

Agenda No. 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Sixth Meeting of Standing Committee of the IDA

3. The Chairman stated that the minutes of the Sixth Meeting of the Standing Committee of IDA were circulated earlier. Since no comments have been received the minutes may be taken as confirmed. Minutes were accordingly confirmed. However, there were some points relating to the action taken note on the decisions of the Sixth Meeting, which were taken up subsequently, under the next agenda item.

Agenda No. 2 To take note of the action taken on the decisions/suggestions of the Sixth Meeting of Standing Committee of the IDA

4. Following issues were taken up under this agenda item.

- Need for setting up of a Marine Police Force (MPF)

4.1 MHA had sanctioned posts and other infrastructure for strengthening of the MPF of the A&N Administration to check poaching effectively. However, a similar proposal for setting up of a full-fledged MPF in Lakshadweep has got stuck in view of the blanket ban on creation of posts by the Finance Ministry, as part of austerity measures. It was informed by the representative of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that an Indian Reserve Battalion (IRB) has been sanctioned, in the meanwhile, for Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu. This will provide about 500 personnel in Lakshadweep who can be utilised appropriately for anti-poaching activities. MP, Lakshadweep emphasized that to control poaching a specialised force with necessary equipment is required and IRB may not be enough, in view of high tech poaching which is going on. Chairman, while agreeing that it is necessary to have a specialised force like MPF, suggested that a beginning could be made by utilising IRB, till the time ban on creation of posts is lifted. To control poaching, Lt. Governor, A&N Islands suggested that it is necessary now to make the Foreigners Act more stringent. MHA informed that the draft for amending the Foreigners Act is ready and would be sent to Lt. Governor, A&N Islands, for his comments. On the measures to control poaching, MP, A&N Islands suggested that now-a-days, local