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### Air Connectivity

At present Air India is operating ATR 42 from Agatti to Kochi on all days except Sunday. The flight needs to fly regularly without break and may also be extended up to Calicut. The Administrator, UT of Lakshadweep requested that Air India may lease a plane exclusively for Mangalore-Calicut-Kochi-Agatti sector and Govt. of India may consider subsidizing the operation to maintain uninterrupted air connectivity between the mainland and these islands.

Jt. Secretary, MoCA informed that Ministry cannot force private operators to operate on particular route.

Secretary, Planning Commission stated that both islands are subsidising sea traffic at around Rs 11000 per traveler. This may be used to subsidise air traffic.

[Action to be taken by Ministry of Civil Aviation.]

### Introducing Sea Planes

The Administrator, UT of Lakshadweep had requested Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited (PHHL) to introduce Seaplane service in Lakshadweep at the earliest on the same lines as in case of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The PHHL had proposed to set up a Joint Working Group for working out Seaplane operations in Lakshadweep islands followed by actual commencement of service. Accordingly a Joint Working Group is being set up. PHHL team visited Lakshadweep to finalise the feasibility of such operations. The Administrator, Lakshadweep requested that PHHL may be requested to expedite operation of sea planes in Lakshadweep.

The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission suggested that the cost be worked out on the lines of Cessna 208 which is operating on 50:50 sharing between PHHL and A&N islands.

[Ministry of Shipping to look into the matter.]

### Seamen Training Institute

In order to equip the local educated youth in seafaring jobs, the Administration is sponsoring them for Pre-sea Training in G.P. Rating, Diploma in Nautical Science and Marine Engineering Training. In view of the difficulties in getting sufficient seats in various training Institutes in the mainland, The Administrator, Lakshadweep requested some pre sea training Institute should be set up under Ministry of Shipping or Indian Maritime Institute in one of the Islands.

[Ministry of Shipping to look into the matter.]