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**(F) Shompen Policy, 2012**

The draft policy was circulated by MoTA in August, 2009. Comments were invited from stake holders. It was sent to A&N along with comments of stake holders & the A&N Administration was asked to finalize policy and sent it to MoTA for ratification.

A&N Administration prepared the Draft Shompen Policy & circulated it amongst the Members of Executive Council of Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti & Group of Experts for comments. The final policy is expected by end of 2013.

**(H) Alternate Sea Route Timeline**

Sub Soil Investigation by Andaman Lakshadweep Harbour Works (ALHW) is in progress and expected to be completed by November, 2012. Construction of Jetty at Baratang is being done by ALHW, Ministry of Shipping. The feasibility of Jetty extension & its design will be completed by November, 2012. Submission of the final estimate to MoS in this regard will be completed in December, 2012. Environmental clearance is likely to be awarded by March, 2013. Tendering & Award of work will complete by June, 2013. and work will be completed by March, 2015. The procurement of vessels by A&N Administration will complete by December, 2014 and the alternate sea route will be opened for traffic by March, 2015.

**LAKSHADWEEP**

**Demarcating territorial water of Lakshadweep Islands**

The Administrator, Lakshadweep requested that poaching/intrusion into the inland waters between the islands leads to security threat and loss of marine resources. A Letter has been written to Chief Hydrographer of India to demarcate the territorial waters of Lakshadweep taking the outer most islands as boundary. He requested to measure the territorial water at the earliest.

Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Defence stated that Coast Guard and Navy will be directed to ensure that no outside ship travels in the inland water. It was noted that the issue of international boundaries is very clear. Outer peripheries of the islands are treated as boundaries. Travel between islands is not an issue and such travel is considered to be within the Indian borders only.

**[Action to be taken by the Ministry of Defence.]**