



REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE 2010

**BY
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UNION TERRITORY OF
LAKSHADWEEP**

REPUBLIC DAY MESSAGE - 2010

Beloved Citizens of Lakshadweep, Member of Parliament Shri Hamdullah Sayeed, President-cum-Chief Counsellor, Shri. A. Jalaludheen Koya, Chairperson of Village Dweep Panchayat, Kavaratti, Shri. Achada Ahamed Haji, Members of the District Panchayat and the Village Dweep Panchayats, distinguished heads of departments, Government Officials and dear Children:

2. On the auspicious occasion of 61st Republic day, I extend my heartiest greetings and best wishes to all the fellow citizens of Lakshadweep. Let us remember today, with gratitude, the freedom fighters who laid their lives selflessly to give us freedom. Let us also pay homage to our wise and farsighted founding fathers who gave us, on this day, in 1950, a most sacred Constitution of India. We remember with pride, our Armed forces, who guard our frontiers on land, sea and air. Let us also thank our uniformed services for their role in maintaining peace and integrity.

3. At the outset, I consider it my moral duty to pay homage to the departed leaders, who laid a strong foundation of development in these islands. In my Independence Day speech, I had said that we will try and move from a situation of shortages to a position where supply of goods and services to the islands becomes smooth. I am extremely happy to report that with your assistance, the UTL administration has been able to ensure that all the 18 ships and barges are operating regularly and movement of men and materials has significantly improved. A big obstacle has been removed and people are generally happy with the availability of tickets and ships. This is the first time in the history of the islands that all ships and barges are plying for the benefit of the islanders.

PLANNING :

4. Annual Plan Outlay of Lakshadweep for 2009-10 is Rs. 296.00 Cr. and we are proposing Rs. 478.00 Cr. in Annual Plan 2010-11 to make sure, enough funds are available for implementing various developmental schemes in the UT.

5. Out of MPLADS fund of the present Member of Parliament Shri Hamdulla Sayeed for 15th Lok Sabha, 1st instalment of Rs.1 Cr. has been received, and supply of Ultrasound Machine to Hospitals / CHCs is being done as desired by the Hon'ble Member of Parliament.

PORT , SHIPPING & AVIATION :

6. Transport and communication are the basis for development of this territory, I am happy to report that the first of the, 250 passenger ship has been flagged off by me on 15th January, 2010 and has joined our fleet. It has been dedicated to the people of Lakshadweep by Hon'ble MoS MHA Shri. Mullapalli Ramachandran yesterday. The 2nd 250 passenger ship from Colombo Shipyard will also be delivered within 3-4 months, allowing a total of 20 ships & barges to cater to the 10 islands of Lakshadweep.

- 7.** The Expenditure Finance Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance has recommended the proposal for acquisition of one 400 passenger vessel at an estimated cost of Rs.180 crores in the meeting held on 22nd October, 2009. Accordingly M/s. SCI has been requested to finalize the technical specification of the above for floating tenders for acquisition. We also have an option clause to buy one more 400 passenger all weather ship as soon as we discard Tipu Sultan, which is not seaworthy any more according to CMD of Cochin Shipyard, who is fully aware of all parts of the ship.
- 8.** Two helicopters of Pawan Hans Helicopters Limited on charter to the Administration, are doing useful service for the inter-island movements, and evacuation of patients from island to mainland.
- 9.** The Lakshadweep Harbour Works Department has been requested to take urgent action for sufficient improvements on all the four eastern side jetties within the next 2 to 3 years so that passenger ships and cargo ships can go alongside these jetties, for safe embarkation/ disembarkation of passengers and for easy discharge of bulk cargo.
- 10.** The Cochin Port Trust has allotted a water frontage area measuring about 50,000 Sq. metres (bed of back waters) near South Coal Berth on lease for a period of 30 years for the construction of dedicated berth. Cochin Port Trust has completed geo technical investigation and prepared the Detailed Technical Report (DTR) at an estimated cost of Rs.37.52 crores for the construction of dedicated berth. Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested to accord approval for the revised estimate prepared by the Cochin Port Trust.
- 11.** We need to hire 2 barges, one for movement of LPG cylinders every month from the mainland to all the 10 islands. At present only Kavaratti and Minicoy are serviced for LPG and all others have to rely on Kerosene or firewood. The other barge is required to ensure that for a set of 2 islands each, a dedicated barge is available, to transport all fuel, food and ration requirements of the islands.
- 12.** Ministry of Shipping is considering Kavaratti as a major port and UTL Administration supports this move if it helps us in the movement of cargo, essential commodities, fuel and passengers on a consistent and stable basis. The major port should be in a position to hire passenger vessels during monsoons/urgent situations to take care of the passenger traffic to all the islands. It should also be in a position to encourage private ships to operate between the mainland and distant island like Minicoy so that a tri-weekly service is available compared to the present unsatisfactory system of servicing Minicoy once in 7 days.
- 13.** Fuelling vessels are required as the fuelling of vessels is presently done through barrels which is not appropriate.
- 14.** Officials of Airport Authority of India visited UTL recently. They have been shown the land for extension of Agatti Airport by 200 m on one side and 90m. on the other side to increase

the margin of safety for plying a ATR-72 Aircrafts on the airstrip. UTL will also provide land for a separate apron for parking 2 Aircrafts and for a clear sighting navigational tower, without getting into problems of environmental clearance or court interventions.

15. AAI has to come and survey Andrott island for making a green field airstrip for which land has already been identified.

16. AAI has already surveyed Minicoy island for a possible airstrip but concluded that it is too narrow and DGCA guidelines will not permit the airstrip. Accordingly we have offered the same land to the Navy/Coast Guard for an airstrip that they want to build for a reconnaissance aircraft.

17. UTL has asked CMD, Pawan Hans to explore the possibility of getting one of the 2 operators of seaplanes in Maldives to make a demo to UTL Administration for the effectiveness of seaplanes for carrying passengers inter-island. UTL Administration can facilitate their commercial operations by providing them requisite jetty and other facilities and also provide subsidy for any vacant seats in their 8 seater seaplanes. Indian High Commissioner in Maldives has been contacted and he will also assist in the private seaplane operator for coming to Lakshadweep islands for a realistic demonstration.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT :

18. HOUSING : Considering the problem of residential accommodation for Govt. officials, an amount of Rs.6.00 crores has been provided under the housing sector for the current financial year. Construction of two phases of Transit Accommodation at Kochi has been completed and opened to the public. The Calicut Development Authority has allotted land in the heart of the city for the construction of Guest House at Kozhikode. Construction of a similar Guest House at Mangalore is also under consideration.

19. WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION : Rain Water collection is the only available natural source of safe water. As on today, we have constructed 2312 rain water harvesting tanks of various capacities . The construction of desalination plants at Agatti, Andrott and Minicoy are nearing completion by March, 2010. The second phase of installation of desalination plants at Amini, Kiltan and Chetlat will be taken up thereafter. In the 3rd phase at Kalpeni and Kadmat, the plants will come up next year.

20. ANTI SEA EROSION : Coastal erosion in all islands is really a threat to the existence of the islands. Therefore it has become absolutely necessary to protect the islands, and shore protection work has been taken up in all inhabited islands. CWPRS, Pune has been entrusted to study the feasibility of appropriate sea erosion checks for the islands .

21. ROADS : Nearly 167 KM of roads have been constructed and road works are being taken up on a regular basis in all the islands.

22. URBAN DEVELOPMENT : A Slaughter house exists in Kavaratti and we are planning Slaughter houses in all the islands. A reputed architect Pradeep Sachdeva who has done a lot of creative and eco-friendly work in India, has been invited to visit Agatti and Kavaratti and give us a blueprint of future planned development of the islands.

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT :

23. It is proposed to open more islands for Tourism activities. The proposal for setting up of 100 cottages in the island of Amini Chetlat, Kiltan and Bitra has already submitted to the Ministry of Tourism. With the Central Finance Assistance, 80 cottages will be constructed for Tourism activities at Kadmat (20 Cottages), Kalpeni(10 Cottages), Minicoy(20 Cottages), Andrott (20 Cottages) and Kavaratti (10 Cottages). One bed room House Boats (Kerala model) may also be made available to the Tourists, Cruise tourism is also being encouraged with sufficient checks and balances to ensure that environment is not adversely affected.

24. Helipads at Suheli Valiyakara, Thinnakkara and expansion at Bangaram are planned. One convention centre at Amini is proposed to be established with the central financial assistance. Also an Institute of Hospitality Management will be established at Kalpeni.

25. The department has participated in various Trade Fairs conducted at various places including IITF- New Delhi. The Lakshadweep Administration has bagged the Silver Medal for the IITF- 2009, New Delhi.

26. I had promised operation of ATR aircraft 4 days of a week during my Independence Day speech. My request has been accepted by the Kingfisher and for the last 3 months , ATR of Kingfisher is plying 4 days in the week. Now our attempt is to bring this service to Agatti 7 days a week so that both islanders and tourists can come in larger numbers every day to Lakshadweep.

27. I would like all islanders to remember my Independence Day speech where I had requested for keeping our beautiful beaches clean. All the Village (Dweep) Panchayats must make a conscious effort to undertake beach cleaning under NREGA on a daily basis so that we can keep them clean and promote tourism.

POWER & NON CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF ENERGY :

28. New DG sets are already been completed in the Islands: Androth – 3X750KW, Amini - 1X750KW, Agatti - 2X400KW, Kadmat - 1X250KW, Kalpeni – 2X250 KW, Kiltan – 2X400KW, Minicoy – 2X1000KW. Further improvements are planned whenever necessary.

29. Under new & Renewable Energy, following schemes are proposed for implementation-

- a) 3 X 250 KW Wind Turbines
- b) Augmentation of SPV Power Plants to 2 MW.

- c) Revamping of 120 KW Biomass Gassifier at Kavaratti
- d) Installation of Briquetting machine at Kavaratti
- e) Distribution of 1700 Solar lanterns.
- f) Installation of SPV street lights in all the islands.

FISHERIES :

30. Fisheries is one of the promising Sectors for future economic development of Lakshadweep. Government of India has approved India's first ever Mother vessel for Lakshadweep. This will have a capacity of 100 MT with 45 metres length and the approximate cost will be Rs. 30.00 Cr. The Mother Vessel will accompany small fishing boats of Lakshadweep to distant fishing grounds for fishing. The catch from the boats will be collected & preserved in Mother Vessel. The mother vessel will also supply fuel, water & provisions for fishing boats. This will help the boats to avoid unnecessary return to base for unloading their catch.

31. UTL has an exclusive economic zone of 4 lakh sq.km. which has never been tapped for fishing. As recommended by the Planning Commission, we have decided to introduce 2 fishing Trawlers for large scale fishing during the year 2010-11. with facilities for fishing, preservation, processing and packing. An amount of Rs 50 Cr is earmarked for the purchase of these vessels during 2010-11.

32. Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Ministry of Earth Sciences has taken over the hatchery unit at Agatti on a lease basis and is creating an ornamental fish culture, live bait fish culture, pearl production and stock enhancement of endangered species.

33. UTL Administration proposes to establish an Aqua-Tech Park initially as a joint venture with CMLRE, to promote developmental activities on Mari culture, and to provide training to islanders.

34. The Ministry of Petroleum accorded sanction to release sufficient quantity of Kerosene to the fishermen for outboard motors and Kerosene will be supplied through Co-operative Societies of the islands at a moderate price. Further this year, the department has purchased 124 GPS, 2130 Life Jackets, and 426 Life Buoys for supply to fishermen. Financial Assistance will be provided for all the above items under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). VHF will also be supplied at a subsidized cost. All fishermen who do not have GPS, can approach the department of Fisheries. DAT has also been supplied to fishing boats free of cost, and more be supplied during this year under RKVY.

35. Ice is an integral part of Fisheries Sector. We have established 3 Sea Water Ice Plants one at Agatti, Kavaratti and Andrott. This year similar plants will be established at Kalpeni, Kadmat and Bitra. Ice Plants will be established in the remaining islands before the end of the 11th Five Year Plan. Ice boxes are being procured by the Department, for supply to fishermen at a subsidized cost under RKVY.

36. This year, 33 additional mechanised boats, 52 Country Crafts have been introduced and 59 Global Positioning Systems have been supplied to fishermen.

37. Under the National Agriculture Innovation Project, 5 mechanised poles and line fishing boats have been modified and equipped for deep sea tuna fishing, and the operation has already started at Agatti during this year.

38. All the fishermen in islands have been requested to submit nominations for enrolment under Group Accident Insurance Scheme. 1332 fishermen are already enrolled in Personal Accident Insurance Policy (Group) under National Insurance Co. Ltd, Kochi. Remaining fishermen will also be enrolled this year. Further, all the Fishermen of Lakshadweep will be supplied Biometric Identity Cards this year.

39. To fetch a better price for masmeen, the LDCL with the support of department of fisheries, is establishing a mass packing unit at Agatti. Fully dried masmeen will be purchased from fishermen, flaked and packed in Polythene bags with nitrogen flushing. The setting up of the plant is almost completed and will be commissioned shortly.

40. A joint Programme of Pearl Culture training was conducted at Kalpeni Island this year by department of Fisheries and CMFRI. Similar training will be conducted in other islands also and the trained youth will be assigned for pearl production under RKVY.

41. Cold storages and Walk-in-cooler have been installed at Agatti, Chethlat, Andrott and Kavaratti. 5 ton capacity cold storages and walk-in-cooler will also be installed at Kadmat, Kalpeni, Bitra this year. Assistance for procurement of 100 deep freezers, 10 in each island will be provided to fishermen under RKVY project.

42. The Department of Fisheries supplies diesel oil for fishing purpose in all islands. Subsidy for HSD oil has been enhanced from Re. 1 to Rs.3 per litre this year. Spare parts of engines are also supplied to fishermen.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY :

43. The Animal Husbandry Department has played a vital role in Self - sufficiency in the production of eggs. The department has a full -fledged hatchery system in all 9 (nine) Islands except Bitra. This year department proposes to implement a hatchery unit at Baby island Bitra. In addition, the department proposes to strengthen hatchery units at Andrott, Minicoy and Agatti by providing additional hatcheries so as to meet the entire demand of poultry farmers. The department proposes to establish 35 large scale layer and broiler Units in the Islands under private sector during the year, at 50% subsidy, so as to attract the unemployed youth especially women to take up poultry rearing.

AGRICULTURE :

44. The Department had been given a road map and target for the current year in the following 5 lines.

- a) Free distribution of five fruit saplings to all the families in the Islands.
- b) Making of 100 compost pits per island through VDPs leading to organic compost production.
- c) Organic Certification of the coconut produce.
- d) 10,000 seashore plantation in all Islands with Casuarina [chavok] Saplings.
- e) Increase of vegetable production to meet the local demand as far as possible. I am hopeful these 5 projects will enhance agricultural production in all the islands.

DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATION :

45. The Lakshadweep Co-op. Marketing Federation and 10 Primary Co-op. Supply and Marketing Societies have marketed 3130 MT of Copra worth nearly Rs. 13 crores during 2008-09. The Co-op Supply and Marketing Societies & Lakshadweep Co-operative Marketing Federation distributed essential commodities and other consumer goods worth about Rs. 21 crores during 2008-2009.

46. Rs.2.5 Cr. for direct procurement of copra from local farmers, has been added to the revolving capital making a total of Rs.8.4 crores with LCMF, to ensure 90% advance payment to farmers. Another Rs.10 Lakhs also provided during the year to LCMF as subsidy for construction of required godowns.

MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH :

47. The following critical health indicators of Medical & Health Services will show that Lakshadweep has made remarkable progress and is far ahead of other states and UTs in the field of Primary Health care delivery.

Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate
12.51	4.92	19.51	1.21

All pregnant women and children between 0-5 years are immunized against all vaccine preventable diseases, and its coverage is 100%.

48. Four Ambulances have been purchased additionally by the department during 2009. One Ambulance has been deployed at Kochi exclusively for transportation of evacuated patients. The department has already initiated action to install Incinerators in all islands for Bio Waste Management and one has already been installed at IGH, Kavaratti.

49. A well equipped non invasive ICU with all modern facilities was inaugurated by Her Excellency, the President of India on 24th December, 2009 at Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavaratti. Rs. 90 Lakhs has been spent for this from MPLAD and from the State sector together.

50. Health camps are conducted in every island by bringing specialists from Mainland Hospitals in collaboration with Kerala Health Services, IMA etc. or with the help of specialists available at IGH, Kavaratti. A specialist Camp has been conducted in Kadmat , Amini, Chethlat, Kiltan and Bitra with the assistance of Indian Navy and INS Sanjevani Hospital, Kochi during November, 2009 and nearly 2600 patients were treated.

51. In order to ensure 24 hours health care services in our institutions, Department appointed 14 General Duty Medical Officers, 20 Staff Nurses, 7 Pharmacists, 3 Radiographers, 3 Lab Technicians and 14 ANMs on contract basis under NRHM in addition to the regular Staff.

52. Cleaning campaigns are being organized in all islands for source reduction of mosquitoes as part of control of National Vector Borne Diseases. The department has already procured 15 fogging machines and action is on hand to procure 9 more fogging machines.

53. UTL Administration , with the help of public representatives, has had intense consultations with Amritha Hospital to convert our hospital in Agatti into a referral hospital where all patients requiring help of specialists, can be treated. If this materializes , the islanders will greatly benefit from a local health facility and will not have to travel to mainland for all kinds of ailments.

EDUCATION :

54. Today there are 10 Senior Secondary Schools and 3 Degree level Institutions making the total number of Educational Institutions to 58 including one Kendriya Vidyalaya at Kavaratti and one Navodaya Vidyalaya at Minicoy. The student strength has also increased from 300 plus in late 1950s to more than 19100 including those studying at Mainland for various courses.

55. Last year, the dept. organized 14 In-service course/workshops/seminars in all disciplines for Primary/Secondary teachers with the help of external agencies from Kerala to improve the quality of education. 340 teachers, for an average of 7 days, were trained in different disciplines. In the current financial year, the dept. organized 3 training programmes for all categories of teachers, including 45 Postgraduate Teachers at Ernakulam.

56. DIET has been made fully functional and 11 teachers have been appointed under different disciplines. DIET has conducted 2 training programmes within the last 3 months, and 92 teachers have been trained in different disciplines.

57. During the current Academic Year, the dept. posted 85 Postgraduate Teachers on contract basis in various islands where there is a shortage. Appointment order for 33 regular Post Graduate Teachers has already been issued during the current plan period.

58. The Department of Education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has made the following achievements also:-

- a) Training Programmes for 10 days for 300 teachers during 2009-10 to improve the quality of teaching.
- b) 27 Primary School Teachers were given 5 days computer training with Kerala Text-books developed by State Institute of Education & Training, Kerala. Further 12 Teacher Training programmes for 365 Primary School Teachers (PSTs) had been conducted during the year at various levels.

59. The department proposes to undertake opening of additional 10 Nursery Schools in the islands. Out of these 6 have already started functioning at Agatti, Amini, Andrott, Kadmat, Kalpeni and Kiltan. Umbrellas and School Bags have been supplied to boys and girls respectively studying in Standard I to VII in all islands during the plan period - 2009-10. Proposal is also on hand to bring degree level institution and one Poly Technic Institute, under the Education Department in the coming years.

SPORTS & YOUTH AFFAIRS :

60. We want to promote a "SPORTS CULTURE" in our Union Territory. The department has constructed a Football ground at Kiltan and conducted Lakshadweep UT level SGFI & AIRS Selection Meet at Kiltan during the month of November/December, 2009. Department has conducted Inter -Island Prize Money Administrator's Soccer Cup at Kavaratti and Inter- Island Prize Money Volley-ball Tournament at Andrott. Lakshadweep School Football team has been deputed for the participation of National level SGFI meet for the year 2009-2010 to represent Lakshadweep.

61. Action is initiated for the construction of Volley-ball court at Amini, Kadmat, Kiltan & Chetlat. I have inaugurated the Health club at Minicoy 3 months ago. Construction & installation of Health Club at Amini is over. 3 NCC cadets and two NSS volunteers are deputed for Pre RD Camp for participation in the Republic Day Parade - 2010 at Delhi. Efforts will be made to put up Health clubs and Indoor Sports Complex in every island, to promote and encourage women's participation in Sports and improvement of Water Sports.

INDUSTRIES :

62. The Department plans to start coir twisting units /Desiccated coconut powder unit/ oil making units in all islands in association with Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. The Department has re-started Coir Production Centre at Kavaratti on 01.11.2009 with 15 lady labourers. The department has started a coir handicraft training programme at Amini in association with Coir Board during current financial year and about 15 lady candidates have successfully completed the training. The second batch of the 15 candidates are undergoing the training.

POLICE :

63. The law and order situation remained peaceful in all the islands during the year - 2009. Total 136 cases have been registered which are being investigated in a fair and transparent manner. In all the islands communal situation remained peaceful with the active support of the public representatives and better rapport with the general public. The Internal Security meeting is being held regularly under my Chairmanship every month.

64. Adequate and full proof security arrangements have been made for the safety and security of the people of these islands. Special arrangements were made during the visit of Her Excellency, the President of India, to the three islands namely, Kavaratti, Agatti and Bangaram. I want to assure the people of Lakshadweep that there was a very tight programme of Hon'ble President which was received from the Military Secretary. The Hon'ble President was in Agatti for only 25 minutes, to enable positioning of the helicopters. She was in Kavaratti for only 2 hours during which ICU was inaugurated in 10 minutes and SWAN project was inaugurated in 25 minutes. The rest of the time was taken in lunch and travel. There was no time available for any public function and as per the Blue Book of Security, of Hon'ble President, we had to abide by the instructions of the President's Office. The office of the Hon'ble President has informed us that the visit went off very well and has thanked us for all the arrangements made.

65. Coastal Police Station, Kavaratti building was inaugurated by me on 15.8.2009. The construction of Coastal Police Station buildings at Minicoy and Kiltan are in progress. Land has been handed over to PWD for Coastal Police Station Andrott. One Interceptor Boat under Coastal Security Scheme with the speed of 35 nautical miles, has been received and commissioned and dedicated to the security of the islands on 11.12.2009. With the arrival of this Interceptor Boat, the patrolling/surveillance in the territorial waters of U.T. of Lakshadweep would be intensified.

66. Twenty (20) Police personnel of Lakshadweep Police have been imparted Commando training from 91 Infantry Brigade, Thiruvananthapuram. Twenty five (25) Police personnel have been imparted Coastal Training with Coast Guard District Headquarter, Kochi. The Recruitment Drive is continuing, to fill all the vacancies under Coastal Security Scheme and Lakshadweep Police.

67. UTL administration has taken a conscious decision to provide fire tenders in all the islands by April-2010 and adequate funds have been sanctioned for this purpose.

68. Disaster Management Plan has been prepared and sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs. A Crisis Management Plan for IT Department has also been prepared by UTL Administration.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY :

69. The Potential Fishing Zone advisories disseminated by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), Hyderabad are very useful for fishermen to locate rich fishing areas. In order

that the data is used effectively, the Department has implemented a program to receive the advisories as soon as they are issued and communicate them to the local fishermen in all Islands without delay.

70. Department has already installed an incinerator at Kavaratti and Andrott for eliminating plastic and other solid wastes. Department has proposed to install one such incinerator at Minicoy during the current financial year. It has been proposed to install such incinerators in every inhabited island during next financial year. We have to free all the islands from plastics. Let us not pick up this bad habit.

71. Department of Science and Technology proposes to establish a Science & Technology Museum and Planetarium at Kavaratti and has entered into an agreement between the Administration and Kerala State Science and Technology Museum and Priyadarshini Planetarium Thiruvananthapuram. A global tender was invited for projection system by Kerala State Science & Technology Museum & Priyadarshini Planetarium, Thiruvananthapuram and they awarded the work to M/s Skyskan, U.S.A. The system will be ready for inauguration on 31st March, 2010. Action has been initiated to recruit the required manpower for the Science & Technology Museum & Planetarium at Kavaratti.

72. The Lakshadweep Administration has been contemplating the development of an appropriate Sewage Management System, which is absent at present. Department has requested Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai and IIT, Kanpur to identify proper technology to find out a solution for appropriate Sewage treatment and disposal mechanism suitable for the Lakshadweep islands. The visit of the special team is awaited. Meanwhile we are also examining the possibility of a bio-toilet and 10 such toilets are being set up on an experimental basis to check their effectiveness in the existing conditions.

73. This Department has established a Part Time Meteorological Observatory at Kavaratti in association with India Meteorological Department during the year- 2002. Another one has been proposed to be set up at Andrott Island. The synoptic observations made every day are passed on to Regional Meteorological Centre, Thiruvananthapuram. The data is also published in Lakshadweep Times for wide publicity.

74. Under the Meteorology & Oceanographic Programme of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), a project was approved to set up a CAL-VAL Site in the Arabian sea near Kavaratti Island for Ocean Remote Sensing. It is planned to deploy a set of fully automated instruments on a pair of buoys in deep ocean, between Kavaratti and Agatti islands for time series data collection of optical, meteorological and biological parameters. Also, as per the project requirement, a robot controlled fully automated sun tracking photometer is installed at Kavaratti on a temporary basis, for operational data collection. This instrument will take direct measurement of sun radiation and will also scan end to end sky to acquire sky radiance throughout the day time, to compute atmospheric parameters. The measured data will be transmitted daily from the site as well as from island via INSAT to Space Application Centre,

Ahamedabad. The optical buoy deployed has been retrieved during May and deployed during November - December after completion of annual maintenance.

75. The biggest problem facing mankind today is climate change. The islands are particularly vulnerable to this threat because a rise in sea level can be disastrous. Therefore UTL Administration has projected to the Ministry of Earth Sciences to create a proper observatory in the islands to gauge the speed of the ocean current for any possible large scale calamity prevention. This needs to be done urgently and I had mentioned this to the Hon'ble President also during her visit to Lakshadweep.

76. The Senior Scientist & Zonal Officer, Central Pollution Control Board, Bangalore visited Lakshadweep during 2nd week of November, 2009. In the discussion it was decided to install equipments in all islands to identify the level of Air & Water pollution, up-grade lab of LPCC at Kavaratti and to establish new Labs at Minicoy & Andrott for analyzing water, air and noise pollution. Proposal for creating manpower for LPCC is to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY :

77. Her Excellency, President of India has blessed us by inaugurating our ambitious plan to digitally interconnect each and every government office in the territory, through Universal State Wide Area Network (SWAN) on 24th December '09. SWAN will provide high bandwidth data communication channel to a Point of Presence (PoP) in each island, and from there to each and every Govt. Office. The implementation of SWAN to provide speedy connectivity and transfer of data with the speed of 512 Kilo Byte Per Seconds to 8 Mega Byte Per Seconds in Lakshadweep, will ensure improvement in education, health awareness, weather information, entertainment, news delivery services and disaster management system.

78. UTL administration with the help of an IT consultant, provided by the Ministry of IT, will set up customers service centers in all the islands where the islanders can go for all their IT related transactions, easily and conveniently. This will be possible within this year. WIPRO has been hired by UTL Administration to give large scale training of computers to all the 4500 government staff.

79. In my Independence Day speech, I had promised a vibrant website of Lakshadweep. I am happy to report that we have completely revamped our website and today it is dynamic and is updated daily so that islanders can get the latest official developments on the website and benefit from it. If you have any suggestions to further improve the website, please send an e-mail to my office and we will examine and adopt all the worthwhile ideas.

SOCIAL WELFARE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS :

80. District Disabled Rehabilitation Centre (DDRC) is being set up at Community Health Centre, Agatti for providing comprehensive services for persons with disabilities in the area of

health, education, employment etc. An amount of Rs. 25 lakhs has been sanctioned to State Health Society which is identified as implementing agency for rehabilitation programme of disabled under DDRC. . A Day care centre for disabled persons is also going to be set up at Kavaratti shortly for the welfare and development of disabled children at the age group 3-18 years.

81. One Kiosk has been constructed in hospital premises in seven islands i.e. Kavaratti, Minicoy, Andrott, Amini, Kalpeni, Kadmat, Agatti for promoting self employment among disabled person. This year it is proposed to construct 3 KIOSKs at Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra to cover all 10 islands. To implement the unemployment allowance scheme, and provide special jobs to eligible disabled persons, an amount of Rs. 6 lakhs has been sanctioned and released for the first time during this year to VDPs.

82. An amount of about Rs. 12 lakhs has already been released to Haj committee during 2009-2010. For promoting education among BPL girl students, procurement of 117 ladies bicycles are in the process, for distribution by the department to girl students of BPL families studying in Xth and XIth standard. This year fund of Rs. 9.00 lakhs is earmarked for the purpose.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT :

83. At present the Department is implementing – ICDS project with 104 Anganwadi Centres and 3 Projects of Integrated Women’s Empowerment programme with 4485 women. Recently Govt. of India, Ministry of Women and Child Development has sanctioned 8 more ICDS projects to Lakshadweep with corresponding staff. Moreover, 9 Anganwadi Centres, and 11 Mini Anganwadi Centres are also additionally sanctioned to strengthen the ICDS.

84. Lakshadweep Women’s Development Corporation is a new idea which will be implemented soon. Skill development training programmes like, tailoring, beauty care, cosmetics, value addition to coconut products/fish etc will get strong encouragement.

ART & CULTURE :

85. The main achievement of the Department was the Attolu- Eidu (Island Festival) which was organised in Kavaratti, Chethlat, Kadmat, Agatti and Andrott islands successfully in conjunction with the South Zone Cultural Center. In connection with IITF, the Lakshadweep Day has been celebrated with attractive cultural programs at New Delhi. Male artists from the Islands of Agatti, Andrott etc. and female Artists from Chethlat Island participated. For the Hon’ble President, 2 special cultural programmes were organized very successfully at Bangaram.

LAKSHADWEEP STATE SOCIAL WELFARE BOARD :

86. State Board has introduced e-AWEDAN (Electronic Application for Women’s Empowerment and development action by NGO’s) in collaboration with Central Social Welfare

Board, which enables submission of application forms for Grant-in-aid on-line, providing 100% transparency.

87. The Board has implemented the ECS (Electronic Clearing System) e- payment for financial transparency. The State Board has organized an Exposure Visit to Self Help Group Members of Andrott Island from 4th to 10th December, 2009 to visit Kudumba Shree Units in Kerala.

88. State Board has proposed to organize a VATSALYA MELA – EXHIBITION-CUM -SALE of Self Help Groups products at Kiltan Island during January, 2010. The Board will invite efficient Self Help Groups from Chethlat, Amini and Kadmat Islands to participate in the Mela. This will give an opportunity to the Self Help Group Members to share their experience and problems among other participants.

PANCHAYAT :

89. Establishment of separate Departments for Panchayats and Rural Development has given a new fillip to the implementation of various Rural Development Programmes.

90. The Administration has reviewed the activities, funds and functionaries of the Panchayats, to ensure that the devolution is in the right spirit and identified areas where additional programmes are to be transferred. In the fourth phase of devolution, 8 additional programmes with 12 functionaries to District Panchayat and 12 additional functions to VDPs with 252 staff and workers are being transferred.

91. A capacity building and training programme was organized with the assistance from Kerala Institute of Local Administration. The Administrative Training Institute has already conducted the programme for training of Chairpersons, President cum Chief Counsellor, Vice -President- cum -Counsellors and Executive Officers of Village (Dweep) Panchayat with technical staff of District Panchayat. The District Planning Committee has been constituted which will consolidate the District Plan and make recommendations.

PRINTING & STATIONERY :

92. Printing and Stationery department is planning to upgrade its facilities so that Education Department's note books, Lakshadweep Times and other publications of quality are produced. This year's calendar is a great tourism guide and has been very well received. It is available for purchase at Rs.100 for islanders and Rs.200 for tourists.

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION & PUBLIC RELATION :

93. Department has started a New Information Centre and made it functional at Bitra. Further six episodes of Attolu Edu (island festival) were telecasted through Doordarshan Trivandrum.

ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING INSTITUTE :

94. The Administrative Training Institute has a clear vision for improving organisation's service delivery to the staff of the Lakshadweep Administration in general, and to the Panchayat functionaries, NGOs and SHGs involved in providing services to the public.

ROAD TRANSPORT :

95. In the recent past, this department has become fully automated and all the transactions are being done through computer only. During the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the department has proposed one post of Director, Road Transport in headquarter island, Kavaratti and 3 posts of Motor Vehicle Inspector in major Islands, i.e. Andrott, Amini and Minicoy. Presently there is only one Motor Vehicle Inspector available in the Department who has to tour all Islands in connection with implementation of MV Act and rules such as conducting Driving License test and issue of Licenses etc.

96. As part of linking all Regional Transport Office across the nation, the remaining registering centers in other 8 Islands are also being computerized and have started on-line registration and issue of registration certificates in laminated card form. The creation of State Register of Vehicles and Driving Licenses which has taken up by the NIC at national level is under process.

97. This department will set up an automobile workshop to repair Govt. vehicles at Kavaratti during 2009-2010. The department will start Computer Aided Learner's License Test and open a Pollution Testing Centre for Motor Vehicles at Kavaratti in the year 2009-2010.

98. Our experiment with battery operated vehicles has been quite successful and 3 vendors have shown great interest in propagating battery operated mobikes. More than 100 such mobikes have already been sold in Minicoy, Andrott and Kavartti and I urge all islanders to prefer battery operated mobikes as they are eco-friendly and are not dependent on any petrol or diesel. They will prove to be a boon for the islands in the years to come as UTL Administration is providing 15% subsidy in the cost of the vehicle.

LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION :

99. The Net Profit of Lakshadweep Devt. Corpn. Ltd. has increased to Rs.8.73 crores during the financial year 2008-09 as against Rs.4.6 crores in the previous financial year (2007-08), an increase of nearly 90%. The Corporation has emerged as the largest passenger vessel management Company, currently managing and operating 18 passenger and cargo vessels. It was decided in the 81st meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation to take over the operation of 4 vessels from M/s Shipping Corporation of India. The newly built ship M.V. Arabian Sea has been added to the fleet. The Coconut Milk Plant at Andrott has started commercial production on 4th November, 2009.

100. The machinery and equipment required for the Masmeeen Packing Unit at Agatti has been procured and commissioned. The sample production has been carried out. The unit is expected to start commercial production shortly. The production of tuna cans during the financial year 2008-09 has increased to 1.25 lakhs cans as against 50,000 cans produced during the previous year. The modernization of the Canning Factory at Minicoy is in the pipeline. It is proposed to enhance the production capacity of the factory from 1500 cans to 10000 cans per day.

101. The purchase price of tuna has been increased. This will facilitate local fishermen of Minicoy Island to fetch a very good price for fresh tuna and make available sufficient quantity of raw material, thereby enhancing the production of Tuna cans during the current season. The dealer price and MRP of tuna cans has also been revised. The production of desiccated Coconut Powder has increased to 25,000 kgs. during the year 2008-09 as against 24,000 kgs. during the last year. Efforts are being taken to increase the production further.

102. The Cable TV Project set up by the Corporation in Kavaratti continues to be a good source of entertainment for the islanders. Many new channels, have been added by the Corporation.

KHADI & VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD :

103. This Board in co-operation with Khadi & Village Industries Commission is implementing Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). A State Level Workshop was conducted on 12th January, 2010. Lakshadweep Khadi & Village Industries Board is also the channelising agency for implementation of grant of financial assistance to promote self employment among persons with disabilities, offered by National Handicapped Financial Development Corporation.

CONCLUSION :

104. As I conclude, I express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to Shri Hamdulla Sayeed, MP, Lakshadweep, Shri. Jalaludheen Koya, President cum Chief Counsellor, Vice President cum Counsellors and their team members, Chairpersons and Members of various Village (Dweep) Panchayat, Members of HMAC, other public representatives, distinguished Heads of Departments and other officials of UTL Administration. I also express my thanks to the beloved people of the territory for their support and co-operation extended to the Administration. On this day, let us reiterate our solemn pledge to work untiringly and dedicatedly, with harmony and coordination, towards making Lakshadweep a model territory in the country. I assure you that with our sustained and collective efforts, all our cherished goals will be fulfilled.

May Almighty bless you all.

JAI HIND

