

(8/10)

Air strips:

51. In Minicoy and Androth, during the Tsunami there was a slight surge of water in these two islands. Land has been identified for extension of airstrips in these two islands.

g) Berthing Facility for Ships:

52. M.P, Lakshadweep indicated that berthing of Ships is necessary for the islands to progress. He informed that three jetties are coming up, but in the other islands the loading/unloading is in the open sea. Administrator, Lakshadweep, indicated that at present two Islands have got break water jetty. Androth can take, a vessel with draft of 3.5 mts only and for it to take a vessel of 6.5 mts the cost estimated by ALHW is Rs. 120 crores. In Kalpeni there is a technical problem as it can only accept vessel of 1.5 mts only. In 4 islands, Kavaratti, Minicoy, Agatti, Amini, eastern side jetties are under construction and will be functional, only during fair weather season, in March 2007 to October 2007. In other islands a feasibility study is being done, and a proposal has been sent by ALHW to Ministry of Shipping for approval and the work will start in a year or so.

h) Education:

53. Administrator, Lakshadweep, pointed out that to facilitate higher secondary education in all islands a proposal for creation of posts of 56 teachers and 10 lab assistants has been sent to Ministry of Human Resource Development and this matter is pending with the MHRD for the past one year.

(Action : Ministry of MHRD)

i) Posting of Specialist Doctors

54. M.P, Lakshadweep, indicated that it is very important that specialists be posted in each island and at the same time one lady doctor is needed in each island. Administrator, Lakshadweep informed that CHS doctors are posted as specialists and even the local doctors are not willing to join as they are not entitled for hard area allowance whereas doctors who come from the mainland to these islands are entitled for this allowance.

Issues related to Andaman & Nicobar Islands

55. Shri Bhakta, MP, suggested that stable decisions are needed along with a proper vision for the A & N. Sand, stone timber is not available for construction due to environmental considerations. For the people living in forest, some alternative is important, and introduction of new rules and regulation, would lead to more poaching and illegal activities. Advance planning is needed for procurement of ships. Creation of posts is invariably held up and existing posts, as in PWD, are not filled up. We need to consider creating facilities for providing gas connection in all the islands.