

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE A & N STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD
ON 17.04.2010**

Lt. Governor, welcomed all members to the first meeting of the State Planning Board. At the outset Lt. Governor explained the objectives of setting up the Board. Given the scarcity of resources, it is necessary to prioritize all schemes and works to ensure maximum impact. Wastage of resources should also be avoided. Basic amenities like connectivity, drinking water, health care, education, electricity and housing are the top priorities for the Administration. Lt. Governor then sought suggestions from the Members. Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Chairpersons of Zilla Parishads, PBMC and Social Welfare Advisory Board expressed their opinion and made various suggestions. The gist of discussions is as below: -

Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Member of Parliament:

Hon'ble MP made the following six suggestions to curtail costs and reduce wastage of resources: -

1. Construction of buildings for Police Station, Fire Station, Out Post, OPD Complex, Bus Stand, Guesthouse etc. should be on need basis. Present constructions are too big and elaborate. The building specifications should be reviewed and scaled down.
2. PRIs should reduce construction of community halls, children parks etc. as these are underutilized. In one panchayat in Diglipur (Khudirampur) there are 3 community halls.
3. PRIs/APWD should stop construction of non-road side drains.
4. Construction of compound walls should be avoided, unless absolutely necessary. Low cost options should be explored.
5. Construction cost can be curtailed by opening stone quarries in Campbell Bay, Kamorta, Little Andaman and Baratang.
6. Open tender system should be adopted for transportation of material by ship instead of Coastal Conference Rates, which are very high.

Then MP suggested the following development activities for the Islands:

1. Improve water supply, construct quarters for staffs of police, fire service, education, health etc., widen roads, construct PHC building, Classrooms and Jetty at Katchal.
2. ANIIDCO should be more active and set up cold storages for vegetables and fruits in each tehsil.