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Minutes of the Eleventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of Island Development Authority (IDA) held at New Delhi on 23rd May 2006.

The Eleventh Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Island Development Authority (IDA) was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission at 10:30 A.M on 23rd May 2006 in Room No. 122, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi. A list of participants is at Annex I.

Opening remarks of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

2. The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission welcomed the Hon'ble Members of Parliament representing Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, Lieutenant Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A & N) and Officials of the Government of India and UT Administrations. He outlined the purpose of the meeting as review of progress on Tsunami related projects in the last year and identification of specific actionable points for a decision by the Island Development Authority (IDA), which was expected to meet shortly. He recalled that the Hon'ble Prime Minister, while approving and reviewing plan projects and during his visits to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, had repeatedly emphasized creation of world class quality infrastructure. Chairman, Standing Committee of IDA observed that substantial improvements are needed in the pace of progress, especially in matters relating to construction of 12 Fish Landing Centres in A&N as identified in a Master Plan of 1997, promotion of tourism and enforcing regulations to adhere to carrying capacity of the A&N especially after the Supreme Court's directions of May 2002. The opening remarks of the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission are at Annex II.

Preliminary Observations of Hon'ble MP, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

3. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, MP stated that the IDA was conceptualized by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister so that the island territories develop properly keeping in view all aspects of their environmental protection as well as special technical and scientific requirements. After the change in Government, it is necessary that the IDA and its Standing Committee are reconstituted. Decisions taken on issues affecting the A & N need to be conveyed to the islanders in more effective and efficient manner. He pointed out that while Central Agencies like Border Road Organization (BRO) charge upto Rs. 3 crore per km for maintenance of Andaman Trunk Road (ATR), PWD can undertake similar tasks within Rs. 80 lakh per km. Lt. Governor, A&N informed that maintenance of ATR would be undertaken by PWD. Chairman agreed to take note of the observations of the Hon'ble MP and requested both the Hon'ble MP's to address him letters on specific items so that appropriate action is taken. He observed that IDA is a broad platform and the Standing Committee is a preparatory body of the IDA.