

	<p>Drinking Water Facilities at Port Blair</p>	<p>the purpose of portable drinking water. At present there is one dam and three reservoirs which cater to the entire Port Blair and adjoining areas. During the summer season the water level gets depleted and curtailment is enforced. Delay or shortfall in monsoon makes it impossible to maintain the supply.</p> <p>☐ As the A & N Islands are prone to seismic activity there are chances of failure of Structures / Dam / Reservoir. In the event of any such incidents, there will be huge crisis for drinking water supply in Port Blair and the adjoining areas.</p> <p>☐ With a view to augmenting the drinking water facilities at Port Blair, it was decided to follow a multi pronged strategy comprising of the following:-</p> <p>(a) Laying a sub-sea pipeline between Rutland Island and Port Blair for transportations of fresh water to Port Blair.</p> <p>(b) Increasing the height of the dam near Port Blair and</p> <p>(c) Installing a desalination plant at Port Blair.</p> <p>☐ A pre- feasibility report had been prepared for laying a subsea pipeline between Rutland Island and Port Blair for transportations of fresh water to Port Blair. The Report was submitted to the Administration in October 2010.</p> <p>☐ NIOT will be responsible for project management. Tenders had been floated, and evaluated. The recommendations of NIOT on evaluation of technical bids were sent to APWD on 15th February, 2011 for further action. The total cost of the project would be Rs 51.26 crores. The project will be completed by March, 2012.</p> <p>☐ As regards increasing the height of the dam, work is already under progress and is expected to be completed by the end of 2011.</p> <p>☐ As regards desalination plant, DPR has been prepared and is under scrutiny by Port Blair Municipal Council (PBMC), the executing agency. Alternative technologies are being looked at since the recurring cost of the present proposal is very high.</p>	<p>Rutland Island and Port Blair will be completed by 31st March, 2012. The work relating to increasing the height of the dam will be completed by 31st December, 2011. Consequently, it would not be necessary to install a desalination plant in Port Blair.</p> <p>☐ A&NI Administration will explore the feasibility of installing desalination plants in other smaller Islands.</p>
23.	<p>Providing reliable and secure telecommunication connectivity to A&NI.</p>	<p>At present, telecommunication facilities are available in 18 Islands of the Andaman & Nicobar Group of islands through the use of 14 satellite transponders provided by ISRO. These satellite transponders provide only about 1Gbps bandwidth. The cost of these 14 transponders is Rs. 84 crore per year (Rs. 6 crore per transponder). The cost for a 15 year period is calculated at Rs. 1260 crores.</p> <p>☐ Department of Telecommunication had estimated the cost of laying a branching submarine Optical Fibre Cable (Spur Route) to Port Blair and other four Islands at Rs. 344.15 crores. This was later revised to Rs. 522 crores. In June, 2010, BSNL/MTNL informed that the cost has further increased to Rs. 1040 crores. Further, it was also informed that the project was commercially unviable.</p> <p>☐ Following the 12th meeting of the Standing Committee, a technical committee</p>	<p>Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission will request Dr Sam Pitroda to guide the A&NI Administration in the implementation of the project.</p>