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5. Provision of funds alone however does not automatically lead to development. Quality and efficiency of expenditure is equally important. The public representatives and the two Administrations need to ensure that the enhanced funds are well spent, and that there is an increase in the efficiency of implementation.

Both Island Administrations have to seriously address the issue of making a beginning towards recovering adequate user charges for services created through public expenditure being provided to the residents.

7. As you know, the IDA has a Standing Committee chaired by me. This Committee has been meeting from time to time. It has been taking up both development and administrative issues, most of which have been resolved in these meetings.

8. In addition, beginning with the Tenth Plan, Planning Commission has put in place for the Islands the system of Working Group Meetings and Quarterly Performance Reviews. This is being done to focus the technical expertise of the Commission on developmental issues relating to the Islands and facilitate interaction and monitoring of plan programmes on a regular basis.

9. Finally, I am happy to inform this forum that the Planning Commission, with the help of reputed outside experts, is preparing State Development Reports for Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep Islands. These Reports will, on the pattern of State Development Reports being prepared for many States, set out medium-term strategies for accelerating the development of the Islands. It is our expectation that these Reports would be ready in about a year.

10. Once again, I would like to thank the Hon'ble Prime Minister for sparing time for this meeting. I would now request him to deliver his Inaugural Address.