

151

Shri Ray touched upon problems being faced by the people in issues relating to water, health, electricity supply etc. In particular, the problem of lack of specialists in the southern group of islands, spread of Hepatitis-B in Car Nicobar, recruitment and posting of doctors, drinking water shortage in Port Blair, electricity supply in rural areas, facilities to the tribal councils, provision of land to settlers from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka etc. were mentioned.

Thereafter, the items as listed in the Agenda for the Tenth Meeting of the IDA were taken up for discussion.

Agenda Item No.1 & 2

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Ninth Meeting of the Island Development Authority and to take note of action taken on the decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the IDA.

12. The minutes were confirmed and the action taken was noted.

Agenda Item No.3

To take note of action taken on the decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Standing Committee of IDA.

3 (1A & B): Problem of population influx from mainland:

13. Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands enquired about the progress regarding issue of identity cards. Lieutenant Governor indicated that the ID cards were almost ready and likely to be distributed in about a month. He also noted that the problem of influx was much less as indicated by census figures. In the period 1991-2001, the rate of growth of population was 2.3% as against rate of growth of population of 4.5% per annum in the period 1981-1991.

3 (2C): Land allotment to pre and post 1942 settlers:

14. Member of Parliament, Andaman & Nicobar Islands enquired about the progress in this regard. Lieutenant Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands pointed out that the issue of further allotments was linked to the availability of land. Presently, 34000 hectares of revenue land that was 'deemed forest' could not be utilized and only 528 hectares of land in the entire territory was available.

3 (4B): Fish Landing Jetties at A&N Islands: Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs):