

9. Dr.(Mrs) Syeda Hameed, Member, Planning Commission informed that on a number of issues raised by the LG, ANI innovative suggestions made in the report of the Scientific Expert Committee under Professor Babu set up by MoEF, should be examined for deciding the future course of action. She specifically highlighted that considerable damage would be caused to the islands if decision on influx of people is deferred till the next census. She indicated that the Tribal Council of Nicobar Group of islands had requested for Sixth Schedule status and lands belonging to them were being taken away and declared as Reserve Forest without consulting them. They should be consulted forthwith. Dr. Hameed also requested that feasibility of setting up the Jarawa Tribal Development Authority, as suggested in the Report of the Sub Group of Experts on Jarawas, set up by the NAC, needs a decision by the Government. ✓

10. Hon'ble Minister of Tourism stated that tourism activities are hindered in ANI due to restrictive norms on environment, scarcity of land etc. and clarity was needed on the issue of 'deemed forests' to promote tourism projects in the PPP mode.

11. Secretary, MoEF assured the IDA that the report submitted by the Committee under Prof. Babu would be examined in a time frame 'faster than expected'. He informed about the proposed scientifically evolved CMZ Rules to replace the existing CRZ Rules. Minister of State for Environment & Forests informed that his Ministry had decided to issue a separate notification on CMZ Rules for ANI and Lakshadweep and if ANI Administration agrees, the notification could be issued within a week. //

12. Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs observed that the Primitive Tribal Groups of ANI are part of our precious heritage which are unfortunately getting decimated. The world community is watching whether we can save them. He suggested that there is a need to review the existing arrangement of Andaman Adi Janjati Vikas Nigam (AAJVS) meant to protect them. ✓

13. Hon'ble Home Minister agreed to review the issues raised by Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, MP and LG, ANI. He assured the IDA that decision would be finalized by end of the week on enhancement in delegation of financial powers to LG, ANI; cash compensation for livestock lost during tsunami; creation of police check posts and extension of time frame for rations to tsunami victims.

Presentation by Administrator Lakshadweep

14. Administrator, Lakshadweep made a presentation highlighting early decision/approval on long pending issues viz. (a) acquisition of 400 passenger vessel (b) repair/review of Eastern side jetties constructed with defective design (c) introduction ATR by Air India services, to Lakshadweep (d) extension of runway at Agatti and (e) construction of godown by FCI.