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32. Administrator, Lakshadweep informed that none of the Indian Satellite have footprints over Lakshadweep and therefore it is very important that ISRO be requested for providing bandwidth. 34

(Action: Department of Telecommunication and Department of Space)

Official Visits to ANI

33. Lt. Governor observed that visits of Ministerial Committees to the Islands help in providing technical assistance, but the very large number of visits- 173 delegations in the last 180 days- adversely affect the implementation of schemes and programmes at the field level. He suggested that there is a need to regulate these visits so that smooth follow up action is undertaken by the field level staff. Deputy Chairman agreed to limit the visit of officials of Planning Commission.

34. Due to paucity of time, the remaining items in the agenda could not be taken up for discussion. However, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, held consultations with the Members of Parliament of Andaman & Nicobar (A&N) and Lakshadweep after the meeting of the Standing Committee of IDA, in the afternoon on 23rd May 2006 to identify specific issues for a decision by the Island Development Authority (IDA).

Issues related to Lakshadweep

35. Dr. P. P Koya, Member of Parliament, Lakshadweep, thanked Deputy Chairman for the opportunity and highlighted the following issues:

a) Legislative Assembly and strengthening of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI's):

36. Joint Secretary (UT's), Ministry of Home Affairs, indicated that out of 29 subjects, 24 subjects have already been transferred to PRI's, and in April 2006 Joint Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj visited the islands and suggested an activity mapping under different schemes, which is under completion. This would be vetted by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj before implementation. All 29 subjects are expected to be transferred to PRI's by October 2006. Administrator Lakshadweep informed that functions and functionaries have been/ are being transferred and funds are transferred as grants- in- aid.

(Action: MHA and Lakshadweep Administration)

b) Delegation of more financial powers to UT Administration

37. Dr. Koya, M.P suggested that Administrator's financial powers need to be enhanced so that references to seek approval of MHA and Ministries /Departments on proposals involving small amounts of expenditure is avoided.

(Action: MHA)