

227

SI	Issues	Extract of Minute	Action Taken/Status as on 22.03.2014
		<p>to A&N. The air fares need to be rationalized and brought down.</p> <p>Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, pointed out that as long as concessional LTC is made available to A&N, it will continue to give a huge incentive to the airlines to charge very high fares because the Government pays for the fares. This issue needs to be resolved.</p> <p>J.S, M/o Civil Aviation mentioned that Air India is operating flights for 5-6 days and incurs an annual loss of Rs 14 crore on flights to A&N. It was suggested that as in case of North East, a suitable scheme of subsidy on flights to Lakshadweep may also be mooted. MP (Lakshadweep) mentioned that the UT (Lakshadweep) needs an aircraft involving a cost of about Rs. 14 crore which is not a big amount for Air India which incurs a maintenance cost of Rs. 14 crore on a single flight from Delhi to the US. According to him, the case of Lakshadweep should also be considered in that spirit.</p> <p>Secretary, Planning Commission pointed out that both Administrations are subsidizing cheap passenger traffic by approximately Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 11,000 per passenger in case of A&N. The same is the case with Lakshadweep. So both Administrations need to divert sea traffic to air traffic and reduce the amount of subsidy from Rs. 11000 per person.</p> <p>J.S, M/o Civil Aviation, pointed out that the Lakshadweep</p>	<p>Nicobar Islands Administration has not materialised, as the tender floated by the Administration on 11.01.2013 for chartering of Aircraft from scheduled operators did not get any response. Steps are being taken for re-tendering with revised qualification criteria and requirement.</p> <p><i>The Chief Secretary, A & N administration stated that during the peak tourist season (November-March), all the airlines increase their airfare prohibitively, adversely affecting the flow of tourists.</i></p> <p><i>A & N Administration has floated a global tender on 17.01.2014 (3rd tender) for chartering of aircraft for operating on Port Blair-Chennai-Port Blair and Port Blair-Kolkata-Port Blair sectors. A pre-bid meeting was held at New Delhi on 10.02.2014, which was attended by two Non-Scheduled operators. The last date for submission of tender is 18.03.2014. It was observed that Administration may ascertain the consistency and reliability of bidders.</i></p> <p><i>AI has advised Administration that instead of chartering an aircraft, initially Administration could reserve a certain number of seats for their use on the AI flight to Port Blair and they have submitted a formal proposal to A & N Administration in this regard. A & N Administration has discussed with the airline representatives to identify options for increasing the availability of seats between</i></p>