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Minutes of the Seventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Island Development Authority (IDA) held on 4th January 2001, under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission at Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi

List of participants is at Annex-I. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, was in the chair.

2. Chairman welcomed the Members, special invitees and other participants to the meeting and expressed the hope that the Standing Committee of IDA would meet more frequently in future. He stated that it is an opportune time for holding this meeting, as the actionable points emerging after the deliberations would be of help in preparation of the 10th Fiver Year Plan for the development of A&N Islands and Lakshadweep. He appreciated that in respect of most of the human development indices, both A&N Islands and Lakshadweep are having better averages than all-India averages. However, a lot has still to be done for sustainable development of both these groups of islands. He further felt that better communications helped to remove the feeling of distance between the islands and the mainland and to tap the potential of tourism and fisheries in both the groups of islands to the optimum. The limited resource base for industrial development compels one to look for alternatives for sustainable development. He said that a perspective plan for development of both the groups of UTs could be prepared on the line of State Development Reports being prepared for some States.

He then requested participants for focussed discussion, keeping in view the long agenda for the meeting.