

**5. Ships running between Port Blair and Car Nicobar and inter-connected ship services among other Islands should be increased.**

**Comments of DSS :**

At present only three vessels are plying in the inter-island Sector ( Southern group of Islands ) viz. M.V.Chowra, M.V.Sentinel ( passenger-cum-cargo vessel ) and M.V.Dering (passenger vessel). M.V.Chowra and M.V.Sentinel are two Passenger-cum-cargo vessels make 6-7 trips to the Southern group of islands in a month and the passenger vessel M.V.Dering also make 7-8 short and long trips to the southern group in fair weather. During the rough weather these Vessel cannot cross the Ten Degree Channel, as the Vessel is not suitable for such operations.

Apart from these Passenger-cum-cargo Vessels other Cargo Vessels such as M.V.Badam, M.V.Mohwa, and M.V.Vanvikas of this Deptt. are also make frequent trips to meet the Cargo requirement of those areas.

However on induction of new Vessels, an increase in the existing schedule will be possible, thus improving the service further to the Southern island group.

**6. Telecommunication facilities should be provided at subsidised rates.**

**Comments of Telecommunication Department :**

This Deptt. has already decided to provide village public Telephone to each villages on concessional rate as following.

- (a). No security deposit need be taken.
- (b). VPT will be treated as a local subscriber of the concerned exchange though it is linked by long distance medium.
- (c). Presently a concession of 50% is applicable to change for local & Trunk calls made from VPT.

On the same principle, Village Public Telephone connection will be provided to each villages of this Union Territory, a detail programme for which has been taken at hand.

**7. AIR services should be restored between Port Blair and Car Nicobar or new air service between Car Nicobar and Mainland be introduced.**

**Comments of General Admn. Department :**

AIR service between Port Blair to Car Nicobar or New Services between Car Nicobar and mainland be introduced and to state that the air Service between port Blair - Car Nicobar had been under correspondence with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Govt. of India for quite some time in the past. The Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Andaman and Nicobar Islands had also taken up this matter with the Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism vide his D.O. dated 14.8.1993 (copy enclosed). The Union Minister has however, expressed his inability in the matter due to Boeing 737 crew constraints ( copy enclosed). There has been no further progress in the matter.