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preparing the RFP for tender to be floated by UTL for providing such bio toilets in each of the approx. 12,000 houses. Necessary funds for this purpose will be provided in the Annual Plan 2011-12. I complement the DRDO for successful experimentation and helping us to resolve the serious problem of human waste disposal.

I am extremely happy to also note that progress has been made to resolving the long standing problem of unreliable and insecure telecommunication connectivity to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The Planning Commission has accorded permission to the A&NI Administration to take immediate steps to implement the recommendations of the Technical Committee set-up for this purpose. The administration has already initiated steps to hire a Consultant to design the tender for this purpose. Mr Sam Pitroda has been requested to guide the Administration in the execution of this project and he has consented to do so.

All the islands are remotely located from the mainland. Therefore it is extremely important for us to create adequate health infrastructure to meet any emergency situation. Lakshadweep Administration had entered into an agreement for outsourcing the operations of the Community Health Centre at Agatti with Amrita Institute of Medical Science, Kochi on 19th May, 2011. The Institute shall run the Hospital with 10 Specialist, 6 GDMOs and 55 Para-Medical staff in accordance with the Indian Public Health Standards of Govt. of India for a 100 bed Hospital. The Institute has begun to provide services from 3rd June, 2011. I complement the Lakshadweep Administration for this excellent initiative.

A number of issues are listed for discussion on the agenda and I look forward to your views on each of them. I would now request Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to take us through the agenda items.

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