the farmers will be given vegetables. It is done mainly to grow in between trees which they are all growing. They will be encouraged to cover labour and so on. It is done mainly for utilising the land which will otherwise remain fallow. Therefore it is profitable. They are not profitable so far as the Government farms are concerned because they are not in any case designed for making profits."

3.24 In reply to a question regarding the assistance given by the Administration to the farmers, the Administrator informed the Committee as under:—

"Seedlings and also other technical advice. This technical advice is mainly given to see that they are able to cultivate it in a proper fashion."

3.25 The Committee are not convinced by the argument of the Administrator, Lakshadweep that the running of the Government Agriculture Farm on non-commercial lines and the overhead expenses affect the demonstration value of the Agricultural Demonstra-

tion Units. The Committee are not averse to the encouraging of the inter-cropping in the private land which otherwise will remain fallow. Contrary to the present approach, the Committee recommend that the Government farm should be re-organised to make profits so that these serve as a model to private farmers.

C. Fisheries

3.26 The Committee have been informed that:—

“The annual exploitable resources of tuna in the Lakshadweep sea are estimated at one Lakh tonnes, and of shark of one lakh tonnes, indicating virtually the unlimited scope for expansion.”

It has also been stated that “the fish catch during 1986-87 is 7,488 M.T. out of which 70 to 80 per cent of them were tuna, the chicken of the sea.”

3.27 During the evidence when the Committee asked the witness why the entire fish resources of the Union Territory remained untapped and what steps had been proposed to augment the fish catch in the Union Territory the Administrator, Lakshadweep stated as under:—

“It is very much a fact that the sea resources of Lakshadweep are very much under-utilised, whereas the land sources are over-exploited. Therefore, now what we are intending to do is this. Our development programme is based on development of sea resources and naturally the tuna and shark fishing is among the most important of this programme. To promote this kind of thing, firstly, a decision was recently taken to set up Lakshadweep Development Corporation. It was announced and registered also. What we are planning to do is that we are going to have the fisheries master plan. The Central Marine Research Institute has set up a team consisting of Engineers, Marine biologists and others. They have been visiting us. The master plan will indicate further as to how much they have utilised the fisheries during the financial year. They have also been told by the Island Development Authority to come with a scheme for Bait fish protection and Bait Fish Resources. Bait fish is used by fishermen for catching tuna fish. They carry these fishes in tanks and then throw them into the water.

On seeing this, the tunas or some such fishes come towards the surface for eating the Baits, and immediately the fishermen are able to hook them.

These fishes are becoming scarce because of the over-exploitation. So they have come out with schemes, say for example, provision of better navigational aid and communication system. They have brought these schemes mainly for the people so that they can go out further. At present they are going upto 15 or 20 miles off the island for catching the fish. If they have better navigational aid and better communication system, they would be able to get in touch with the land and will be in a position to venture further out.

The question of introducing trawler system for catching tunas in bulk and also be able to market the fresh tunas is also there. This Fisheries Corporation will also look after the marketing of tuna. At present they are doing it by smoking and drying it. After that they are selling it. Marketing of fresh tunas will also act as an incentive for getting better price.

There is also a question that young people are not attracted towards fisheries. We are going in for vocationalisation of education so that fisheries are not regarded as an undignified profession by the children in the Schools."

The witness further added:—

"At the initiative of the Islands Development Authority, a scheme for vocationalisation of education under the new education policy has been drawn up and now we are going to implement it from the next academic year; and that is why we are introducing a scheme of vocational fishing for men coir production for women and one day in every week will be set apart for vocational education. Boys will have to do fishing; and whatever fish they actually catch, half of that value, they will be able to take home. So the younger people will get a feeling that there is nothing undignified in this job because they will get a feeling of getting income. By inducting young people into the fishery sector, we shall be able to inject self-generating scheme of modernisation of the fishery sector."

3.28 When asked whether the Administration took the help of the modern technology while giving training to the youth, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as follows:—

“So far as Lakshadweep is concerned, vocationalisation in the schools is being organised through the Central institute of fishery education under the direct control of a former Director. They are working out details. This institute is going to apply most modern methods.”

3.29 When asked about the full exploitation of sea-resources, the Administrator clarified that:—

“So far as we are concerned, the land has reached the saturation level. As far as exploitation is concerned, there is very little that can be done. Even if we do something, it may have only marginal benefits. Whereas the sea resources are virtually not exploited. Therefore our attempt would be entirely on the sea. Under the new development plan which we are now preparing, we are going to see as to how we can utilise the sea rather than land for generating higher income for the tribals.

3.30 When pointed out whether the Administration was going to further expand its planning process, the Administrator replied as under:—

“We are going to prepare a master plan for fisheries, vocationalisation of education to include fisheries, better navigational aid and so on.”

3.31 As regards the production of fish the Administrator stated:—

“That is already there. There have been considerable expansion in this direction. In 1951, 500 tonnes of fish were caught. Now, it is 7488 tonnes. Over the last 30 years and odd, it had gone up by over 100 per cent. It has been one of the major development where we can still go very much.”

3.32 When asked how much money had been earmarked for this purpose in this year, the Administrator stated that “for fisheries, during 1987-88 we have got Rs. 52 lakhs and for 1988-89 we have asked for Rs. 111 lakhs.”

3.33 The Committee have been informed by the Administrator, Lakshadweep that the scope of further tapping the land resources in Lakshadweep is negligible. However, there is a vast scope for exploitation of the marine resources around the Islands. Although there has been some improvement in the exploitation of the marine resources during the last 30 years, yet against the availability of the marine products this source remains virtually untapped.

The Committee note that the Lakshadweep Administration has registered the Lakshadweep Development Corporation which will inter-alia be responsible for the marketing of the marine products which will make fishing more alluring the tribals. The Committee recommend that the Corporation may be made functional at the earliest.

3.34 The Committee have been informed that Fisheries Master Plan is being formulated by the Administration and in this regard the help of the Central Marine Research Institute has been taken. The Research Institute has already recommended for improvement in the navigation and communication systems so that the fishermen can go beyond the present limit of 15 or 20 kilometers into the sea for fishing. The Committee recommend that these facilities should be improved forthwith and the finalisation of Fisheries Master Plan should be expedited so that the marine resources are exploited in a big way which will not only help the tribals of the Union Territory economically but will also help the country earn much needed foreign exchange.

3.35 It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that at the initiative of the Islands Development Authority a scheme for vocationalisation of education under the new Education Policy has been drawn up to attract more youth to take up fishing in a big way and to instill among them the feeling that there is nothing undignified in this profession which is most profitable. The Committee recommend that the vocationalisation scheme for fishing under the new Education Policy should be implemented in right earnestness by the Lakshadweep Administration so that more and more young people take up fishing as a profession which will go a long way to improve the economic condition of the local tribals.

3.36 The Committee also recommend that trawlers to boost fish catch may be inducted at the earliest as mentioned by the Administration Lakshadweep.

Fishing boats

3.37 On the subject of Fishing Boats, the Committee have been informed:—

“So far the department has distributed 313 fishing boats and there are 331 fishing boats operating in the territory at present. Each boat gives seasonal or part-time employment to about 10 persons.”

It has also been submitted to the Committee that “it is estimated that the annual catch during 1986-87 comes to Rs. 1,54,391 for a boat and the average, being higher (viz Rs. 4,56,000) for a boat in Aggatti.”

3.38 During evidence when asked about the reasons why more boats could not be provided to the fishermen for fishing, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as under:—

“We would like now to provide more boats. We were not doing so earlier, because of several constraints. The main reason is that there is no timber available in the island now for boat-building, which is a traditional art in Lakshadweep. It has to be brought from Kerala, which is very costly. This year we have established contacts with the Andaman & Nicobars, and requested them to supply us timber, to which they have agreed. The prices quoted by them are more reasonable. We hope we will be able to receive regular supplies from Andamans. Then the position will be easier.

The art of boat-building is dying. Young people are not attracted to it, and are not coming forward to do this work. This work must be developed, if not from the economic point of view, at least from the cultural one. In the ITI that we are setting up, we are introducing this course, so that we are able to make a vocation out of it.”

3.39 When asked whether the Home Ministry had any proposal in this regard, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs stated as under:—

“This subject has been given emphasis by the Island Development Authority. This has been discussed in the previous meetings of that Authority. One of the decisions was to start this Development Corporation for Lakshadweep,

one of the main activities of which would be the development of fisheries. So, the development of boat-building, as also catching, processing and marketing of fish would be taken up by this newly established Corporation. It has been registered, and I think it will take off within the next financial year."

3.40 When asked about the procedure of selection of beneficiaries, the Administrator stated as follows:—

"People give applications, and depending upon whether they are traditionally doing this job or not, a list is prepared, and a Committee is there having non-officials and officials. It takes a decision as to who should be given the boats during a financial year. We have 30 people in the waiting list. I have taken a decision that by the next financial year, we must liquidate the list, because we are solving the problem of timber supply now. These boats are not distributed freely, but on the basis of a certain amount of subsidy. They are given on hire purchase basis. A person has to pay back the cost over a period of 6 or 7 years. The scheme is going on quite nicely. Because of scarcity of timber and its rising costs, the boat costs Rs. 104,000 now, instead of Rs. 60,000 earlier.

The recovery position is very good. We have no problem about it. The normal income received is quite good."

3.41 In Lakshadweep where the scope for tapping fishery resources is very high, the Administration have not been able to meet fully the demand for boats and there is a waiting list. The Committee have been informed that more boats could not be provided to the Fishermen because there is no timber available in the Lakshadweep Islands for boat building and the cost of timber imported from Kerala is prohibitively high. Now that the Lakshadweep Administration have entered into an agreement with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the supply of timber at a reasonable price, the Committee recommend that the Lakshadweep Administration may not spare any efforts to give a boost to the boat-building and liquidate the waiting list for the boats at the earliest more so when the recovery position is very good, and the normal income from a boat is quite high. The Committee hope that the Administration will earmark sufficient funds for this purpose.

3.42 The Committee are disturbed to learn that traditional art of boat building by inhabitants of Lakshadweep islands is dying. The Committee learn that boat-building is being included as a course in the proposed ITI being set up in the Union Territory. In the opinion of the Committee mere inclusion of the boat making in the course of ITI may not be enough to attract more youth to the boat building. They will like that suitable incentives should be provided to the young people to attract them to take up boat building as a profession. The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take some positive steps in this direction.

Shark fishing:

3.43 The Committee find that 'Shark is another major potential source of income, the annual exploitable shark sources around Lakshadweep have been estimated to be one lakh tonnes. Long line fishing for shark was introduced in this territory from early 1960. Quite a few boats are only engaged in this fishing particularly in the islands of Agatti and Ameni on regular basis. The catch for six months is 48 tonnes of shark.'

3.44 When asked why the vast resource of shark fishing was going waste at present, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as under:—

"Certainly the resources are under-exploited. Locating Shark fish is very difficult. Navigational equipments are required to locate shark fish. Shark fishing is more profitable than Tuna fishing. If we provide the fishermen the sonar equipments for locating the shark fish, then this will easily pick up."

3.45 In reply to a question regarding giving training to the youths for catching shark fish, the Administrator informed the Committee as under:—

"Training is not required for catching shark fish. If we give them the sonar equipments, they can easily locate the shark fish. The Prime Minister during his recent visit to Lakshadweep, observed that this should be done. He is very much interested in this and in his direction, we are going ahead with it.

3.46 When asked about the cost of the Sonar equipment to locate shark fish, the witness replied that it was not costly at all.

3.47 When asked whether any subsidy to the fishermen was needed to make Shark fishing more profitable, the Administrator stated as follows:—

“So far as the subsidy is concerned, I do not think, in any way it will act much as an incentive. In fact, we are giving subsidies on boats and other things. I do not think we can subsidise the catch of fish. The fact is that it is a successful commercial operation.

With regard to the genesis of distribution of the earnings from Shark fishing, this has been done traditionally for centuries. The whole boat is now increasingly manned by one family.”

3.48 The Committee note that Lakshadweep has high potential for shark fishing but this is not being exploited much because the local fishermen do not have sonar equipment. The Committee recommend that the sonar equipment which is not costly at all for locating shark fish may be supplied to the fishermen at the earliest to give an impetus to shark fishing.

D. Animal Husbandry-Poultry Farming

3.49 In a note furnished by the Ministry of Welfare the Committee have been informed as under:—

“To take stock of the increasing demand for birds a hatchery of 13,500 egg capacity was started on 6th October, 1985. So far 140 deep litter units have been established in different islands. The birds for the units and feed are distributed to the farmers on 50 per cent subsidy. The production cost of egg in the farm at present is Rs. 2.71 per egg, whereas this is 0.48 per egg in the private sector. The departmental price is Rs. 0.50 to Rs. 1.25 and private farmers are getting prices of Rs. 0.80 to Rs. 1.00 per egg. The departmental production of eggs in 1985-86 was 5.00 lakhs and in 1986-87 was 4.94 lakhs. The private production in 1985-86 is estimated at 9.86 lakhs and in 1986-87 12.80 lakhs.”

3.50 During the evidence when asked about the reasons for the high cost of production of eggs at the government farms as compared to private sector, the administrator, Lakshadweep informed as follows:—

"There is a great deal of poultry farming. The Government poultry farms have been running at a very high cost whereas the private people do not have to make that much of investment. Therefore, they are able to do it. In fact, when the Prime Minister came there in 1985 he had directed that it should be handed over to private people. The Government poultry farm will supply support facilities. We are integrating Government poultry scheme with IRDP scheme. The main reason is that 50 percent of the price of food is being subsidised."

The witness further stated that the cost of production of eggs in Government farms was higher because of the overhead charges also. Moreover, the subsidy on food was also not available to the Government farms. Another factor for the high cost of production of eggs in Government farms was that the Government farms were not run as commercial farms.

3.51 When asked whether the local demand of eggs was fully met by the Government farms, the witness said that "No, that is why we are going in for private poultry farming." When asked whether the private poultry farms were on a large scale or small scale, the witness replied that so far as private poultry farms were concerned they had about 100 birds each. Their number is about 180. The only difficulty in private farm was that on festive occasions the farm holders could kill all the birds for their consumption. Otherwise the private farms were running smoothly.

3.52 When asked whether the opening of more poultry farms could help in tackling the problem of unemployment, the witness stated that that was the reason why emphasis on opening of new poultry farms was given. The witness further added that in 1985 there were only 16 private poultry farms and the number had gone up to nearly 180 till date and by the end of the current plan it was likely to reach 350.

3.53 The Committee note that keeping in view vast scope for the expansion of poultry farming in the Lakshadweep, the Administration is laying a great stress on its expansion. One of the facilities given to the tribals to take up poultry farming is its integration with the IRDP under which tribals get poultry feed on subsidised rates. Although the number of private poultry farms has increased from 16 in 1985 to 180 till the end of 1987, yet the Committee feel much more is required to be done by the Administra-

tion in this sphere. The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should provide more incentives to the tribals to take up poultry farming on a large scale. This will help in tackling the problem of unemployment among the tribals.

3.54 The Committee are not convinced that the production of eggs in Government farming is costlier because of the overhead charges and also not running these farms on commercial basis. The Committee recommend that suitable steps should be taken for running the Government farms on commercial lines to bring down the cost of production of eggs in those farms.

Milk supply

3.55 The Committee enquired of the witness whether by setting up dairy farms in the Islands the supply of milk at cheaper rate could be improved. The witness replied that because of the problems of soil erosion and degradation of environment dairy farming could not be taken up in the Union Territory. As regards the cost of production of milk in the Islands, the witness clarified that if subsidy on cattle feed were to be taken into account the cost of production of one litre of milk in the Islands would be Rs. 12.50 whereas the milk obtained from Kerala or Tamil Nadu cost Rs. 8 per litre.

The witness further stated that the problem of milk supply was studied by the National Dairy Development Board. It was proposed to set up Mother Dairy Booths in the Lakshadweep for supply of homogenous milk the ingredients for which would be procured from the mainland.

3.56 The Committee find that the dairy-farming in Lakshadweep is a costly affair and the cost of milk produced locally is one and a half times the price of milk obtained from Kerala or Tamil Nadu. The Committee have been informed that National Dairy Development Board proposes to set up Mother Dairy booths in the Lakshadweep Islands for supply of homogenous milk to the tribals by obtaining the ingredient of the milk from the mainland. The Committee recommend that such booths may be set up as early as possible so that the scarcity of milk in Union Territory is removed once for all.

E. Small Scale Industries

Coir Yarn Manufacture

3.57 It has been stated that "Industries Department of the Administration has set up seven Coir Production-cum-Demonstration

Centres and five Fibre Factories which have played a useful role in utilising this local resources. A quantity of 41 tonnes of coir yarn was produced during 1986-87 as against 34 tonnes during 1985-86 in the coir production centre."

3.58 When asked as to why the production of coir yarn was much less as compared to the total production of coconut, the Committee have been informed through a subsequent written note as under:—

"Total production of coir yarn in the islands is very low when compared to the total production of coconut. This is mainly because the traditional way of life in the islands has changed and modern life has been adopted by the people. Comparatively education has much improved and the people wish to go for white collar jobs. Therefore production of coir yarn is not alone reduced, but production of cocorut fibre also has been reduced."

3.59 The Committee note that the total production of coir yarn in Lakshadweep is very low as compared to the total production of coconut in the Union Territory. They are not convinced that the fall in production of coir yarn is either due to modernisation of the life style or on account of wider coverage of education. The Committee are of the view that given proper incentives to make coir yarn manufacture more lucrative and profitable, more and more educated youth will take up this industry as their profession. The Committee recommend that the Administration should take suitable steps in this direction.

Maximisation of production of Coir Fabric

3.60. As regards the steps taken to maximise the production of coir fabric, the Committee have been informed:—

"High level team lead by the Chairman of the Coir Board visited the territory in January, 1986 and recommended maximisation of production in fibre factories, modification of the coir monopoly system (Government purchase system supplying rice for coir and selling it at Mangalore), setting up coir co-operative societies, financial assistance to local entrepreneurs etc. The schemes under industries has been re-oriented to take up the recommendation of the above team. Quantity of fibre produced from Fibre factories were 153 tonnes during 1986-87 as against 137 tonnes during 1985-86."

3.61 In reply to a query from the Committee as to the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Chairman of Coir Board, the number of co-operative societies established and the nature of financial assistance given to local entrepreneurs, the following written information has been furnished by the Ministry:—

“The Administration has taken suitable action to implement the recommendation of the Committee headed by the Chairman of the Coir Board. Almost 95 per cent of the recommendations of the Coir Board have been implemented. Only 5 per cent of the recommendations are remaining to be implemented, which are also at various stages of implementation.

Two coir co-operative societies were established earlier one each at Amini and Kalpeni and both are now defunct. Previous experience in setting up coir co-operatives was not positive. And therefore no new coir co-operatives were set up. As recommended by the Coir Board, action has been initiated to revive the defunct societies.

The local entrepreneurs are eligible for 25 per cent out right grant. The entrepreneurs in the islands are paid interest subsidy over and above 7 per cent paid by them on the loan taken by them from the financial institution. Transport subsidy is also extended to these islands.”

3.62 The Committee note that 95 per cent of the recommendations made by the Coir Board have been implemented and only 5 per cent of the recommendations remain to be implemented by the Lakshadweep Administration and are at various stages of implementation. The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should implement the remaining recommendations of the Coir Board expeditiously.

3.63 The Committee have been informed that the two Coir Co-operative Societies established earlier one each at Amini and Kalpeni are both now defunct. In view of this, no new Coir, Co-operatives have been set up. As recommended by the Coir Board, action has been initiated to revive the defunct societies. In the opinion of the Committee the past experience of the Administration should not deter the Administration from the setting up of more Coir Co-operative Societies. They recommend that as suggested by the Chairman of the Coir Board more cooperative societies should be set up to maximise the production of coir-fibre in the Union Territory.

Handicrafts

3.64 The Committee have been informed that local people of Lakshadweep are also trained in manufacturing handicraft articles in the two handicraft training centres. On completion of the training tool kits are given to each trainee at 50 per cent subsidised rate. Incentives like 15 per cent central out right grant, subsidy on interest over 7 per cent also being provided to the entrepreneurs for setting up of industrial units.

3.65 During evidence when asked about the nature of handicraft articles for which training was given, average income of a tribal from a handicraft and the scope of increase in subsidy to attract more tribals to handicrafts in Lakshadweep, the Administrator submitted as under:—

“I must admit straight way that the handicrafts business in Lakshadweep is in a poor shape. The type of handicrafts we have is wood-based and coconut-straw based. From coconut-straw base, they make hats, fans and things like that. With wood, they make table and other wooden items, boards and something like that. The handicrafts in Minicoy are particularly well advanced but it is done as a hobby and not as a trade. If you ask them to prepare something for you, they will prepare. But they will not prepare it for sale. They prepare it for their own use. These are the resources which are going waste. Unless it is linked with the commercial activity, the handicrafts industry will die. And unfortunately the training is also given to those people who are not traditional craftsmen. The training was given by the people who are also trained but are not traditional craftsmen. This is an unsatisfactory position. Now, we are getting the expert advice from the Director General of Handlooms and Handicrafts here. He will be advising us as to how this can be made into a commercial proposition.

We hope to give handicrafts industry a boost through the introduction of tourism. Once tourism comes in, it will provide a market to the handicraft industry in Lakshadweep.”

3.66. When asked that in the absence of trained officials and training to traditional craftsmen now what was the need to introduce a

new scheme for development of handicrafts, the Administrator replied as under:—

“That has not been successful. We want to promote traditional handicrafts by giving commercial base so that artisans and others can do the job and tourists would provide the market.

We have got in touch with the Handloom and Handicrafts Corporation here. They will send a team. It will be in operation during 1988-89. We have got an allocation of Rs. 17 lakhs for the next year towards the industrial sector out of which we will take some amount, depending upon what they recommend, for the handicrafts. There is not much investment required. It is mainly a problem of organisation. We have to organise the craftsmen into being able to sell their products in a proper way.”

3.67. When asked about the number of people employed in handicrafts, the Administration submitted:

“It is not a basis for employment. It is only done as a hobby. That is self-employment. But there is no income from that. It is not a source of employment or self employment. If it is not made a commercial employment it will gradually die out altogether.”

The witness continued that the proposed steps would lead to give the tribals a gainful employment.

3.68 The Committee note that handicrafts are just a hobby with tribals in Lakshadweep and are not linked with the commercial activity and are in the process of decaying. Hence no financial benefit accrues to the tribals from the handicrafts. The Committee have been informed that a part of the allocations for the industry during the year 1988-89 will be spent on the promotion of handicrafts. The Committee recommend that a suitable plan for the expansion of handicrafts industry in the Union Territory in consultation with the Director General of Handlooms and Handicrafts be formulated and implemented expeditiously which will provide profitable employment to tribals. They also urge the Administration to find market for the local handicrafts in the mainland without waiting for the setting up of the Tourist Industry in the Union Territory.

3.69 The Committee regret that at present there are no officers in the Administration who are fully equipped to impart training in

handicrafts. Moreover, no training is given to people who are experts in traditional handicrafts. The Committee recommend that the Administration should take steps to impart training in handicrafts to the tribals and for this purpose, the traditional experts, after suitable orientation, can be most suitably assigned the task of imparting training to others.

Small scale industries

3.70. The Committee have been informed that "the continued extension work and propaganda done by the department has succeeded in encouraging the local entrepreneurs to establish their own small scale industries in islands since 1983. Now in the private sector there are about 35 units of different types of industries like coconut oil extraction unit, mini saw mills, book binding units printing press. retted fibre extraction units, wooden furniture making units etc."

3.71. During the evidence when asked about the incentives given to the tribals to start their own small scale units, the Administrator informed the Committee as under:—

"We are giving 15 per cent subsidy and subsidy on interest beyond 7 per cent plus 100 per cent subsidy on the transport cost of raw material and the transport cost of the finished products to and for the island."

3.72. When asked whether the Administration had any expansion plan to attract more tribals to take up small scale industries, the Administrator Lakshadweep stated as under:—

"Basically the problem is that we do not know what type of industries are to be set up. The type of industries set up are such that they cater to the needs of the local market. There is no scope for expansion. The local market is very limited. The type of industries which we need are those which can take advantage of the raw material available on the island to meet the demand of various products on the mainland. The small industry service institute has prepared a list of 24 items ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 15 lakhs."

3.73 The Committee note that the Union Territory Administration plans to establish small scale industries in the Lakshadweep which can exploit the raw material available on the Islands and for which there is considerable demand on the mainland. For this purpose, they have identified 24 items involving a cost of Rs. 10,000 to

Rs. 15 lakhs each with the help of the Small Industries Service Institute. The Committee recommend that the Administration should take immediate steps for the establishment of these small scale industries in the Islands at an accelerated pace as the industries have already been identified.

F. Transport Facilities

3.74 According to the written information furnished to the Committee "the small population of the territory is spread over 10 inhabited islands and facilities for transport between these islands and the mainland and also between one island and another remain inadequate despite great improvement." At present, there are three passenger-cum-cargo ships operating to cater to the needs of the transport of the Union Territory.

It has further been stated that "specific proposals have been included in the revised 7th Plan in regard to the development of ports and harbours on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee set up by the Ministry of Transport which submitted a report in February, 1986 regarding future harbour works in Lakshadweep. Specific proposals in the shipping sector are for the acquisition of four numbers of 300 tonnes capacity mechanised barges, as a replacement to the ship M. V. Aminidivi, which has served its life period in the islands. Proposals are also included in the 7th Plan to acquire two passenger vessels with limited cargo-one vessel of the type M. V. Bharat Seema with facilities for more passengers and another vessel having a capacity of 150 passengers and 40 tonnes cargo and a fairly high speed capable enough to travel between the islands as well as between the islands and mainland."

3.75 During the evidence when the Committee asked whether any allocation of funds had been made for the implementation of the schemes included in the revised 7th Plan, the Administration informed the Committee as under:—

"The new ship has been located only on the 23rd December. The team included an officer from Lakshadweep Administration. They have located one ship. Rs. 7 crores has been provided in the revised estimate. There was no money provided for a new ship earlier. Rs. 7 crores has now been provided in the revised estimate of the plan for Lakshadweep in the current year and that money is to be utilised this current year. By the end of March, the ship will have been purchased. It is required to undergo

some modifications and we have been told by the Minister of State for Surface Transport that the Ships would be in service by the end of July, 1988."

3.76 When asked whether with induction of the new ship, a daily service between Islands and mainland would be introduced, the Administrator replied in the negative.

In reply to a query from the Committee whether a daily trip would be introduced between the various islands, the witness replied:

"I would like to say that the daily trips are going to be introduced through air service which are going to be started in March."

3.77 The Committee pointed out that the Helicopter service between the mainland and the Island was beyond the reach of the common man as compared to cost of travelling by ship. The witness stated that the Helicopter services were heavily used by public because there was a subsidy element of 80 per cent. The witness explained that the total cost of air fare "is Rs. 2800 and Rs. 325 is the fare which we are here charging. So here the subsidy portion of 80 per cent comes in".

3.78 When asked about the ship fare as compared to the helicopter fare, the witness replied:—

"In the cabin travel in the ship, you have to pay Rs. 80. By the helicopter service, you have to pay Rs. 325 from Cochin. But there is a slight differential in cost. There is always heavy demand for air service."

3.79 The Committee pointed out that whereas 380 passengers could travel in a ship like Bharat Seema only 9 persons could travel in a Helicopter and that it would be useful if periodicity of the ships could be increased. The witness replied:—

"Increasing the periodicity of the ship service is not the only alternative. I am just mentioning the other aspects. The whole transport plan has been drawn up by a high-level Committee. There is going to be a new ship. Bharat Seema has already been commissioned. The new ship is fairly a faster one. Apart from that, there is provision for air service. Those who are capable of travelling by air service, they will make use of air-service."

The witness continued "It (daily ship service) is still not possible. When all the facilities are provided, then the ships will touch Kavaratti, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands. Between the various Islands, we are going to introduce fast-moving catamaran ships. They will be able to carry the passengers to other Islands on the same day as they land in Kavaratti or Minicoy. Return ships will be available. They will take three days' time only. Every ship will be able to sail for three days."

3.80 The Committee note that specific proposals have been included in the revised Seventh Plan in regard to the development of ports and harbours on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee set up by the Ministry of Transport which submitted its report in February, 1986. Acquisition of two passenger ships with cargo capacity has also been included in the Seventh Plan.

The Committee regret to note that the Administration has not taken any step to improve the ports and harbours so far. They have simply located a ship at a cost of Rs. 7 crores this year. Even with the induction of this ship the Committee feel that the transport facilities between the mainland and the Union Territory will remain too inadequate. In the opinion of the Committee the Helicopter service between the mainland and the Union Territory is no substitute of the ship facilities primarily because of the limited capacity of the Helicopter and the high cost of travelling by air which is beyond the reach of the poor tribals as compared to travel by ship.

The Committee recommend that the Administration should speed up their efforts to augment travel facilities between the mainland and the Union Territory as also between the various islands so that the targets of the Seventh Plan are achieved and there is no likelihood of any spill over to the Eighth Plan.

CHAPTER IV

OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES

A. Education

Educational Facilities

4.1 The number of educational institutions in Lakshadweep with enrolment has been stated to be as follows:—

“Junior Colleges
Enrolment	462
No. of High Schools/Higher Secondary Schools	9
Enrolment	4,762
No. of middle Schools	4
Enrolment	2,629
No. of primary Schools	19
Enrolment	5,086

In addition there are 9 Nursery Schools and 11 Balawadies.”

4.2 During the evidence the Committee enquired of the witness whether the 10 plus 2 system of education at the school level has been introduced in the Union Territory. The Administrator, Lakshadweep replied:—

“About the first question, the presumption that there is no 10+2 scheme, is not correct. This scheme is there. We are following Kerala Board of Secondary Education which means that we have high school at pre-degree college.”

4.3 Asked about the reasons for not introducing 10+2 system, the witness replied that schooling was over at the 10th stage and +2 education was given in College.

4.4 When asked whether the primary education was compulsory in the Union Territory, the witness stated that “it is not compulsory but it is free. The position is that all the children are going to the schools.”

4.5 When asked about the medium of instruction in the primary school especially in Minicoy, the witness replied:

"It is Malayalam... The fact is that Malayalam is not the language of Minicoy. The teachers that we have over here are all Malayalam speaking. Therefore, we are not able to do justice.

So far as Hindi teachers are concerned the posts are vacant. We have already asked the Delhi Administration to please send us Hindi teachers from there on deputation till such time we can put up the expertise within the Lakshadweep itself.

The second point is that there are some SSC teachers teaching at the primary level. We have tied up with the Regional College of Education in Mysore. We will be sending these teachers to Mysore to get training in teaching techniques."

4.6 When asked about the availability of textbooks, the witness submitted:—

"Recently, the Prime Minister, during his visit, has suggested that we may go for textbooks which are specialised in carpentry, fisheries, etc., which are being produced in Maldives and we may import such books for use of students in Minicoy. We have the Chairman of the NCERT and the Director of NEPA in Lakshadweep today and they are examining this issue. Hope they will be able to come to some solution."

4.7 When asked about the drop-out rate, the witness replied that "drop-out is only 3 per cent. It has risen to 6 per cent. This is a fluctuating figure. It is well below the national figure."

4.8 The Committee note that 10+2 education scheme has not been introduced in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep with the result that after passing the 10th class the students have to go to college for completing the +2 stage. The Committee recommend that instead of affiliating their schools to the Kerala Board of Secondary Education the Union Territory schools should be affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education which follows the 10+2 scheme. This when done will enable the Administration to upgrade the two junior colleges to the level of degree colleges.

4.9 The Committee have been informed that the primary education is not compulsory in the Lakshadweep. When in practice all children go to schools, there should be no difficulty in making the primary education compulsory as it will eliminate any chance of any children being left out without education. The Committee therefore recommend that free education may be made compulsory for all the children till they complete the age of 14 years as provided in Article 45 of the Constitution of India.

4.10 The Committee regret that mother tongue is not the medium of education in primary schools in Minicoy because of non-availability of teachers. The Committee have been told that all the teachers in the Minicoy are Malayalam speaking. The Committee recommend that the Administration should recruit educated residents of Minicoy and give them the necessary training and employ them as teachers to impart education to the children at primary stage in their mother tongue which will be in consonance with Government Directives in the matter. Since this will take time, steps may be taken to employ teachers from the mainland after giving them due incentives so that children receive the education in their mother tongue.

4.11 The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take immediate steps to ensure the expeditious deployment of Hindi teachers from Delhi Administration in the Union Territory on deputation. The Committee also expect the Administration to get all the SSC teachers trained at the Regional College of Education in Mysore in batches so that the teachers are fully conversant with the teaching techniques.

4.12 The Committee recommend that the question of providing suitable textbooks to the students may be settled immediately by the Union Territory Administration in consultation with the NCERT and the Director of NEPA so that these are made available to the students from the next term.

4.13 The Committee regret to note that drop-out rate among the students has risen from 3 per cent to 6 per cent. It is no solace that it is well below the national level. The Administration should take suitable steps to check this trend of increase in the drop-out percentages.

Hostel Accommodation

4.14 Number of hostels for boys and girls in Union Territory of Lakshadweep is stated to be two for boys and two for girls.

4.15 During the evidence, keeping in view the number of students to be nearly 6000, the Committee enquired of the witness whether the number of hostels was sufficient. The Administrator, Union Territory Administration replied as follows:—

“They are sufficient. The hostel space is limited. We are expanding that. In this year’s plan, we have already started the construction of a hostel in Andrott. The number of boys in the hostel is 144 and the girls are 39. The hostels are not required for all the students. They are required in the pre-degree colleges.”

4.16 While pointing out that in the case of SC|ST students, the intention of the Government was that there should be residential schools for them to wean them away from their family atmosphere which was not conducive to studies, the Committee enquired of the witness whether there was need for more hostel accommodation. The witness replied that land was a constraint in all the Islands and the Administration had not felt the necessity for more hostels. The witness assured the Committee that if the demand for more hostels was felt at any time, the Administration would seriously think of increasing the hostel accommodation.

4.17 The Committee have a feeling that the provision of four hostels for 6000 students in Lakshadweep may not be sufficient enough to accommodate all the students who may require the hostel accommodation. The Committee recommend that the position may be reassessed and if need be more hostels should be constructed in the Union Territory, as assured by the Union Territory Administration, so that needy students have the proper atmosphere for serious studies and their attention is not diverted to household chores or by the atmosphere in the family.

Plan Outlay for Education

4.18 The Committee find that the Seventh Plan outlay for education for Lakshadweep is Rs. 318.31 lakhs including Rs. 42.09 lakhs for Sports and Youth Welfare. Expenditure on education during the last three years has been as given under:—

“1984-85	Rs.	75.29 lakhs
1985-86	Rs.	46.35 lakhs
1986-87	Rs.	44.15 lakhs”

(Provisional)

4.19 During the evidence when asked about the reasons for low spending of the allocation for the education, the Administrator, Lakshadweep replied:—

“We would be over-spending this amount. There is outlay of Rs. 120 lakhs for 1988-89. By the end of 1988-89, we would have covered Rs. 278 lakhs or so and then we will have to ask for more money in the last year of the Plan.”

4.20 When asked what percentage of money was allocated for education out of the total budget, the witness replied that “in 1987-88 it is Rs. 50 lakhs out of Rs. 950 lakhs that is about 7 per cent.”

4.21 When the Committee enquired whether it was not a meagre sum, the witness responded:—

“In the next year, we have a grant of Rs. 6-7 crores which is only for shipping facilities. If we remove that, then the percentage for education will be 12 per cent.”

4.22 On being asked as to what steps had been taken to promote cultural activities in the Islands, the witness replied:—

“We have established a Sahitya Kala Academy and they are doing some good work. They are collecting things like folk songs and folk stories and are compiling that. They have already brought out a folksongs cassette. A museum is also proposed to be set up to preserve for future generations the things being used in the present day life style. The change there is coming very rapidly.

Then, trained teachers from the National Centre for Cultural Education are going to come to the Islands at the end of January for an interaction with our teachers.”

4.23 Asked whether any monetary help was given to artists etc, the witness replied as follows:—

“It is being done by the Sahitya Kala Academy and the Government is also giving them about Rs. 2 lakhs and I think, they are supposed to encourage writers, singers, artists etc. Recently, we had honoured one artist, Mr. Sriraj and he has done much to promote culture. We had called Mr. Pillai there and gave him some prizes. We are now planning to get some eminent people who have got national awards, so that the cultural aspirations of the

people go up. All India Radio is also going to establish its studios there."

4.24 The Committee note that the budget provisions for the Lakshadweep for education were too low as against the overall allocations in the year 1987-88, i.e. nearly seven per cent and they recommend that sufficient funds should be allocated for the spread of education in the Islands.

4.25 The Committee note that a Sahitya Kala Academy has been established in the Union Territory to promote the cultural activities. The Academy is providing financial help to the artists for which an amount of Rs. two lakhs has been given by the Government to the Academy. The Committee have also been informed that All India Radio is going to establish a studio in the Union Territory. The Committee feel that the funds given to Sahitya Kala Academy by the Administration are not sufficient for patronising the artists. They recommend that the Administration should make enhanced contribution for the promotion of cultural activities.

4.26 The Committee also recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take up suitably with the All India Radio authorities to expedite setting up of a studio there.

Proposal for ITI in Lakshadweep

4.27 The Committee have been informed that "a proposal for establishing an ITI suited to the island situation for generating self-employment in the islands and employment opportunity in the neighbouring states is included in the Revised Seventh Plan."

4.28 When asked about the action taken to establish the ITI by the Lakshadweep Administration, the Committee have been informed through a subsequent written note as under:—

"The Administration had submitted proposal to Ministry of labour under their letter F. No. 4/5/84-Edn. dated 21-1-88 and requested the approval for starting ITI this year itself Labour Ministry's approval is awaited."

4.29 The Committee recommend that the Lakshadweep Administration should pursue vigorously with the Ministry of Labour the matter of opening of the ITI in the Union Territory to ensure that it becomes functional this very year.

Facilities for Technical Education.

4.30 It has been stated that "there is no facility for technical education in the Union Territory. Students aspiring technical education are sponsored by the Administration against seats got reserved in the various technical institution in the mainland."

4.31 During the evidence, the Committee enquired of the Lakshadweep Administrator whether the existing arrangements were satisfactory. He replied:—

"This is not a very satisfactory arrangement. However, this point has been posed before the Island Development Authority and they have made the Education Ministry responsible for this.

Otherwise, we were going to the Ministry of Health for seats in the medical colleges, to the Ministry of Education for seats in the other colleges etc. Sometimes seats would be allotted and when the children go there, they would say, there are no seats. Now, the Education Ministry has been made the nodal Ministry and they have been charged with that responsibility. Shri Ashok Chandra is the person concerned who is responsible to see that the seats are allotted in time. They would allocate the seats and let us know. We will select the candidates and send them for joining the course."

4.32 Now that the Island Development Authority has made the Human Resource Development Ministry as the nodal Ministry for arranging reservations of seats for the tribal students from the Lakshadweep in various technical and medical institutions, the Committee recommend that Administration make timely selection of students with requisite qualifications to be nominated against such reserved seats so that no seat reserved for tribal students is lost by default.

B. Health

Posting of Doctors on Deputation

4.33 It has been submitted to the Committee that "another proposal has also been made to the Ministry of Health and Family welfare to appoint doctors on deputation from the Ministry of Defence as per the decision of IDA meeting held on 20-12-1986 at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Islands."

4.34 When asked about the reaction of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to appoint doctors on deputation from the Ministry of Defence, the Committee have been informed through a subsequent note as under:—

“Ministry of Health and Family Welfare after consulting the U.P.S.C. had conveyed its approval for posting ten doctors of the Armed Forces Medical Services for joining Lakshadweep Administration.”

4.35 In reply to another query about the time by which the doctors from Defence Ministry will be posted to the Union Territory, the Lakshadweep Administrator have informed the Committee:—

“Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had already requested the Ministry of Defence for releasing the doctors for appointment on deputation basis.”

4.36 The Committee have been informed that a proposal of posting ten doctors to the Union Territory of Lakshadweep has been approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Committee desire that the Lakshadweep Administration should pursue vigorously with the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Defence for releasing the doctors of the Armed Forces Medical Services for appointment in the Union Territory without any further loss of time.

C. Housing

Lakshadweep Housing Material and Development Society

4.37 It has been stated in the Preliminary Material that “a society, viz. ‘Lakshadweep Housing Material and Development Society’ has been got registered under Act 1860. An amount of Rs. 20 lakhs during 1985-86 and Rs. 10 lakhs during 1986-87 have been released to the above society.”

4.38 When asked when this society was registered and to what extent the society has eased the availability of the building materials, the Committee have been informed through subsequent note as follows:—

“The society was registered during March, 1986. The object of the Society shall be to assist the locals to construct new houses and to improve existing houses with aesthetically pleasing and required standard in the Union Terri-

tory of Lakshadweep. The assets and liabilities of the society are proposed to be handed over to the Lakshadweep Housing Materials Development Board when it is formed.

Society has not yet started its functions anticipating the constitution of Housing Materials Development Board for which the proposal is now pending with Ministry of Urban Development."

4.39 The Committee have been informed that the Lakshadweep Housing Material and Development Society which was registered in March, 1986 has not started function because its assets and liabilities are proposed to be handed over to Lakshadweep Material and Development Board, the proposal for the constitution of which is pending with the Ministry of Urban Development for clearance. The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration impress upon the Ministry of Urban Development the pressing need for the constitution of the Board without any further loss of time and get the proposal cleared as early as possible. The Committee will like to be apprised of the outcome of efforts of the Administration in this regard.

D. Regularisation of Ad-Hoc Employees

4.40 During their Study Tour to Lakshadweep in January, 1987, it was represented to Study Group II of the Committee by the All India Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Parishad, Lakshadweep Branch that local tribals employed on *ad-hoc* basis against regular vacancies continued to remain on *ad-hoc* employment over a number of years, with the result that the usual benefits accompanying the regular employment were denied to them.

4.41 During the evidence, the Committee enquired of the Administrator, Lakshadweep the reasons for the continuance of the local tribal employees on *ad-hoc* basis for a long spells of time. The witness replied:—

"The problem is often, we do not get the candidates from the UPSC for appointment against the vacant posts. That is why, the Administrator has been authorised to make *ad-hoc* appointments against certain posts. There are large number of posts which have been filled up on *ad-hoc* basis. Out of this some posts are filled up on *ad-hoc* basis for two to three years."

4.42 When the Committee suggested that a way out should be found out in consultation with the Home Ministry to avoid situation where the people from the islands continued to be employed on *ad-hoc* basis because the people selected from the mainland did not join the posts for which they were selected, the Committee were informed as follows:—

“This problem was posed before the Island Development Authority and the Home Ministry made certain suggestions. But UPSC turned down those suggestions.”

The representative of the Home Ministry submitted that :—

“To solve this problem, we have suggested for the constitution of Special Selection Boards.”

4.43 When asked about the difficulty in regularising the *ad-hoc* employees, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs observed that for that also the Ministry would have to approach the UPSC.

4.44 When asked whether there was any Government order providing that a person who puts in more than a specific period of continuous service shall be confirmed, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted:—

“We shall examine this aspect in consultation with the Lakshadweep Administration.”

4.45 When asked whether the UPSC could conduct a camp recruitment at Lakshadweep itself instead of conducting it at Delhi, the witness replied as follows:—

“This suggestion was discussed with the Island Development Authority. The Prime Minister has said that he would refer the matter to the cabinet. The matter is probably under the process to go to the Cabinet to overcome the objection of the UPSC, because UPSC had not agreed to this suggestion earlier.”

4.46 The Committee note that the problem of continued employment of tribals of the Lakshadweep Islands on *ad-hoc* basis has been receiving consideration of the Union Government at the highest level. The Committee recommend that the Home Ministry should take suitable steps to get an early decision in the matter so that

the tribal employees of the Lakshadweep Administration working on-ad-hoc basis are not denied the benefits which accrue to regular employees.

E. Tourism

Development of Tourism

4.47 It has been stated that:

“the Lakshadweep group of islands are famous for their natural beauty. Considering the tourist potential one of the beautiful uninhabited island of Bangaram was opened to international tourism during December, 1974. At the initial stage the Seetha World Travels, New Delhi a travel organisation arranged tourists visits to islands in batches both for foreign and domestic tourists in consultation with Lakshadweep Administration. Later tourism activities were recognised by Travel Corporation of India, Bombay. These organisations were also established some infrastructure in the islands and they also brought foreign and domestic tourist in the island in batches. On certain occasions they arranged foreign tourists visits to Bangaram in special ship with the concurrence of the Government of India.

The tourist development in the islands is still at its infant state. The Administration during the recent past encouraged the organisation known as SPORTS (Society for promotion of Recreational Tourism and Sports) which is the only organisation has started arranging tourists. This organisation to have started arranging tourists visit to the islands in passenger ship of the Administration during fair season. The SPORTS has also established and strengthened the infrastructural facilities for attracting tourists from foreign countries and mainland. The Administration has also constructed tourist complex, bathing huts, family huts, honeymoon huts. etc. in the islands of Kavaratti, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Minicoy and uninhabited island to Bangaram. The Administration has given finance assistance to SPORTS during 1984-85 and 1985-86 for the development of infrastructural facilities.

However, the better development of tourism is not possible unless transport facilities are improved. The opening of air strip at Agatti and acquirement of new vessels with

adequate facilities will definitely improve the domestic as well as the international tourism in these tiny islands. It will create more employment opportunities to the local educated unemployed and attain more economic status."

4.48 During evidence the Administrator informed the Committee that the Lakshadweep Administration had planned for promoting tourism as an economic activity for the people.

4.49 When asked whether the Administration had a well thought-out plan for the development of tourism as an economic activity the Administrator submitted,

"We have worked out a scheme. An expert team was set up by the Island Development Authority. The Tourism Department plan was not accepted by the Island Development Authority. Another team was set up and this has presented a plan to the Authority and it has been accepted.

Taking into account the limitations of the Island, and the need for environment conservation, we have laid down limits on the number of people that can be allowed as tourists. One is that the tourists who will come by ship, will get down during the day time and spend time here and there. We will be able to receive 18000 hotel tourists in a year in Lakshadweep. There are several restrictions that we have imposed. They would not be allowed to stay beyond particular days. They would have to employ local people to man the local tourism facilities. On the land, there would be minimum number of facilities. Prohibition will continue except in Bangaram. But there also, nobody will be allowed to store liquor. If somebody brings with him, he would be allowed to consume. There are restrictions on the water sports. The intention is that this should become an economic activity for the people there.

Then, handicrafts in Minicoy is a hobby with the people. They have a fairly high standard of living and may not be interested in earning more money. But of tourists are there, it is possible that the local people may set up stores for selling those handicrafts.

The tourists will not be allowed to carry anything from the lagoons. If they want to carry any marine moments, they will have to buy. Then, we have perhaps the best variety of Papaya. It is extremely sweet. Things like Bananna, Cheeko, and guava are produced on small scale. These are now produced on a limited scale. If the tourists are there, there would be market for these fruits. If tourism develops, we will invest money in public systems of waste disposal etc."

4.50 The Committee recommend that the plan formulated by an expert Committee and accepted by the Island Development Authority for development of tourism in Lakshadweep be implemented by the Union Territory Administration at the earliest so that the tourism grows in the Islands as an economic activity which will go a long way to improve the economic position of the Tribals and bring them prosperity.

NEW DELHI;

RAM RATAN RAM.

Chairman,

April 19, 1988

Committee on the Welfare of

Chaitra 30, 1910 (S)

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

APPENDIX

(vide para 4 of Introduction)

Summary of Conclusions/Recommendations contained in the Report

Sl. No.	Reference to Para number in the Report.	Recommendations
1	2	3
1	1.8	The Committee have been informed that as announced by the Prime Minister recently, the Union Government has in principle accepted to have an elected Government in Lakshadweep and that a decision on the structure of Pradesh Council and Island Council is pending at the highest level. The Committee recommend that the Home Ministry should pursue the matter vigorously and do necessary planning in advance to ensure expeditious setting up of an elected administrative set-up in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.
2	1.14	The Committee have been informed that in Lakshadweep there is no separate Directorate as such to deal with and coordinate the matters relating to tribal welfare. The day-to-day administrative coordination at present is done by the Collector-cum-Development Commissioner. The Committee are not convinced by the argument of the Union Territory Administration that there is no need for separate Directorate. The Committee feel that since various islands in the Union Territory are situated at a distance from each other there should be some administrative set up that may effect coordination not only in day-to-day

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admin. strative matters but also in policy matters pertaining to tribal welfare.

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The Committee have been informed that in Minicoy a Deputy Collector looks after the administration of the Island and the other areas are looked after by Tehsildars and SDOs. The Committee feel that Tehsildars and SDOs are too junior officers to be entrusted with the administration and recommend that on the pattern of administrative set up of Minicoy, the administrative set up of Islands should also be strengthened and as far as possible each island or group of islands depending upon the population should be administered by an officer of the rank of Deputy Collector.

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1.27

The Committee regret to note that the Advisory Council of the Administrator which is the chief consultative body to aid and advise the Administration on the Tribal Development and which is supposed to meet atleast once in a quarter i.e. four times a year, has not been able to make any worthwhile contribution in the development of tribals because of its delayed constitution year after year and consequent lesser number of meetings it is able to hold. It is highly regrettable that the Advisory Council which should have been functional on the 1st April, 1987 was constituted as late as in October, 1987. Under these circumstances the Advisory Council has been able to hold one or two meetings a year at the most. The Committee find from the facts placed before it that meetings of the Advisory Council when convened, continue for more than 24 hours at a stretch which shows that there are enough matters to be considered but these keep on piling because the meetings are held after long intervals. In the opinion of the Committee this is not a happy situation and there is urgent need for reviewing the entire system and stream-

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lining it so that meetings are held more frequently and issues are considered without any constraint of time.

Delay in constitution of the Advisory Council has been attributed to the delayed initiation of the action to constitute the Advisory Council. The Committee have been informed that the action to constitute the successor Advisory Council was initiated after the term of the preceding Advisory Council had come to an end i.e. after 31 March each year. This naturally results in inordinate delay in the constitution of the Advisory Council.

The Committee have been assured by the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs that from 1987 onward the action to constitute the Advisory Council would be initiated 3 to 4 months before the expiry of the term of the earlier Advisory Council so that succeeding Advisory Council is in position as soon as the term of the earlier Advisory Council comes to an end. The Committee hope that the new line of action now introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs will obviate the possibility of any delay in the constitution of the Advisory Council.

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1.28

The Committee feel that a tenure of one year of the Advisory Council which meets hardly four times in a year is too short. The Committee recommend that the Advisory Council should have a minimum term of two years.

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The Committee further recommend that an annual report on the implementation of the decisions taken by the Advisory Council may be prepared and circulated to its members as assured by the Administrator, Lakshadweep.

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7	1.39	<p>The Committee regret to note that the Advisory Committee attached to the Minister of Home Affairs which is supposed to meet twice a year has been meeting only once a year during the last two or three years which in the opinion of the Committee is too insufficient for the Committee to make any worthwhile contribution towards welfare of Lakshadweep tribals. The Committee recommend that the Ministry of Home Affairs should ensure that the Committee met at least twice a year if not more often.</p>
8	1.40	<p>The Committee have been informed that the tenure of the Advisory Committee at present is one year which is too short for the Members of the Committee to grasp even the difficulties faced by the tribals in Lakshadweep. Although in actual practice the same members are nominated on the Committee for more than one year consecutively, the committee feel that this should be put on a regular footing by suitable enhancing the tenure of the Committee if nothing more, to atleast two years.</p>
9	1.45	<p>The Committee note that there are arrears in the audit of the accounts of some of the voluntary institutions in Lakshadweep and the Administration proposes to requisition the services of auditors from Kerala to clear the backlog of the arrears in audit. The Committee recommend that it should be done without any further loss of time to ensure proper utilisation of funds.</p>
10	1.46	<p>The Committee feel that voluntary organisations can play a vital role in improving the social, educational and environmental conditions of Scheduled Tribes in Lakshadweep. The Committee therefore, recommend that dedicated voluntary organisations should be encouraged to work among the Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory and necessary grant-in-aid provided to</p>

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		<p>them. The Administration should keep a close watch on their functioning so as to ensure that the money given to them is gainfully spent for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes and there is no misuse of funds.</p>
11	1.50	<p>The Committee note that in Lakshadweep, in Mahila-samajams, craft training is given to ladies in book-binding and coir yarn production which is an additional source of income for them. The Committee recommend that such training should be imparted to ladies in other trades also keeping in view their physical limitations.</p>
12	1.51	<p>The Committee have been informed that the ladies given training pool their resources and start working as a unit. They recommend that the Administration should render requisite help to these units so that their productivity increases resulting in better earnings by the ladies as assured by the Administrator, Lakshadweep.</p>
13	1.52	<p>The Committee have been assured that the Union Territory Administration would take up the matter with the KVIC Authorities to set up their units in Lakshadweep. The Committee would like to be apprised of the outcome of the efforts made by the Administration for setting up of KVIC units in the Union Territory.</p>
14	2.8	<p>The Committee regret to note that the actual expenditure incurred by Lakshadweep administration during the year 1984-85 to 1986-87 was far too less as against the funds allocated for the plan outlays. In the year 1984-85 funds were allocated for a plant which had not been cleared by Union Government and for which final approval has not been given till date. In the same year orders for mechanised barge were placed so late that Administration itself knew that it could not be acquired during that financial year. The Committee expect the Administration to realise that</p>

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earmarking of the funds for projects which cannot be completed during the year of allocation or which have not been finally approved results in tying up of funds which could have been better utilised in other spheres of developmental activities. The faulty planning is always at the cost of other projects. The Committee cannot condone the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry in this regard. They recommend that the administrative machinery of the Union Territory Administration should be streamlined and revamped so that plan outlays are provided only for such projects that are likely to be executed during that financial year and will not remain on paper only.

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The Committee have been assured that now onwards orders for acquisitions will be placed in such a manner that by the time the funds are received the administration is able to utilise them fully. The Committee hope that the Administration will take whatever steps they deem fit to minimise the chances of lapsing of funds allocated for the plan outlays.

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2.15

The Committee note that the entire financial requirements of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep are met by the Union Government and the Union Territory has no self-generating means to raise finances. They have been informed that the local people have developed the habit of looking to the Union Government for every thing. However, some schemes have been undertaken by the Administration like setting up a T.V. Factory in the cooperative sector to make the Union Territory financially self-reliant. The Committee are of the opinion that ethos of Union Territory needs a complete overhaul. The attitude of the people will have to be moulded in such a way that in the years to come schemes of generating internal financial resources are preferred by them to depending on subsidies

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alone. The Committee recommend that while making plan outlays, the Administration should not lose sight of this aspect and may undertake schemes in the public and the private sectors which may have a substantial capacity to generate funds to meet the financial needs of the Union Territory Administration and for undertaking more welfare schemes for the tribals.

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2.16

The Committee are rather surprised to find that Lakshadweep is virtually a tax-free union territory where no one pays the income tax. The Committee recommend that the Administration should make a study to find out how many persons in the Union Territory are liable to pay income tax as assured by the Administrator during the evidence.

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2.24

The Committee regret to note that at present no monitoring of the schemes implemented by the Lakshadweep Administration is done either by the Ministry of Welfare or the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry of Welfare have excused themselves on the plea that they monitor the schemes only in States where these are implemented under Special Component Plan or Tribal-sub Plan Schemes. As the Lakshadweep Union Territory is totally inhabited by the tribals and all schemes are for their welfare and there is no Tribal Sub-Plan they are not concerned with the monitoring of the schemes implemented there. The representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs has deposed that a loose monitoring is done. The Committee are not happy with the present position and recommend that the Ministry of Home Affairs should devise a suitable mechanism to monitor the tribal welfare schemes undertaken in Lakshadweep properly so that the eventuality of the lapsing of funds is altogether avoided. The Committee are

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sure that full utilisation of the funds will help the tribals in the Union Territory a good deal more.

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2.25

The Committee are surprised that the plan allocations are made for schemes which are not altogether implemented by the Union Territory Administration. In this connection, the Committee will like to draw the attention of the Administration to the allocation of Rs. 24.80 lakhs for the Community Development in the year 1986-87 when no scheme has been undertaken under this head. The Committee are of the opinion that such a casual approach in asking for funds for Plan schemes does not reflect well on the planning process for the welfare of tribals. The Committee desire that in future the Administration as well as the Ministry be more careful in asking for funds for Plan schemes and ensure that allocations are made only for schemes which are to be actually implemented.

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2.29

The Committee have been informed that the present backwardness of Kalpeni is the result of a severe cyclone in 1977 that left not even a single coconut tree standing. Although coconut trees have been replanted yet the productivity level is still low. The Committee recommend that the Administration should initiate schemes to protect the cultivators as much as possible against the vagaries of nature, like cyclones, tornadoes etc. so that they do not have to suffer huge losses of the nature suffered by them in 1977.

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2.30

The Committee have been informed that unless the Islands take to fishing in a big way their prosperity will always remain elusive. Keeping this in view, the Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take steps to attract more and more families to fishing and fisheries so that their economic con-

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ditions improve. The Administration should also explore the possibility of setting up industries especially based on coir yarn in these islands to ameliorate the living standard and the quality of life of tribals living there.

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3.12

The Committee have been informed that occupancy rights in Government land in Lakshadweep have been given to the tribals of the Union Territory. These rights the tribals can transfer, by way of sale, mortgage, lease, exchange, gift or otherwise to any person other than a Scheduled Tribe by getting the previous sanction of the Administrator. Keeping in view the cultural and economic background of the tribals of Lakshadweep, the Committee recommend that in order to safeguard the interest of tribals in land it is imperative that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Islands (Protection of Scheduled Tribes) Regulation, 1964 should be amended to provide that no tribal has the right to transfer his occupancy right in land to any person other than a tribal of Lakshadweep even with the previous permission of the Administrator. The Committee would like to be apprised of the amendments made in the Regulation.

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3.16

The Committee note that in Lakshadweep the traditional rat eradication campaign for plant protection could be undertaken in a few islands only because of the lack of people's participation. The Committee are not convinced by the argument adduced by the Administrator, Lakshadweep that the people were not participating in the campaign because of prosperity. In their opinion mere awareness without any incentives will not make the tribals to participate in the campaign. The Committee recommend that the Administration should provide proper incentives in cash or kind to enthruse people to participate in the campaign for rat eradication.

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24	3.17	As the existing rat combating techniques have not proved successful, the Committee recommend that some expert advice should be taken in the matter and based on that a more practical and scientific approach be evolved for the eradication of rats.
25	3.21	The Committee note that as suggested by the Central Crops Research Institute, the Lakshadweep Administration intend to promote the cultivation of fruits like papaya, banana, guava and sapota as inter-crops. It has also brought to the notice of the Committee that the quality of fruits grown in Lakshadweep is very high especially in the case papaya which is said to be the best in the country. The Committee are not convinced by the reason put forward by the Lakshadweep Administrator that the reasons for not going ahead with fruit cultivation was non-availability of market. In the case of papaya also, although it is a perishable item but it too takes a few days to ripe after it is harvested. In the opinion of the Committee if no local market is available for selling the fruits in Lakshadweep these can always be sent to the main-land where these can bring good price. Also these can be put on sale in the ships of the Shipping Corporation of India which connect the Islands with the mainland. In the opinion of the Committee it may take a long time for the tourist facilities to come into full bloom in the Lakshadweep Islands. Instead of exploring local market for these fruits, it will always be more profitable to sell those in the main-land. Keeping in view these factors, the Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should immediately take steps to popularise the cultivation of the fruits as an inter-crop by giving suitable incentives and creating necessary infrastructure for preservation and storage of the fruits which will be an additional source of income for the tribals.

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26	3.25	<p>The Committee are not convinced by the argument of the Administrator, Lakshadweep that the running of the Government Agriculture Farm on non-commercial lines had the overhead expenses affect the demonstration value of the Agricultural Demonstration Units. The Committee are not averse to the encouraging of the inter-cropping in the private land which otherwise will remain fallow. Contrary to the present approach, the Committee recommend that the Government farm should be re-organised to make profits so that these serve as a model to private farmers.</p>
27	3.33	<p>The Committee have been informed by the Administrator, Lakshadweep that the scope of further tapping the land resources in Lakshadweep is negligible. However, there is a vast scope for exploitation of the marine resources around the Islands. Although there has been some improvement in the exploitation of the marine resources during the last 30 years, yet against the availability of the marine products this source remains virtually untapped.</p> <p>The Committee note that the Lakshadweep Administration has registered the Lakshadweep Development Corporation which will <i>inter-alia</i> be responsible for the marketing of the marine products which will make fishing more alluring to tribals. The Committee recommend that the Corporation may be made functional at the earliest.</p>
28	3.34	<p>The Committee have been informed that Fisheries Master Plan is being formulated by the Administration and in this regard the help of the Central Marine Research Institute has been taken. The Research Institute has already recommended for improvement in the navigation and communication systems so that the fishermen can go beyond the present limit of 15 or 20</p>

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		kilometres into the sea for fishing. The Committee recommend that these facilities should be improved forthwith and the finalisation of Fisheries Master Plan should be expedited so that the marine resources are exploited in a big way which will not only help the tribals of the Union Territory economically but will also help the country earn much-needed foreign exchange.
29	3.35	It has been brought to the notice of the Committee that at the initiative of the Islands Development Authority a scheme for vocationalisation of education under the new Education Policy has been drawn up to attract more youth to take up fishing in a big way and to instil among them the feeling that there is nothing undignified in this profession which is most profitable. The Committee recommend that the vocationalisation scheme for fishing under the new Education Policy should be implemented in right earnestness by the Lakshadweep Administration so that more and more young people take up fishing as a profession which will go a long way to improve the economic condition of the local tribals.
30	3.36	The Committee also recommend that trawlers to boost fish catch may be inducted at the earliest as mentioned by the Administration Lakshadweep.
31	3.41	In Lakshadweep where the scope for tapping fishery resources is very high, the Administration have not been able to meet fully the demand for boats and there is a waiting list. The Committee have been informed that more boats could not be provided to the Fishermen because there is no timber available in the Lakshadweep Islands for boat building and the cost of timber imported from Kerala is prohibitively high. Now that the Lakshadweep Administration have

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- entered into an agreement with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the supply of timber at a reasonable price, the Committee recommend that the Lakshadweep Administration may not spare any efforts to give a boost to the boat-building and liquidate the waiting list for the boats at the earliest more so when the recovery position is very good and the normal income from a boat is quite high. The Committee hope that the Administration will earmark sufficient funds for this purpose.
- 32 3.42 The Committee are disturbed to learn that traditional art of boat building by inhabitants of Lakshadweep islands is dying. The Committee learn that boat-building is being included as a course in the proposed ITI being set up in the Union Territory. In the opinion of the Committee mere inclusion of the boat making in the course of I.T.I. may not be enough to attract more youth to the boat building. They will like that suitable incentives should be provided to the young people to attract them to take up boat building as a profession. The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take some positive steps in this direction.
- 33 3.48 The Committee note that Lakshadweep has high potential for shark fishing but this is not being exploited much because the local fishermen do not have sonar equipment. The Committee recommend that the sonar equipment which is not costly at all for locating shark fish may be supplied to the fishermen at the earliest to give an impetus to shark fishing.
- 34 3.53 The Committee note that keeping in view vast scope for the expansion of poultry farming in the Lakshadweep, the Administration is laying a great stress on its expansion. One of the facilities given to the tribals to take up poultry
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		<p>farming is its integration with the IRDP under which tribals get poultry feed on subsidised rates. Although the number of private poultry farms has increased from 16 in 1985 to 180 till the end of 1987, yet the Committee feel much more is required to be done by the Administration in this sphere. The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should provide more incentives to the tribals to take up poultry farming on a large scale. This will help in tackling the problem of unemployment among the tribals.</p>
35	3.54	<p>The Committee are not convinced that the production of eggs in Government farming is costlier because of the overhead charges and also not running these farms on commercial basis. The Committee recommend that suitable steps should be taken for running the Government farms on commercial lines to bring down the cost of production of eggs in those farms.</p>
36	3.56	<p>The Committee find that the dairy-farming in Lakshadweep is a costly affair and the cost of milk produced locally is one and a half times the price of milk obtained from Kerala or Tamilnadu. The Committee have been informed that National Dairy Development Board proposes to set up Mother Dairy booths in the Lakshadweep Islands for supply of homogeneous milk to the tribals by obtaining the ingredient of the milk from the mainland. The Committee recommend that such booths may be set up as early as possible so that the scarcity of milk in Union Territory is removed once for all.</p>
37	3.59	<p>The Committee note that the total production of coir yarn in Lakshadweep is very low as compared to the total production of coconut in the</p>

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Union Territory. They are not convinced that the fall in production of coir yarn is either due to modernisation of the life style or on account of wider coverage of education. The Committee are of the view that given proper incentive to make coir yarn manufacture more lucrative and profitable, more and more educated youth will take up this industry as their profession. The Committee recommend that the Administration should take suitable steps in this direction.

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3.62

The Committee note that 95 per cent of the recommendations made by the Coir Board have been implemented and only 5 per cent of the recommendations remain to be implemented by the Lakshadweep Administration and are at various stages of implementation. The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should implement the remaining recommendations of the Coir Board expeditiously.

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3.63

The Committee have been informed that the two Coir Co-operative Societies established earlier one each at Amini and Kalpeni are both now defunct. In view of this, no new Coir Co-operatives have been set up. As recommended by the Coir Board, action has been initiated to revive the defunct societies. In the opinion of the Committee the past experience of the Administration should not deter the Administration from the setting up of more Coir Co-operative Societies. They recommend that as suggested by the Chairman of the Coir Board more co-operative societies should be set up to maximise the production of coir fibre in the Union Territory.

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3.68

The Committee note that handicrafts are just a hobby with tribals in Lakshadweep and are not linked with the commercial activity and are in the process of decaying. Hence no financial

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benefit accrues to the tribals from the handicrafts. The Committee have been informed that a part of the allocations for the industry during the year 1988-89 will be spent on the promotion of handicrafts. The Committee recommend that a suitable plan for the expansion of handicrafts industry in the Union Territory in consultation with the Director General of Handlooms and Handicrafts be formulated and implemented expeditiously which will provide profitable employment to tribals. They also urge the Administration to find market for the local handicrafts in the mainland without waiting for the setting up of the Tourist Industry in the Union Territory.

41 3.69 The Committee regret that at present there are no officers in the Administration who are fully equipped to impart training in handicrafts. Moreover, no training is given to people who are experts in traditional handicrafts. The Committee recommend that the Administration should take steps to impart training in handicrafts to the tribals and for this purpose, the traditional experts, after suitable orientation, can be most suitably assigned the task of imparting training to others.

42 3.73 The Committee note that the Union Territory Administration plans to establish Small Scale Industries in the Lakshadweep which can exploit the raw material available on the Islands and for which there is considerable demand on the mainland. For this purpose, they have identified 24 items involving a cost of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15 lakhs each with the help of the Small Industries Service Institute. The Committee recommend that the Administration should take immediate steps for the establishment of these small scale industries in the Islands at an acce-

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43	3.80	<p>lerated pace as the industries have already been identified.</p> <p>The Committee note that specific proposals have been included in the revised Seventh Plan in regard to the development of ports and harbours on the basis of the recommendations of a Committee set up by the Ministry of Transport which submitted its report in February, 1986. Acquisition of two passenger ships with cargo capacity has also been included in the Seventh Plan.</p> <p>The Committee regret to note that the Administration has not taken any step to improve the ports and harbours so far. They have simply located a ship at a cost of Rs. 7 crores this year. Even with the induction of this ship the Committee feel that the transport facilities between the mainland and the Union Territory will remain too inadequate. In the opinion of the Committee the Helicopter service between the mainland and the Union Territory is no substitute of the ship facilities primarily because of the limited capacity of the Helicopter and the high cost of travelling by air which is beyond the reach of the poor tribals as compared to travel by ship.</p> <p>The Committee recommend that the Administration should speed up their efforts to augment travel facilities between the mainland and the Union Territory as also between the various islands so that the targets of the Seventh Plan are achieved and there is no likelihood of any spill over to the Eighth Plan.</p>
44	4.8	<p>The Committee note that 10+2 education scheme has not been introduced in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep with the result that after passing the 10th class the students have to</p>

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| | | go to college for completing the +2 stage. The Committee recommend that instead of affiliating their schools to the Kerala Board of Secondary Education the Union Territory schools should be affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education which follow the 10+2 scheme. This when done will enable the Administration to upgrade the two junior colleges to the level of degree colleges. |
| 45 | 4.9 | The Committee have been informed that the primary education is not compulsory in the Lakshadweep. When in practice all children go to schools, there should be no difficulty in making the primary education compulsory as it will eliminate any chance of any children being left out without education. The Committee therefore recommend that free education may be made compulsory for all the children till they complete the age of 14 years as provided in Article 45 of the Constitution of India. |
| 46 | 4.10 | The Committee regret that mother tongue is not the medium of education in primary schools in Minicoy because of non-availability of teachers. The Committee have been told that all the teachers in the Minicoy are Malayalam speaking. The Committee recommend that the Administration should recruit educated residents of Minicoy and give them the necessary training and employ them as teachers to impart education to the children at primary stage in their mother tongue which will be in consonance with Government Directives in the matter. Since this will take time, steps may be taken to employ teachers from the mainland after giving them due incentives so that children receive the education in their mother tongue. |
| 47 | 4.11 | The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take immediate |

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| | | steps to ensure the expeditious deployment of Hindi teachers from Delhi Administration in the Union Territory on deputation. The Committee also expect the Administration to get all the SSC teachers trained at the Regional College of Education in Mysore in batches so that the teachers are fully conversant with the teaching techniques. |
| 48 | 4.12 | The Committee recommend that the question of providing suitable textbooks to the students may be settled immediately by the Union Territory Administration in consultation with the NCERT and the Director of NEPA so that these are made available to the students from the next term. |
| 49 | 4.13 | The Committee regret to note that drop-out rate among the students has risen from 3 per cent to 6 per cent. It is no solace that it is well below the national level. The Administration should take suitable steps to check this trend of increase in the drop-out percentages. |
| 50 | 4.17 | The Committee have a feeling that the provision of four hostels for 6000 students in Lakshadweep may not be sufficient enough to accommodate all the students who may require the hostel accommodation. The Committee recommend that the position may be reassessed and if need be more hostels should be constructed in the Union Territory, as assured by the Union Territory Administration, so that needy students have the proper atmosphere for serious studies and their attention is not diverted to household chores or by the atmosphere in the family. |
| 51 | 4.24 | The Committee note that the budget provisions for the Lakshadweep for education were too low as against the overall allocations in the |

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- year 1987-88, i.e. nearly seven per cent and they recommend that sufficient funds should be allocated for the spread of education in the Islands.
- 52 4.25 The Committee note that a Sahitya Kala Academy has been established in the Union Territory to promote the cultural activities. The Academy is providing financial help to the artists for which an amount of two lakhs has been given by the Government to the Academy. The Committee have also been informed that All India Radio is going to establish a studio in the Union Territory. The Committee feel that the funds given to Sahitya Kala Academy by the Administration are not sufficient for patronising the artists. They recommend that the Administration should make enhanced contribution for the promotion of cultural activities.
- 53 4.26 The Committee also recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take up suitably with the All India Radio authorities to expedite setting up of a studio there.
- 54 4.29 The Committee recommend that the Lakshadweep Administration should pursue vigorously with the Ministry of Labour the matter of opening of the ITI in the Union Territory to ensure that it becomes functional this very year.
- 55 4.32 Now that the Island Development Authority has made the Human Resource Development Ministry as the nodal Ministry for arranging reservations of seats for the tribal students from the Lakshadweep in various technical and medical institutions, the Committee recommend that Administration make timely selection of students with requisite qualifications to be nominated against such reserved seats so that no seat reserved for tribal students is lost by default.
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56	4.36	<p>The Committee have been informed that a proposal of posting ten doctors to the Union Territory of Lakshadweep has been approved by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Committee desire that the Lakshadweep Administration should pursue vigorously with the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare and Defence for releasing the doctors of the armed Forces Medical Services for appointment in the Union Territory without any further loss of time.</p>
57	4.39	<p>The Committee have been informed that the Lakshadweep Housing Material and Development Society which was registered in March, 1986 has not started function because its assets and liabilities are proposed to be handed over to Lakshadweep Material and Development Board, the proposal for the constitution of which is pending with the Ministry of Urban Development for clearance. The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration impress upon the Ministry of Urban Development the pressing need for the constitution of the Board without any further loss of time and get the proposal cleared as early as possible. The Committee will like to be apprised of the outcome of efforts of the Administration in this regard.</p>
58	4.46	<p>The Committee note that the problem of continued employment of tribals of the Lakshadweep Islands on <i>ad-hoc</i> basis has been receiving consideration of the Union Government at the highest level. The Committee recommend that the Home Ministry should take suitable steps to get an early decision in the matter so that the tribal employees of the Lakshadweep Administration working on <i>ad-hoc</i> basis are not denied the benefits which accrue to regular employees.</p>

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59	4.50	The Committee recommend that the plan formulated by an expert Committee and accepted by the Island Development Authority for development of tourism in Lakshadweep be implemented by the Union Territory Administration at the earliest so that the tourism grows in the Islands as an economic activity which will go a long way to improve the economic position of the Tribals and bring them prosperity.		
