

Transport Hub at Andrott

Based on a Report by Consultant ILFS, appointed by Ministry of Shipping, it was suggested that the Andrott Island be made a transport hub. A team from Ministry of Shipping has visited Lakshadweep to visit the site. The UT Lakshadweep Administration had requested that the Ministry should be asked to take time bound action to create this transport hub expeditiously. The Planning Commission has taken up the matter with Ministry of Shipping for giving a shorter time line for completing the project.

[Action is to be taken by Ministry of Shipping]

Energy Needs: Alternative Energy Sources

The augmentation and renovation of Solar Power Plants by BHEL will be completed by November, 2012. The percentage of Solar Energy out of the total requirement would be about 10%. It was informed that the UT Lakshadweep Administration intends to convert all the islands into 100% renewable energy based hybrid system of energy from solar energy and ocean energy. The UT needs help of the Ministry to formulate DPR, float tenders and implement the project.

The cost of production of electricity, based on diesel generating sets, is almost Rs 28 per unit. This cost will escalate once the price of diesel is freed. Apart from cost, logistics management of transporting and storing the diesel is cumbersome. Therefore, there is a need to have sustainable alternative sources of energy.

The Ministry of MNRE or any of its agency may be asked to take up this work and meet the energy needs of Lakshadweep from alternative sources as far as possible. The Administrator, Lakshadweep requested that the project should be completed within a definite time frame.

The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission suggested that a study be undertaken or a detailed plan be prepared with the help of experts like TERI to use a combination of renewable energy resources in the island and requested Member(KK) to examine the matter.

Member (KK) said that he would request Chairman, BHEL for an integrated concept of generating energy for the island and will also request BHEL to operate and maintain it and train the local youth for operating it. Member (SH) emphasized the need to expedite the generation of renewable energy.

MP, Lakshadweep requested that tariff hike may be kept in abeyance till renewable sources of energy are tapped and implemented because there is no alternative way to augment the source of income of local people.