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could solve the water supply problem for Port Blair; this had received 'in principle' approval from the Ministry of Environment & Forests; the approval was subsequently withdrawn by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, after the Supreme Court Judgement. Member of Parliament, A&N Islands suggested that a reputed Consultant could be appointed to go into the drinking water problem of Port Blair and to suggest cost-effective solutions. The proposal of Member of Parliament, A&N Islands to hire a reputed consultant was agreed to.
(Action: Chief Secretary, A & N Administration)

Agenda Item No. 8

(A) Issue of Scheduled Tribe Certificates in Lakshadweep:

40. Administrator, Lakshadweep pointed out on behalf of the Member of Parliament, Lakshadweep, who had proposed this agenda that Scheduled Tribe certificates needed to be provided to Lakshadweep inhabitants in cases where children are born outside the Islands due to medical reasons or in cases where they have gone to the mainland due to employment reasons. It was indicated that an appropriate amendment had been carried out.

(B) Effective Monitoring of Decisions taken by Island Development Authority:

41. Member of Parliament, A & N Islands suggested that a separate Monitoring Committee for time bound implementation of decisions taken should be set up. It was felt that this may not be required, since a Standing Committee of Island Development Authority headed by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission already exists and it has been meeting from time to time and also following up on IDA decisions.

Summing Up - Closing Remarks by the Prime Minister:

42. Summing up the deliberations, the Prime Minister announced the following decisions:

"I am proposing to entrust the Standing Committee of Secretaries with the time bound responsibility of developing and recommending a policy for development of tourism, fisheries, high-value agriculture and hydro-carbon energy resources in these islands that harmonizes the need to meet developmental aspirations with environmental and strategic concerns that have been raised. This Committee will ensure compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court in this regard, while determining the optimal approach. It will also formulate operational guidelines for harmonization of these concerns with development efforts in other areas. The recommendations of this Committee, which shall be

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