Planning Commission
(State Plans Division)

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**Summary Record of Discussions at the level of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and Lt. Governor, Andaman & Nicobar Islands regarding the 9th Plan (1997-2002) in the Special Committee Room No. 126 of Yojana Bhavan On 24-06-1997 at 11.00 A.M.**

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(The list of Participants is attached)

At the outset the Deputy Chairman greeted the Lt. Governor. The Dy. Chairman noted that the existing position regarding the basic human development indicators like literacy rate, birth rate, infant mortality rate etc. is better in the UT than the All India Average. While reviewing the financial performance of the UT during the 8th Plan, he pointed out the low performance under the Power and Transport sectors. He expressed concern that the UT could acquire just one ship as against the targetted 18 ships during the 8th Plan period despite the fact that 70 % of the outlay provided for the purpose was utilised. He mentioned that the proposal of UT to acquire 52 vessels during 9th Plan would appear to be rather ambitious in this background. Non completion of Andaman Trunk Road was also mentioned as a matter of concern. He mentioned that during the 8th plan period, in the power sector, only 18 MW. addditional capacity could be added against the targetted 44 MW. The per capita power consumption in UT at 113 Kwh. is below national average. The UT is lagging behind in exploiting the irrigation potential and irrigation potential created as percentage of ultimate potential is 22 % . The UT has a great potential in the sub sector of Tourism if the basic infrastructure facilities like transport, power, accommodation etc. are strengthened but it has not been exploited so far. He commended that PRIs have been set up in the UT and hoped that these will be made fully operational during the 9th Plan period and sufficient outlay will be kept aside for provision of various services through them. With these initial remarks the Dy. Chairman requested the Lt. Governor to express his views about the 9th Plan of the UT.

The Lt. Governor stated that the utilisation of plan funds by the Union Territory during the 8th Plan period has been satisfactory and requested for a plan size of Rs. 2400 crore for the 9th Plan. He stated that the UT was trying to raise resources to the maximum extent possible. Power tariff has been increased and a jetty entry fee introduced. He further mentioned that 42 % of the proposed outlay was meant for Shipping and Transport sector. 52 ships were proposed to be acquired. During 8th Plan stage payments have been made for 35 ships which were likely to be delivered soon. The extention of Air strip was going in full swing and 35 crore will be required for this. Rs. 3 crore were required to be given as one time subsidy to the Alliance Air for providing air services between Port Blair and the southern group of Islands. As regards Andaman Trunk Road there were three creeks on which bridges were required. One bridge had already been approved. Technical examination by Ministry of Surface Transport for these bridges was underway. Social services especially elementry education was another