

Planning Commission
(IDA Cell)

Subject:- Minutes of the 12th meeting of the Island Development Authority (IDA) held at New Delhi on 19.1.2009.

The 12th meeting of the Island Development Authority (IDA) was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister at 10.30 A.M. on 19.1.2009 at 54, South Block, New Delhi. A list of participants at the meeting is at Annex.

Opening remarks of Hon'ble Prime Minister

2. Opening the discussion, Hon'ble Prime Minister welcomed the members of the IDA, Shri Manoranjan Bhakta, MP, Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI) and senior officials at the IDA meeting. He stated that though ANI and Lakshadweep are remotely located, they are never far from our thoughts.

He noted that the IDA is meant to ensure ecologically sustainable and equitable development of our islands. Since the last meeting that was held a year and a half ago, our islands have made considerable progress on unresolved issues related to shipping, drinking water, education, health, tourism etc. which has been facilitated by the Cabinet Secretary's inter-Ministerial review meetings. Hon'ble PM highlighted that shipping services are the lifeline of our islands. ANI has been successful in acquiring 7 out of the 10 vessels which had not been delivered for a long period and 11 new shipping vessels have been introduced in Lakshadweep, including the 700 passenger ship M.V Kavaratti. To mitigate the shortage of drinking water in Port Blair, he informed that the Government has approved the Dhanikar Dam Project and part of the Rutland Water Supply Project. He indicated his concern over the slow progress in the Tsunami Reconstruction Programme (TRP) and observed that even the low volume and high value tourism programme is yet to take off. He advised that the concerns of the islands need to be addressed by various Departments of the Government in a sensitive and effective manner.

Agenda Item 1 and 2

3. Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission took up the agenda items listed for discussion.
4. The minutes of the last IDA meeting held on 15.6.07 were confirmed.
5. Deputy Chairman observed that the Action Taken Note(ATN) on the last IDA meeting is a factual note and this was taken on record. He indicated that Cabinet Secretary would review this further and set up timelines on the items indicated that are yet to be completed.