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700 passenger cum 160 MT cargo ship, being built at HSL, Visakhapatnam which was projected to be delivered within two and a half years is yet to be delivered after nearly 7 years. To ensure proper maintenance of the expanded shipping fleet of Lakshadweep, Administrator should be represented on the Governing Body of the Cochin Port Trust.

- (ii) Jetties: On the directions of the last IDA meeting, the eastern side jetties are under construction at four islands. Their height needs to be enhanced by one meter for the safety of the passengers.
- (iii) Civil Aviation: The air strip at Agatti needs to be expanded on either side of the existing runway for accommodating larger aircrafts.
- (iv) Tourism: The recently introduced cruise tourism has enhanced the income of the local population.
- (v) Drinking Water: The low temperature thermal desalination plant at Kavaratti has resolved the problem of drinking water and NIOT needs to urgently install six similar plants on other islands for which resources have already been released.
- (vi) Fisheries: The Fish Aggregation Devices (FAD) have improved the fish catch and more such devices would be installed. Mother and Collector vessels would be introduced.
- (vii) Telecom: The shortage of bandwidth does not enable full utilization of the existing hardware for education, telemedicine and communication and needs to be expanded.
- (viii) Environment: The linear criterion for defining the Coastal Zone Management Plan needs to be revised to set up fisheries and tourism projects.
- (ix) Employment: The recently digitized employment exchange enables marketing manpower of the islands in India and abroad in an efficient manner.
- (x) Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's): Active consultations are held with PRI's and funds, functions and functionaries on 29 subjects have been transferred to them.

Agenda Item No. 4

Development programmes of Andaman & Nicobar Islands

6. Lieutenant Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands made a presentation highlighting the following points:

- (i) The phase of relief and rehabilitation measures, post Tsunami, is over and the islands are now in a stage of normalcy. Difficulties are being experienced in: construction of ports and jetties in the Southern group of islands and procurement of pontoon jetties and the services of a dedicated Chief Engineer are needed urgently.
- (ii) Foreign poachers: Foreign nationals apprehended in the islands, stay in the Union Territory for inordinately long time period and