

- Posting of Specialist Doctors

- 4.9 It was informed that in both the groups of islands there is a problem of having specialist doctors. Lt. Governor, A&N Islands informed that to overcome the problem of lack of specialist doctors, they are promoting the concept of tele-medicine and in this regard, ISRO has agreed to set up communication channels. Chairman suggested that the idea of tele-medicine should be tried in Lakshadweep also. In addition, while continuing with the contract appointments as approved by the Department of Health, the possibility of providing specialised training to the doctors of A&N Islands and Lakshadweep at premier national medical colleges/institutes should also be explored.

[Action: A&N and Lakshadweep Administration and Ministry of Health]

Agenda No. 3 Proposal for constituting an A&N State Planning Board

5. The proposal was not accepted by MHA as the proposed Board shall overlap functions assigned to the District Planning Committee (DPC) and it was suggested that the DPC should be actively integrated with the planning process. Lt. Governor, A&N Islands informed that now DPC has become more active and the proposal for devolution of powers is being processed. Chairman suggested that, as the function of DPC is only to plan and not to execute schemes, the present arrangement may continue for some more time. He further suggested that the ACRs of staff transferred to PRIs may be written by the elected representatives and the members of DPC should ensure that people's involvement is there at all stages of development.

Agenda No. 4 Creation of Databank to Check Population and Curb Corrupt Practices

6. To control immigration to A&N Islands, the UT Administration has prepared a plan for creation of databank and to issue Islanders Identity Cards. Lt. Governor, A&N Islands informed that in the proposed exercise, pre-1993 immigrants from the mainland would be regarded as islanders. Special Invitees from A&N Islands requested that in this exercise for creation of database, local students should also be involved suitably and it should not be left to the revenue department alone. Secretary, Planning Commission observed that to check influx of population to A&N Islands, it