

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE
OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND
SCHEDULED TRIBES
(1988-89)**

(EIGHTH LOK SABHA)

FORTY-FOURTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF WELFARE

**Action taken by Government on the Recommendations contained
in the 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**



29 MAR 1989

Presented to Lok Sabha on.....

29 MAR 1988

Laid in Rajya Sabha on.....

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

February, 1989/Magha, 1910 (Saka)

Price : Rs. 18.00

CORRIGENDA

to the
44th Report of SCT Committee (1988-89)
regarding Socio-economic conditions of
SCs/STs in the Union Territory of
Lakshadweep.

<u>Page</u>	<u>Para</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
3	1	2 from bottom	coninvos	continuous
5	3	5	recommended	recommend
5	last	1	vountary	voluntary
13	1	6	roadaekes	roadacks
28	last	2	betn	been
29	3	1	experi	expert

CONTENTS

		PAGE
COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE		(iii)
INTRODUCTION		(v)
CHAPTER I	Report	1
CHAPTER II	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government	2
CHAPTER III	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Governments replies	30
CHAPTER IV	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration	34
CHAPTER V	Recommendations/Observations on which final replies of the Government have not been received	35
APPENDIX	Analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee/ §	38

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

(1988-89)

Shri Arvind Netam—Chairman

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria
3. Shri Bir Bal
4. Shri Sudarshan Das
5. Shri Ganga Ram
6. Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit
7. Shri Seth Hembrom
8. Shri Kunwar Ram
9. Shri M. Mahalingam
10. Shri Lakshman Mallick
11. Shri K. N. Pradhan
12. Shri K. Pradhani
13. Dr. P. Vallal Peruman
14. Chaudhary Ram Parkash
15. Shri Ram Singh
16. Shri A. J. V. B. Maheshwara Rao
17. Shri Ajit Kumar Saha
18. Shri Ram Bahadur Singh
19. Shri R. P. Suman
20. Shri Piyus Tiraky

Rajya Sabha

21. Shri Anand Prakash Gautam
22. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
23. Shrimati Kailashpati

(Hi)

- *24. Prof. N. M. Kamble
25. Shri Dhuleshwar Meena
26. Shri G. Swamy Naik
27. Shri Puttapaga Radhakrishna
28. Shri N. Rajangam
29. Shri V. Ramanathan
30. Shri Jerlie E. Tariang

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri R. D. Sharma—*Joint Secretary.*
2. Shri D. M. Chanan—*Deputy Secretary.*
3. Shri R. K. Chatterjee—*Officer on Special Duty.*

*Ceased to be a Member of the Committee on his resignation from Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 9 August, 1968.

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 Forty-fourth Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 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 Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on 25 January, 1989.

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

I. Report

II. Recommendations/observations which have been accepted by Government.

III. Recommendations/observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies.

IV. Recommendations/observations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted by the Committee and which require reiteration.

V. Recommendations/observations in respect of which final replies of Government have not been received.

4. An analysis of the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 35th Report of the Committee is given in the Annexure. It would be observed therefrom that out of 59 recommendations made in the Report 48 recommendations i.e. 81.3 percent have been accepted by Government; the Committee do not desire to pursue 5 recommendations i.e. 8.5 percent of their recommendations in view of Government's replies; 2 recommendations i.e. 3.4 percent in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee, require reiteration and in respect of 4 recommendations i.e. 6.8 per cent, final replies of Government have not been received.

NEW DELHI;
February 8, 1989

19 Masha, 1910 (Saka)

ARVIND NETAM
Chairman,
Committee on the Welfare of
Scheduled Castes and
Scheduled Tribes.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee deals with the action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 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.

1.2 In para 1.40 of their Thirty-fifth Report, the Committee observed that the tenure of the Advisory Committee at present was one year which was 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 were nominated on the Committee for more than one year consecutively, the Committee was of the opinion that this might be put on regular footing by suitably enhancing the tenure of the Committee, if nothing more, to at least two years.

1.3 In their reply dated 4 July, 1988, the Ministry of Home Affairs have stated that the recommendation of the Committee has been examined and have submitted that if the duration of the Committee is kept one year, there will be scope for providing more opportunity to fresh aspirants to give the Committee a fresh outlook every year.

1.4 The Committee are not satisfied with the reply of the Government. The Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation that the tenure of the Advisory Committee be enhanced to at least two years.

1.5 In para 4.24 of their Report the Committee had observed 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 percent and recommended that sufficient funds should be allocated for the spread of education in the Islands.

1.6 In their reply dated 15 July, 1988 the Lakshadweep Administration have stated that the sanctioned funds for 1987-88 was only 68 lakhs for 1988-89, it is Rs. 131 lakhs against the proposal for Rs. 218.86 lakhs.

1.7 The Committee stress that sufficient funds should be allocated for the spread of education in the Islands.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation (Sl. No. 1 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

This Ministry pursued the matter vigorously with Ministry of Law etc. and draft regulations for introducing Pradesh Council and Island Councils have been concurred by that Ministry. The regulations have been given assent by the President on 28-6-1988 and accordingly, Regulation has been promulgated under Article 240 of the Constitution and published in the official Gazette of India dated 28-6-1988.

[Ministry of Home Affairs D.O. letter No. U. 16014/3/88—ANL
dated 4-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 2 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

The matter has been examined in consultation with the Administrator, Lakshadweep. The administrative machinery in the islands is already geared for coordination both in day-to-day Administration and in policy matters pertaining to tribal welfare. Since all residents of the Islands are Scheduled Tribes, coordination of all policies and their implementation which is done at Administrator's level and assisted by Administrator's Advisory Council, pertains to policy coordination for tribal welfare. All members except one in the AAC are Scheduled Tribes. To make the coordination more purposeful and continuous, the frequency of meetings of the AAC are proposed to be increased.

[Ministry of Home Affairs D.O. letter No. U. 16014/3/88-
ANL dated 4-7 1988]

Recommendation (S. No 4 Para No. 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 31st 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.

Reply of Government

As assured by the representative of this Ministry, action was initiated to constitute new Advisory Council for 1988-89 well before expiry of the term of the AAC for 1987-88. Accordingly approval of this Ministry to the nomination of members of AAC for 1988-89 was conveyed in first week of April 1988 and notification in this regard was issued by Lakshadweep Administration on 11th April, 1988.

The AAC met on 5/6th December 1987 and thereafter from 2nd July to 6th July 1988. Although a meeting of AAC was proposed in April 1988, it could not be held because of Ramzan, the month of fasting and due other Administrative reasons.

[Ministry of Home Affairs D.O. letter No. U. 16014/3/88-ANI, dated 4-7-1988 and letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 6 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

This will be done. Major achievement will be compiled to publish an annual report on the implementation of the decision taken in the Administrator's Advisory Council meeting during a particular year. The report for 1987-88 is under preparation and shall be circulated soon to all concerned.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated 15-7-88]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 7 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

The recommendation of the Committee has been noted. The last meeting of HMAAC of Lakshadweep was held on 30th May, 1988 and next meeting would be held in the current financial year 1988-89 itself. As regards issuing of instructions for holding meeting of HMAAC twice a year, a provision for this has already been made in the existing terms of reference of HMAAC.

[Ministry of Home Affairs D.O. letter Nos. U-16014/3/88-ANL dated 4-7-88 and U-16016/3/88-ANL dated 16-11-88]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 9 Para No. 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 recommended that it should be done without any further loss of time to ensure proper utilisation of funds.

Reply of Government

The audit of the following voluntary institutions have been completed upto the period shown against each of the organisation—

Society for Promotion of Recreation Tourism and SPORTS	1986
District Rural Development Agency	1987
Lakshadweep State Social Welfare Advisory Board	1987
Sahitya Kala Academy	1987

Audit in other voluntary organisation like Mahila Samajam and registered clubs are arranged to be completed with the available auditors in the cooperative department.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 10 Para No. 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, recommended that dedicated voluntary organisation 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.

Reply of Government

At present grants are given to voluntary organisation for improvement of social, educational and environmental conditions of the scheduled tribes in Lakshadweep. Tailoring training is given to the ladies in Mahilas Samajam through the assistance from Lakshadweep State Social Welfare Advisory Board and department of Social welfare. While SPORTS is developing the promotion of recreational tourism, the Sahitya Kala Academy is concentrating on the preservation and promotion of local Art & Culture with the grant-in-aid given by the administration. The institution availing grants are subjected to inspection and audit to check any measure of grants given to them.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 11 Para No. 1—50)

The Committee noted that in Lakshadweep, in Mahila-Samajam, 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.

Reply of Government

Apart from existing coir yarn and book-binding, snack making units also employ ladies and the snackes produced are supplied under the special nutrition programme. Book binding units are proposed for 3 more islands Industrial cooperation, T.V. Assorbling unit employing 10 ladies started at Kadmat on 6th January, 1988. Training is being imparted through the public sector KELTRON. 5 more ladies have been provided to expand the unit employing

upto 30 ladies during VIII plan. Depending upon its performance more TV and Radio assembling units can be planned for which appropriate training will be given.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl
dated 15-7-1988].

Recommendation (Sl. No. 12 Para No. 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 earning by the ladies as assured by the Administrator, Lakshadweep.

Reply of Government

Groups of ladies organised to take up snack making, coirtwisting etc. under DWCRA are provided with initial investment from D.R.D.A. as per approval pattern. Subsequently the profits are used as a revolving investment to continue the unit which is as per the objective of the scheme. Ladies employed in Vanitha Cooperative Society for TV assembling are also members of the organisation jointly working to achieve targets of production. Financial assistance as per rules is being provided to other groups of women being organised under Lakshadweep State Social Welfare Advisory Board.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 13 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

A team from KVIC visited Lakshadweep and recommended a number of scheme for implementation in Lakshadweep with the assistance of KVIC. For availing assistance under KVIC scheme, this Administration has been asked by KVIC team to have Lakshadweep Khadi & Village Industries Board. Action is at hand to

frame rules etc. for constituting this Board. In the meantime, implementation of KVIC scheme is to be taken up as per recommendation of the team.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 15 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

In order to minimise the changes of lapsing funds allocated for the plan schemes, financial and physical targets have been fixed for each department and progress is monitored in the monthly coordination meetings taken by the Administrator.

Order for the targetted equipment for 88-89 were placed well before the close of the financial year 1987-88 on the basis of targets approved, for long-gestation projects like fishing boats etc.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 16 Para No. 2—15)

The Committee note that the entire financial requirements of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep are met by the union government and the U.T. 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 co-operative sector to make the Union Territory financially self reliant. The committee are of the opinion that either of union Territory needs a complete over-haul. 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 capacity to generate funds to meet the financial needs of the Union Territory Administration and for undertaking more welfare schemes for the tribals.

Reply of Government

Committee suggestion for formulating schemes of generating internal resources instead of providing avoidable subsidies are noted for formulating future plan schemes. Major thought has been given for formulating self employment programmes availing institutional finances and also to provide avoidable subsidies like transport subsidy for raw materials interest over seven per cent and 25 percent central outright grant. The existing schemes are re-oriented to take up such programmes in the VIII Plan period.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl
dated 13-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 18 Para No. 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 all together avoided. The Committee are sure that full utilisation of the funds will help the tribals in the Union Territory a good deal more.

Reply of Government

Responsibility for sanctioning all developmental schemes, including schemes for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes of Lakshadweep and monitoring the implementation of such schemes, rests with each administrative Ministry of the Central Government dealing with that particular subject of the schemes since, for a U.T. Administration, each Ministry is a "State" for control, supervision and guidance.

Ministry of Home Affairs, in whose area, Demand, budget provision in case of U.T. of Lakshadweep is reflected has devised a system of obtaining periodical expenditure statements (Plan). Observations of Ministry of Home Affairs on the performance of particular U.T. in utilisation of plan funds for execution of various developmental schemes, including shortcoming of the Administration, if any, are invariably communicated to the U.T. Administration.

[Ministry of Home Affairs D.O. letter No. U. 16014/3/88-ANL
dated 4-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 19 Para No. 2—25)

The committee are surprised that the plan allocations are made for schemes which are not altogether implemented by the U.T. Administration. In this connection, the committee will like to draw the attention of the Administration to the allocation of Rs. 24.89 lakhs for the community Development in the year 1986-87 when no scheme has been under taken 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.

Reply of Government

This has already been clarified by the Administrator in a subsequent note submitted by the committee while making proposals, principle enunciated will be kept in view.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 21 Para No. 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 tribals living there.

Reply of Government

Fisheries technology is being introduced as a vocational course in the High Schools. Separate syllabus also have been prepared for this purpose. The requirements in these islands accordingly a re-vamping of the educational system is made to coincide with needs of the population to further strengthen the common interest in fishing. Training courses have been introduced through the Department of fisheries for the educated unemployed to take up fishing under this scheme.

Schemes are being developed as per the direction of the committee. The Island Development Authority recently discussed proposals drawn up by the Ministry of Labour to make the Fisheries sector a major source of employment and promote coconut based-industries.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 22 Para No. 3.12)

The committee have been informed that occupancy right 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, gifts 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 safe guard the interest of tribals in land it is imperative that the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindivi Island (Protection of S. T.) Regulations, 1964 should be amended to provide that no tribals 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.

Reply of Government

In the light of their recommendation a committee has been constituted to propose suitable amendment to the relevant section of the said regulation. The committees report now received is under examination and a proposals on this will be made to Ministry of Home Affairs.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be intimated of the final decision taken in the matter.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 23 Para No. 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 peoples 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 incentive 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 enthuse people to participate in the campaign for rat eradication.

Reply of Government

The rat control programme as well other plant protection activities are implemented free of cost. Incentives by way of cash of 50 paise per rat killed is given to the cultivators to enthuse them to participate in the campaign.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like the Administration to ensure that the cultivators are fully aware of the incentive given to them.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 24 Para No. 3.17)

As the existing rat combating techniques have not provide 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.

Reply of Government

The rat control discipline consists of:—

- (i) Pre-baiting with inert materials to attract rats to the baits.
- (ii) Baiting with poison baits in house-holds, godown, sheds etc.

- (iii) Fumigation of rat burrows in the crop fields
- (iv) Placing of roadackes on tree tops
- (v) Organise Rat haunt campaign
- (vi) Maintenance of Soiled sanitation.
- (vii) Follow-up in pockets of recurrence of rat nuisance.

For the preparation of the active roadackes ingredient so far used was Roadafarin-c (warfarin). It is observed recently that rates have developed styness to this chemicals. We had expert consultation in this regards with the plant protection. Directorate, Faridabad, Rodent control Research station, Bikair, Pest control India (Pvt) Ltd, Bombay/Madras etc. with their advice the chemical 'Bromodistone was tried and found very effective. No firm is selling the chemicals as a single chemical but available in cake form. The plant protection Directorate advised to purchase the Bromiodictor cake prepared by M/S. Parry & Co. the cost of which is known to be Rs. 50|- to Rs. 60|- With this shift from the use of Rodacakes (cost Rs. Rs. 25|- to Rs. 27|- per Kilo) prepared with the active ingredient warfarin for Bromiodiolone cakes (cost of Rs. 50|- to Rs. 60|- per kilo), the Department of Agriculture will require additional fund of Rs. 4|- lakhs to achieve the physical target fixed. We have requested the plant protection Adviser to the Govt. of India to arrange supply of single chemical Bormiodiolone so as to avoid incurring additional expenditure for the implementation of the scheme

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 25 Para No 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 payapa 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 it available for selling the fruits in Lakshadweep these can always be sent to the mainland where these

can bring good price. Also these can be put on sale in the ships of the SCI 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 these in the mainland. Keeping in view these factors, the Committee recommend that the U.T. Administration should immediately take steps to popularise the cultivation of the fruits as an inter-crop by giving suitable incentive and creating necessary infrastructure for preservation and storage of the fruits which will be an additional source of income for the tribals.

Replay of Government

There is possibility for large scale production of Drumstick, papaya and bread fruit in these islands. As a matter of fact, transportation of these commodities to mainland for marketing is difficult because of the passenger rush in ships and due to limited programme, which is not daily.

We have increased the target of papaya production in 35 ha. of 1987-88 to 200 ha. area during 1988-89 and hope full selling the fruits locally and to the tourists. We have already prepared package tour for 1988-89 and with commissioning of the ship Tipusultan in August 1988 into Lakshadweep Waters increased tourist flow is ensured and expect 6000 tourists during 1988-89 to visit islands as against 220 tourists in 1987-88.

The Department of Agriculture in this Union Territory is not only demonstrating the package of practices for the cultivation of inter-crops including papaya but also distribute the seed materials, implements, fencing materials and fertilizers and manures at 50 per cent subsidised cost and pest and disease control service done at free of cost to the cultivators. Now marketing aid will also be extended through the Society for Promotion of Recreational Tourism and Sports. The Director of Agriculture is also Secretary of the Society.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 26 Para No. 3-25)

The committee are not convinced by the argument of the Administrator, Lakshadweep that the running of the Govt. of Agriculture farm on non-commercial lines and over head 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, committee recommend that the Govt. farm should be re-organised to keep profits so that these as a model to private farmers.

Reply of Government

The income from Agricultural farms run on demonstration basis are based on the receipts realised from the sale of vegetables and fruits cultivated as intercrops in coconut plantation since the coconut trees belong to the private land owners. Coconut is a perennial crop, under which the annual vegetables and fruits normally will not profusely bear as they do in ideal open fields. As a result of cultural and manurial practices and watering for intercrops, the yield of coconut increases these fold and that income is not to be separated in assessing the profit or loss of Assessment in made as above, it will always be profitable. Reorganisation of farms to demonstrate inter cropping/multiple cropping with main crop coconut and intercrop papayas and successful vegetables will be laid out benefit the cultivators in the islands as recommended.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 27 Para No. 3—33)

The Committee have been informed by the Administrator, Lakshadweep that the scope of further tapping the land resources in Lakshadweep is eligible. 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 to tribals. The committee recommend that the corporation may be made functional at the earliest.

Reply of Government

An M. D. has been appointed for the corporation on part time basis. And schemes for implementation are being worked out.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 29 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

Fisheries technology and coir crafts are proposed to be introduced in four schools i.e. Ministry, Amini, Agatti and Kavaratti this year. This will be extended in phased manner in other schools also.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 30 Para No. 3—36)

The committee also recommend that trawlers to boost fish catch may be introduced at the earliest as mentioned by the Administration, Lakshadweep.

Reply of Government

Master plan of Fisheries is yet to be received from the export committee. Action will be taken with reference to the master plan to boost fishing.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 31 para No. 3—41)

In Lakshadweep where the scope for tapping fishing resources is very high, the Administration have not been able to meet fully the demand for boats and there in 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 prohibilitively high. Now that the Lakshadweep Administration have entered into an agreement with the Andaman & 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 norm 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.

Reply of Government

As per the assesment made, there are 55 applicants including the waiting list for fishing boats. We are having 53 boats during the current financial year for issue to the fisherman. The entire requirement will be met by the end of the current financial year and the waiting list will be liquidated.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated
.....
15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 32 Para No. 3—42)

The committee are disturbed to learn that traditional art of boat building by inhabitants of Lakshadweep Island is dying. The committee as a course in the proposed I.T.I. being set up in the Union Territory. In the opinion of the committee more 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 U.T. Administration should take some positive steps in this direction.

Reply of Government

Traditional boat building was meant for mainland to island and inter island communication and fishing. Out of this, with the advent to mechanised crafts, ships helicopter and vayudoot service the traditional boats are not now used for communication purposes. In the case of fishing too the traditional boats are replaced by mechanised boats. To construct mechanised boats there are two boat building yards under fisheries department in Kavaratti & Chetlat. Available local boat builders are employed in these yards. In the proposed I.T.I., boat building also included as one of the trades.

Other steps to review boat building revival of traditional boat race and construction of fishing boats. A beginning has been

made in Minicoy Boats for tourists use are also proposed to be constructed here, including glass bottom boats.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendations (Sl. No. 33 Para No. 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 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.

Reply of Government

Enquiries are being made to find where such sonar equipment could be available, and whether this will be effective in detecting schools or feasible to fit and fishing boats.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 34 Para No. 3—59)

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 food 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 U. T. Administration should provide more incentive to the tribals to take up poultry farming on a large scale. This will help in tackling the problem of unemployment among the tribals.

Reply of Government

The Administration is laying a great stress on the expansion of poultry farming in Lakshadweep. The farmers are paid 50 per cent subsidy up to a maximum of Rs. 1500/- for construction of poultry shed. Poultry feed and birds are supplied on 50 per cent subsidised rates. More farmers are coming forward to take up poultry farming. Both layer and broiler chicks are supplied to the farmers.

At present there are 240 private poultry farms in the islands. Farmers are well trained in bird rearing. Health facilities are also provided by the departmental staff.

As per the centrally sponsored scheme, 100 ladies below poverty line were supplied with birds and feed costing Rs. 300 per head free of cost during the year 1987-88. This scheme will be continued during the current year also.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 35 Para No. 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 these farms.

Reply of Government

The departmental farms were started as demonstration units and were running as such only. We did not think earlier of commercialising these demonstration units. In the light of recommendation of the parliamentary committee, the possibility of running these farms on commercial basis is being examined. The department is preparing the feasibility report. Further action on this will be taken as soon as the report is completed.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 37, Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

The SISI, Trichur conducted a feasibility study and identified 24 industries which are suitable to the Island conditions. Project reports in some cases have been completed already. The SISI has demonstrated a few schemes at Kavaratti as a part of entrepreneurship development programmes. The department of industries in

collaboration with the SISI, is motivating the educated unemployed to take to more and more profitable schemes under self-employment sectors are contacted individually in different islands to motivate them to take up any of the industries suited to their choice and aspiration.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 38, Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

Action has already been taken to implement the remaining 5 per cent recommendations of the Coir Board.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4|10|88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 39, Para No. 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 cooperative 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.

Reply of Government

As recommended by the Coir Board, the Administration has organised groups of women under DWCRA for coir twisting at Amini, Kodmat and Andrott. Four units are now working with 60 women. The total production in these units upto 31-3-1988 was 21 tonnes of coir yarn. Marketing of the products of these units is done through industrial department of this Administration. Though these units are not registered under cooperative societies, they are working

smoothly as groups (in the form of cooperative society). We have also made arrangements of supplying fibre from the fibre factories to the household units started in the island as suggested by the Coir Board.

Collection of green husk and extraction of retted fibre has also been organised in the islands of Kavaratti, Arini, Agatti, Kadmat, Kiltan, Andrott and Kalpeni as recommended by the coir board. Fibre thus produced is being used by the groups of ladies under the DWCRA and other in household sector for conversion into yarn.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 40, Para No. 3.68)

The committee note that handicrafts are just a hobby with tribals in Lakshadweep and are not linked with the economical 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 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.

Reply of Government

In the first instance we have to motivate craftsmen to establish a handicraft industry instead of only casual productions. Some parties in Minicoy, richer island in the Union Territory from the point of view of handicrafts, have volunteered and the cases are being processed.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 41, Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

A master crafts man has been identified at Minicoy who is able to give training to the local talented youths in traditional arts. A production units in private sector will be set up at Minicoy and workers in the handicrafts cum production centre at Kavaratti will get further training from Minicoy. For marketing handicrafts production, one outlet will be opened at Minicoy in addition to the handicrafts, cooperative society at Kavaratti to cop-up with the increase demand of handicrafts due to increase of visitors and tourists in these islands Minicoy is also a tourists island in this Union Territory.

A proposal is to shift the existing handicraft-cum-training centre at Kavaratti to Minicoy is under examination.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 42 Para No. 3.73)

The Committee note that the Union Territory Administration plans to establish small scale industries in the Lakshadweep which can exploit the raw materials 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 stops for the establishment of these small scale industries in the Islands at an accelerated pace as the industries have already been identified.

Reply of Government

Small Industries identified by SISI, Trichur, for which capital investment ranges from 10 thousands to 15 lakhs are now under implementation. Entrepreneurship Development programme was organised in Kavaratti with the guidance of SISI Trichur. The department is trying to establish these units in different islands by the local entrepreneurs. We are trying to motivate educated youth who are eligible for availing concessions in industries sector to take up self employment. The response to this scheme is favourable and we hope that with in one or two years more SISI units will come up in these islands. So far 11 units have been sanctioned during 1987-88.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 43 Para No. 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 been any step to improve the port 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 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 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.

Reply of Government

A comprehensive Transport master plan projected up to the year 2011 has been prepared. Passenger ship mentioned in the recommendation has been purchased and is expected to be commissioned in August '88.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 45 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

A Committee have been constituted to study and frame a draft regulation of compulsory education for all students below 14 years in primary schools of Lakshadweep.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 46 Para No. 4.10)

The Committee regret that mothertongue is not the medium of education in Primary school 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 Govt. 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.

Reply of Government

Action to recruit educated residents of Minicoy (who only are knowing Mahl) and give them necessary training for teaching and post at Minicoy is being taken.

In the meantime Island Development Authority has agreed to send a small group to Maldives to study, any other things, the latest developments in the teaching of this language.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 47 Para No. 4.11)

(a) The Committee recommend that the Union Territory Administration should take immediate steps to ensure the expeditious development of Hindi teachers from Delhi Administration in the Union Territory on deputation.

(b) 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.

Reply of Government

(a) We have sent letter advertisements to the Liaison Officer, New Delhi for advertising the posts of Hindi teachers and there was no response to our circular for teachers on deputation. We have received applications from qualified candidates for filling up the post on contract. Selection will be made shortly.

(b) We are giving training to all teachers at R.C.E. in Mysore. Two teams of teachers (graduate Assistant and PST) are now undergoing training at Mysore from 28th May to 7th June and 26th May to 4th June. Teachers in batches will be deputed for the training under R.C.E. As advised such trainings will be made a regular part of the educational system.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 48 Para No. 4-12)

The Committee recommend that the question of providing suitable text books 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.

Reply of Government

We are providing text books of Kerala Government in all Schools of Lakshadweep except the Higher Secondary School at Minicoy. All the other Schools in Lakshadweep are following Kerala Syllabi and text books and SSLC examination. In the Higher Secondary School NCERT text books are supplied. All the Schools can be given NCERT books only after changing over to CBSC.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl No. 49 para No. 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.

Reply of Government

The Department is making effort to increase the holding power of the Schools by providing more and more facilities and at the same time requesting the Parent Teacher Association and Citizen Council to pursue the parents to send their children regularly to Schools and avoid drop out. Greater public involvement in running of Schools is proposed and NIEPA has given detailed proposals which have been approved by the Administrator's Advisory Council.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 50 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

At present we are having four (4) hostels two each at Kavaratti and Andrott attached with the Junior College for men and Women. The Schools are situated within the walking distance in all inhabited islands. Therefore there is experienced no need for hostels attached to Schools. However this will be provided whenever needed.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 52 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

Grant is given to the Sahitya Kala Academy based on the budget approved by the governing body of the Organisation and also with reference to the Schemes implemented by them. The requirement of the Academy for financial assistance are always met with. Additional requirement if any will also be given to Sahitya Kala Academy.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 53 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been urged to accept and takeover the land (2 Acre) in Kavaratti.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be informed of the action taken by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in the matter.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 54 Para No. 4.29)

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

Reply of Government

This Administration have got the sanction of an ITI with 5 trades. The required building is under construction. Every effort will be made to expedite completion.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 55 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

Noted.

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be informed of the measures taken to ensure timely selection of students.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 56 Para No. 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 & 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.

Reply of Government

Out of the seven Specialist Doctors transferred to Lakshadweep islands vide Ministry of Health & Family Welfare order No. A-22012/22/82-CHS IV dated 21-12-87, five Doctors have joined during 1988. The Specialist Doctors posted at the Government Hospital Minicoy against the post of Surgeon, Anaesthetist and obst & Gynaecologist are yet to join duty. No other post of Doctor is lying vacant now.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 58 Para No. 4.46)

The Committee note that the problem of continued employment of tribals of the Lakshadweep Island 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.

Reply of Government

Steps have already been taken to regularise the *ad-hoc* appointment with reference to the rules in force. It is hopeful that almost all *ad-hoc* appointments could be regularised within a year or two subject to completion of other formalities like finalisation of Recruitment Rule, updating of ACRs etc.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 59 Para No. 4.50)

The Committee recommend 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 long way to improve the economic position of the Tribals and bring them prosperity.

Reply of Government

Plan formulated for the development of tourism as recommended by the expert Committee is under implementation. The action plan is being monitored by Secretary Tourism and is on Schedule.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

CHAPTER III

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 3 Para No. 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 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 groups of islands depending upon the population should be administered by an officer of the rank of Deputy Collector.

Reply of Government

The matter has been examined in consultation with the Administrator, Lakshadweep. The traditional set up for Administration of the islands was to have only one Government official in the form of an Amin. The islands had a strong tradition of self-government by the representatives of the leading families on each island, which preserved the cultural and social integrity of the island. There was no crime and human relations were harmonious. The introduction of mainland type administration on the islands has been effective in speeding up development. But it has also increased the dependence of a self-reliant people on the administration structure. With the establishment of a stronger infrastructural base in the form of health, educational, and other social services electrification, better communication and transport, etc. the needs is now not for making the administration bigger and more top heavy but of delegating more and more authority to the people's representatives themselves. Upgrading of administration Unit in each of the islands will increase the cost of the administration without quantifiable benefits to the public. This would be at the cost of investment in development, Works which could provide greater opportunities to the people. There is also a danger of such an administration becoming interfering in the lives of the people when the need now is to try and recapture their self-reliance. It will also be difficult

to justify such a structure from the point of view of workload since with the introduction of Helicopter services, better telephone systems and now FAX communication, it is not difficult for senior officers to reach the spot on any island at short notice. The Deputy Collector, Minicoy on the other hand was required because Minicoy is an isolated island, located farthest away from the Headquarters and also from all the remaining islands taken together. Minicoy also lies on the international ship routes and there are, therefore, some special security considerations for that island. For these reasons Administrator feels that instead of trying to introducing the pattern of Administration of Minicoy on other islands it would be better to gradually delegate more authority to the elected Island Councils which are proposed to be established shortly.

[Ministry of Home Affairs D.O. letter No. U.16014/3/88-ANL
dated 4-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 5 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

The matter was examined in consultation with the Administrator, Lakshadweep. As the Parliamentary Committee is already aware a new democratic set up is likely to be introduced in Lakshadweep shortly. The regulations for introducing Pradesh Council in the Islands have been promulgated under Article 240 of the Constitution and published in the official Gazette of India on 28-6-88. After the new democratic set up is introduced in Islands, there may be no need to continue AAC.

[Ministry of Home Affairs D.O. letter No. U.16014/3/88-ANL
dated 4-7-1988]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 17 Para No. 2.16)

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

Reply of Government

Except a few government servant and certain local contractors who are within the income slab no other persons is paying income tax in Lakshadweep. The jurisdiction of Lakshadweep lies with the Income tax officer Calicut.

Major sources of income in the islands are agriculture and fisheries which as per our knowledge are exempt from payment of income-tax.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 20 Para No. 2.29)

The Committee have been informed that the present backwardness of Kalponi 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, tormadoes etc. So that they do not have to suffer huge losses of the nature suffered by them in 1977.

Reply of Government

In the cyclone swept in 1977, supply of coconut seedlings, fertilizers and mannures, plant protection chemicals, alkalimty rectification chemicals etc. free of cost for two successive years under Agriculture under rehabilitation of cyclone effected cultivators.

There is no well equipped materiological station in the U.T. presently to forecast cyclone. Such weather warnings if at all forecasted are received from Trivandrum just 2-3 days, before which don't help to evacuate the people from one Island to the other. The warnings if at all received again are not island specific and which island will be affected by strong wind/gale in next 48 hours is not known. Based on massages we receive, the possibility is to alert the people in all the islands to avoid going into the sea for fishing, anchor/haul up their boats and to make other precautionary measures against cyclone. Some islands are affected whereas some are least affected in cyclone. The forecasting system is expected to improve with increased sophistication of satellite imagery, to give the warn-

ing sufficiently in advance and to clearly tell the route/area so as to enable protect the cultivators/fisherman adequately.

Another helpless aspect is that by no means the coconut palm could be sowed from falling in the furry of cyclone as it is a tall tree which would sway vigorously in the strong wind and not able to withstanding it would break or get uprooted.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

Recommendation (Sl. No. 36 Para No. 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 Tamilnadu. The committee have been informed that National Dairy Department Board proposes to set up Mother Dairy booths in the Lakshadweep Islands for supply of homogenious 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.

Reply of Government

At present there are only two Dairy farms, one each at Minicoy and Kavaratti. The idea of strengthening the farm is abandoned in view of the expensive nature of milk production and want of facilities for fodder cultivation. Now milk is proposed to be brought in tetra pack from mainland as recommended by the National Dairy Development Board. There is some delay in getting regular supply of milk in tetra pack. We have already contacted the National Dairy Development Board to make arrangements for the same. We are arranging to obtain milma Milk in polythene packets from the Kerala Milk Marketing Board Ltd. This is sold at Rs. 5/- per litre to the public at Kavaratti. It is proposed to extend the supply of milma Milk to other islands also till Milk in tetra pack is made available. Fresh milk produced in the Dairy farm at Kavaratti and Minicoy is also sold at Rs. 5/- per litre.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988.]

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

Recommendation (Sl. No. 8 Para No. 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 Member of the Committee to grasp even the difficulties faced by the tribals in Lakshadweep. Although in actual practices 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.

Reply of Government

This recommendation has been examined. If the duration of the Committee is kept one year, there will be scope for providing more opportunity to fresh aspirants to give the Committee a fresh outlook every year.

[Ministry of Home Affairs D.O. letter No. U.16014/3/88-ANL dated 4-7-1988]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 1.4 of Chapter-I.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 51 Para No. 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.

Reply of Government

The sanctioned funds for 87-88 was only Rs. 68 lakhs. For 88-89 it is 131 lakhs against the proposal for Rs. 218.86 Lakhs.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl. dated 15-7-1988.]

Comments of the Committee

Please see para 1.7 of the Chapter I.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS ON WHICH FINAL REPLY OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED

Recommendation (Sl. No. 14 Para No. 2.8)

The Committee regret to note the actual expenditure incurred by Lakshadweep administration during the year 1984-85 to 1986-87 was 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 know 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 or which have not been finally approved results in trying up of funds which could have been better utilised in other spheres or developmental activities. The faculty planning is always at the cost for other projects. The committee cannot condone the lackadaisical approach of the Ministry in this regard. The 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.

Reply of Government

Strengthening of the planning machinery of Lakshadweep is under consideration of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The direction are noted.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to me apprised of the final decision taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 28 Para No. 3.24)

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 fisherman 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.

Reply of Government

The fisheries master plan is yet to be received from the expert committee constituted for the purpose.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee will await the details of the fisheries master plan as received from the Expert Committee and the action taken thereon

Recommendation (Sl. No. 44 Para No. 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 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 college to the level of degree college.

Reply of Government

This matter has been placed before the Administrator's Advisory council who have same misgiving and have asked for further study.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be apprised of the decision taken by the Administrator's Advisory Council in the matter.

Recommendation (Sl. No. 57 Para No. 4.39)

The Committee have been informed that the Lakshadweep Housing Materials 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 Materials 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 to the outcome of the efforts of the Administration in this regard.

Reply of Government

The Lakshadweep Housing material Board Regulation have still not been sanctioned by the Ministry of Urban Development. The matter has been pursued with Ministry both by D.O. letters and by visiting the Ministry and having discussions with concerned officers observation of the Committee was also brought to the notice of Ministry. Ministry after obtaining comments from HUDCO are now awaiting response of Town and Country Planning Organisation. After finalisation of draft regulation, it will be required to be brought into effect.

[Lakshadweep Administration's letter No. 4/10/88-Genl.
dated 15-7-1988]

Comments of the Committee

The Committee would like to be intimated of the final action taken in the matter.

NEW DELHI;
February 8, 1989
19 Magha, 1910 (Saka)

ARVIND NETAM
Chairman.
Committee on the Welfare of
Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

APPENDIX

(Vide Para 4 of the Report)

Analysis of the action taken by government on the recommendations contained in Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee.

- I. Total Number of recommendations—59

- II. Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government (vide recommendations at Sl. Nos. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 58 and 59).
Number—48
Percentage to Total—81.3

- III. Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (Vide recommendations at Sl. Nos. 3, 5, 17, 20 and 36).
Number—5
Percentage to Total—8.5

- IV. Recommendations in respect of which replies of Government have not been accepted and which require reiteration (vide recommendations at Sl. Nos. 8 and 51).
Number—2
Percentage of Total—3.4

- V. Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government have not been received (vide Sl. Nos. 14, 28, 44 and 57).
Number—4
Percentage to Total—6.8