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*LAKSHADWEEP*  
&  
*ITS PEOPLE*  
1989-90





**LAKSHADWEEP**  
**&**  
**Its People**  
**1989 - 90**

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
SECRETARIAT, KAVARATTI.**

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EYE SKETCH  
OF  
THE ISLANDS  
(NOT TO SCALE)





**PART—I**

**THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE**



## 1. LOCATION, AREA AND POPULATION

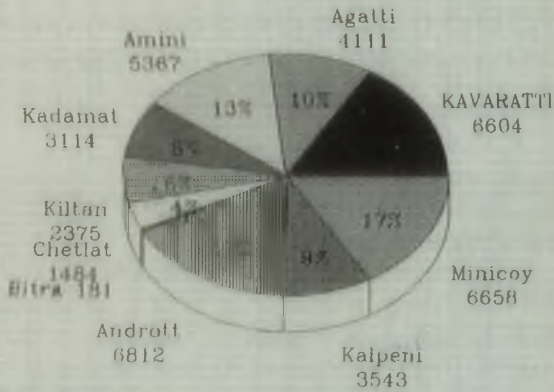
The tiniest Union Territory of India, Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 12 atolls, three reefs and five submerged banks. Of its 36 islands covering an area of 32 Sq.kms only 10 are inhabited. They are Andrott, Amini, Agatti, Bitra, Chetlat, Kadmat, Kalpeni, Kavaratti, Kiltan and Minicoy. Bitra is the smallest of all having only a population of 181 persons (Census - 1981). They lie about 220 to 440 K.Ms. from the coastal city of Cochin in Kerala between 8° and 12° 13" North latitude and 71° and 74° East longitude. Kavaratti is its Headquarters. These Islands are linked with Cochin by Ship, Helicopter and Vayudoot services.

Though the land area is extremely small, if we consider its lagoon area of about 4,200 Sq. K.ms, 20,000 Sq. K.ms. of territorial waters and about four lakh Sq. Kms of economic zone, Lakshadweep is a large territory.

According to the 1981 Census, Lakshadweep has a population of 40,249 persons. 93% of the population who are indigenous, are Muslims and majority of them belong to the Shafi school of the Sunni sect. Malayalam is spoken in all the islands except Minicoy where people speak Mahl which is written in Divehi Script and is spoken in Maldives also. The entire indigenous population because of their economic and social backwardness has been classified as Scheduled Tribes. According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list (Modification orders), 1956, the inhabitants of Lakshadweep who and both of whose parents were born in these islands are treated as Scheduled Tribes. There are no Scheduled Castes in this Union Territory.

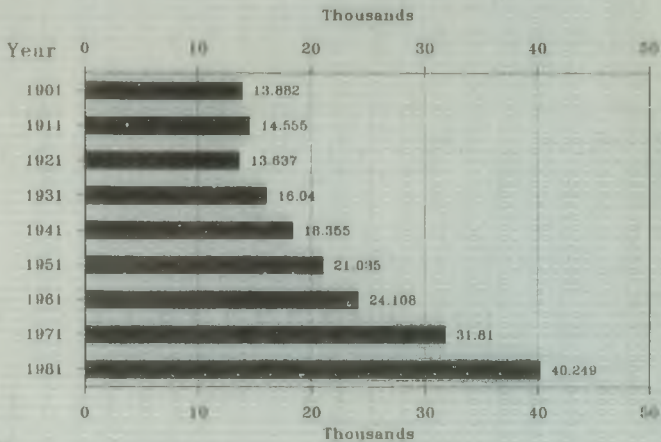
The main occupation of the people is fishing, coconut cultivation and coir twisting. Tourism is an emerging industry.

## LAKSHADWEEP POPULATION 1981 CENSUS



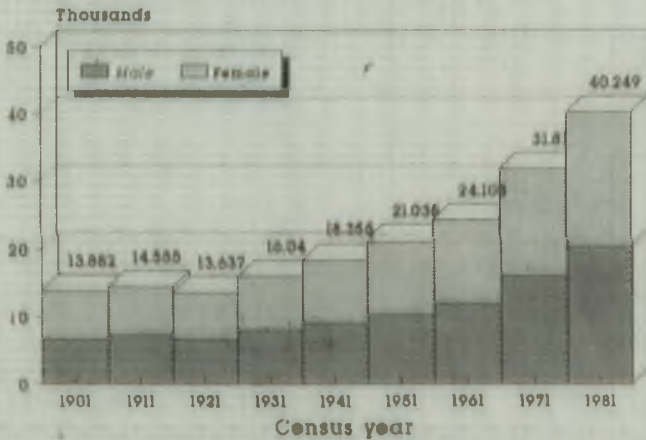
National Informatics Centre

## Population in Lakshadweep



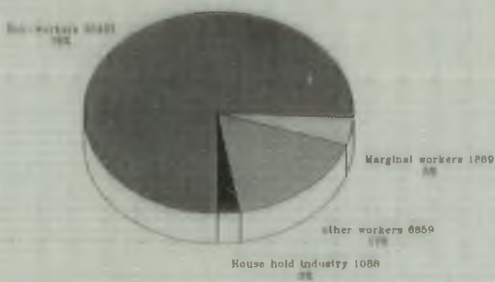
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# Population in Lakshadweep



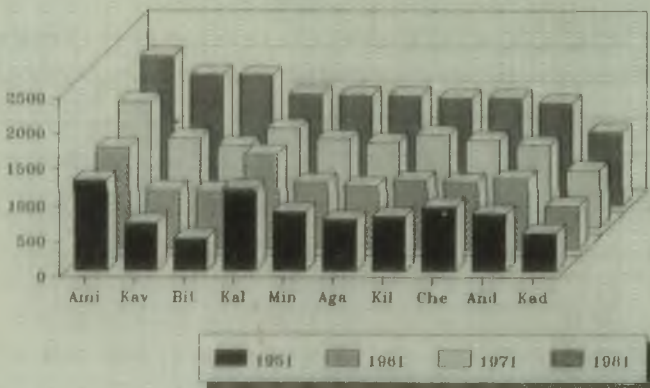
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## LAKSHADWEEP POPULATION BY WORKERS AND NON-WORKERS (1981 CENSUS)



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## LAKSHADWEEP DENSITY OF POPULATION



NIT

## 2. GEOLOGY

There are no conclusive theories about the formation of these coral atolls. The most accepted theory is given by the English Evolutionist Sir Charles Darwin. He concluded in 1842 that the subsidence of a volcanic Island resulted in the formation of a fringing reef and the continual subsidence allowed this to grow upwards. When the volcanic Island became completely submerged, the atoll was formed encircling the lagoon where, with the action of wind, waves, reef to currents and temperature, the coral Islands were formed. Sand banks were first formed in an atoll. They became naturally the nesting grounds for sea birds. They continued to be their exclusive preserve till as a result of the fertilization of the soil by their droppings (Guano deposits), ground vegetation became possible and man then took over, thus leaving the birds to seek another sanctuary.

Fundamentally this concept is still valid, although many consider submerging of the volcanic Islands is by the melting of Pleistocene ice sheets. The fringing reefs are quickly built, repaired and strengthened by a micro-organism called polypus. They are the architects and engineers of these atolls.

The corals are the hard calcareous skeleton of these polypus.

### 3. FAUNA AND FLORA

The flora of the Islands includes Banana, Vazha (*Musa Paradisiaca*), Colocasia, Chambru (*Colocassia antiquarum*) Drumstick moringakki (*Moringa Oleifera*), Bread-fruit, /Chekka (*Arcecarpus incisa*) wild almond (*Terminalia Catappa*) are grown extensively. Some of the shrub jungles plant like Kanni (*Scaevolakeeningil*), Punna, (*Calaphyllum inophyllum*), Chavok, (*Casurina equisetifolia*), Cheerani (*Thespesia populnea*) are unevenly grown throughout the Islands. Coconut, Thenga (*Cocos nucifera*) is the only crop of economic importance in Lakshadweep. These are found in different varieties such as Laccadive micro, Laccadive ordinary, green dwarf etc. Two different varieties of sea grass are seen adjacent to the beaches. They are known as *Thalassia hemprichii* and *Cymodocea Isoetifolia*. They prevent sea erosion and movement of the beach sediments.

The marine life of the sea is quite elaborate and difficult to condense. The commonly seen vertebrates are cattle and poultry. Oceanic birds generally found in Lakshadweep are tharathasi (*Sterna fuscata*) and Karifetu (*Anous solidus*). They are generally found in one of the uninhabited islands known as "PITTI". This Island has been declared as a bird sanctuary. Molluscan forms are also important from the economic point of view of the Islands. The money cowrie (*Cypraea monita*) are also found in abundance in the shallow lagoons and reefs of the Islands. Other *Cypraea*s found here are *cypraca talpa* and *cypraea maculifera*. Among crabs, the hermit crab is the most common.

Colourful coral fish such as parrot fish (*Callyedon sordidus*), Butterfly fish (*Chaetodon auriga*), Surgeon fish (*Acanthurus ilnetotus*) are also found in plenty.

The following animal, bird and tree are declared as State Symbols of Lakshadweep.

Animal: Butterfly fish (*Chaetodon auriga*) locally knows as "Fakkikadiya".

Bird: Sooty tern (*Anous stolidus piletus*) locally known as Karifettu.

Tree: Bread-fruit (*Artocarpus incisa*) locally knows as Chakka.

#### 4. HISTORY

Early history of Lakshadweep is unwritten. What now passes for history is based on various legends. Local traditions attribute the first settlement on these Islands to the period of Cheraman Perumal, the last King of Kerala. It is believed that after his conversion to Islam, at the behest of some Arab merchants, he slipped out of his capital Cranganore, the present day Kodungalloor - an old harbour town near Cochin, for Mecca. When his disappearance was discovered, search parties sped after him in sailing boats and left for the shores of Mecca, in search of the King from different places. It is believed that one of these sailing boats of Raja of Cannanore was struck by a fierce storm and they were shipwrecked on the Island now known as Bangaram. From there, they went to the nearby Island of Agatti. Finally the weather improved and they returned to the Mainland sighting other Islands on their way. It is said that after their return, another party of sailors and soldiers discovered the Island of Amini and started living there. It is believed that the people sent there were Hindus. Even now unmistakable Hindu social stratification exists in these Islands despite Islam. Legends say that small settlement started in the Islands of Amini, Kavaratti, Andrott and Kalpeni first and later people from these Islands moved to other Islands of Agatti, Kiltan, Chetlat and Kadmat. This legend of Cheraman Perumal is not, however, substantiated.



The advent of Islam dates back to the 7th Century around the year 41 Hijra. It is universally believed that one St. Ubaidullah (r) while praying at Mecca fell asleep. He dreamt that Prophet Mohammed wanted him to go to Jeddah take a ship from there to go to distant places. Thus, he left Jeddah but after sailing for months, a storm wrecked his ship near these small Islands. Floating on a plank he was swept shore on the Island of Amini. He fell asleep there but again dreamt of the Prophet asking him to propagate Islam in that Island. Ubaidullah started doing so. But this enraged the headman of the Island and he ordered his exit at once. Ubaidullah stood firm. Meanwhile, a young woman fell in love with him. He gave her the name Hamidat Beebi and married her. This further offended the headman and he decided to kill him. It is said that the headman and his henchmen surrounded St. Ubaidullah(r) and his wife to kill them. At once St. Ubaidullah(r) called up on the Almighty and the people were struck blind. At this time St. Ubaidullah(r) and his wife disappeared and as soon as they left the Island people regained their eye sight. From Amini St. Ubaidullah(r) arrived at Andrott where he met with similar opposition but he succeeded finally in converting the people to Islam. He next went to other Islands and successfully propagated Islam and returned Andrott where he died, and was buried. The grave of Saint Ubaidullah(r) is today a sacred place. Preachers from Andrott are respected deeply in far off lands like Srilanka, Malaysia, Burma etc. It is a marabout or Mukbara.

The arrival of the portuguese in India again made Laccadives an important place for seafarers. It was also the beginning of the years of plunder for the Islands. The finely spun coir was much sought after for ships. So the Portuguese started looting Island vessels. They forcibly landed at Amini to procure coir sometime in the early 16th century, but it is said that the people killed all the invaders by poisoning, ending the Portugese invasion.

Even after the conversion of the entire Islands to Islam, sovereignty remained in the hands of the Hindu Rajah of Chirakkal for some years. From the hands of the Chirakkal Raja the administration of the Island passed on to the Muslim house

of Arakkal of Cannanore around the middle of the 16th century. The Arakkal rule was oppressive and unbearable. So sometime in the year 1783 some Islanders from Amini took courage and went to Tipu Sultan at Mangalore and requested him to take over the Administration of the Amini group of Islands. Tipu Sultan at that time was on friendly terms with the Beebi of Arakkal and after deliberations, the Islands of Amini group were handed over to him. Thus the Island's suzerainty came to be divided as five came under the rule of Tipu Sultan and the rest continued under the Arakkal house. After the battle of Seringapatam in 1799 the Islands were annexed to the British East India Company and were administered from Mangalore. In 1847, a severe cyclone hit the Island of Andrott and Raja of Chirakkal decided to visit the Island in order to assess the damages and for distributing relief. An officer of the East India Company Sir William Robinson volunteered to accompany him. On reaching Andrott, the Rajah found it difficult to meet all the demands of the people. Sir William then offered the Rajah help in the form of a loan. This was accepted. This arrangement continued for about four years but when the interest started mounting, the English asked the Rajah to repay them which he could not. In 1854 all the remaining Islands were handed over to East India Company for Administration. So, came the British rule. The Union Territory was formed in 1956 and it was named Lakshadweep in 1973.

## 5. ADMINISTRATION

Prior to the formation of this Union Territory on 1 Nov. 56, these Islands formed part of the erst-while Madras State. The entire group of Islands is considered as one District and divided into four Tahsils and each put in charge of Tahsildar, except Minicoy where the post of the Tahsildar was abolished and a Deputy Collector appointed in August, 1978. The lowest revenue official in each Island was known as "Amin" in Laccadive group and Minicoy and "Karani" in Aminidivi group. Now they are designated as "Amin" in all islands.

The Headquarters of the Administration were shifted from Calicut (Kerala State) to Kavaratti Island in March 1964. When the annual expenditure to be incurred by the Administration went

beyond Rs. 3 Crores, the necessity for decentralisation of the departments was felt and accordingly new offices were created in 1972.

Though the department of offices are working separately, the Administrator's Secretariat and District Administration are functioning as compact units under a single file system. Matters relating to the District Administration, Law and Order and development programmes in general are under the purview of the Collector cum Development Commissioner who is also the District Magistrate and functioning under the Administrative control of the Administrator. Under the District Magistrate are one Additional District Magistrate and nine Executive Magistrates. Four special types of C.D. Blocks started functioning with their Headquarters at Kavaratti, Andrott, Amini and Minicoy from January 1971 onwards. The Amini Block was later bifurcated into two from 2-10-1976 i.e. (1) C.D. Block Amini consisting of Amini and Kadmat Islands with Headquarters at Amini (2) C.D. Block Kiltan consisting of Kiltan, Chetlat and Bitra Islands with Headquarters at Kiltan. Thus there are five blocks in this Union Territory now.

To bring the Administration closer to the people all the Inhabited Islands alongwith their attached Islands and islets, were divided into nine Sub Divisional /Additional Sub Divisions in 1983. Each Sub Division is under the charge of a Sub Divisional Officer. They are also Executive Magistrates for respective Islands. They also function as Block Development Officers or Additional Block Development Officers for these Islands.

The organisation chart of the Administration is appended as Annexure I.

Co-ordination of all development activities and implementation of all programmes coming under the Community Development Blocks including IRDP, J.R.Y., TRYSEM, N.R.Y. etc. and the area developmental programmes under the Five Year Plan schemes in these Divisions and Sub Divisions are the responsibility of these officers. Apart from liaising between the various departmental officers in these Islands they also exercise the Administrative powers for local Administration. These Officers

also head the Island Councils and Block level Committees in their areas.

The Island Councils under the Lakshadweep Island Councils Regulation 1988 have been constituted and came in to being from 6th April, 1990. This is the first democratic set up of the Islands and consist of 79 members, Eighth from Agatti, Ten from Amini, Ten from Andrott, Three from Bitra, Six from Chetlat, Eight from Kadmat, Eight from Kalpeni, Ten from Kavaratti, Six from Kiltan, and Ten from Minicoy.

The Pradesh Council for the Union Territory as a whole has also been constituted with the elected members from and by each Island Councils consist of 21 members, Two from Agatti, Three from Amini, Three from Andrott, One from Bitra, One from Chetlat, Two from Kadmat, Two from Kalpeni, Three from Kavaratti, One from Kiltan and Three from Minicoy. Besides the elected members of Island Councils, Member, Parliament from Lakshadweep and Collector cum Development Commissioner of Lakshadweep are also members of the Pradesh Council. Administrator is the Chairman of the Pradesh Council and in his absence the Vice Chairman, Collector - cum - Development Commissioner will preside.

## **6. LAND REFORMS**

The General Administration of the Islands was carried out under the customary laws prevailing in the Islands till 1965. The criminal and civil justice in this Union Territory was carried out till then under the Laccadive Islands & Minicoy Regulation 1912. In the Amindivi Islands these criminal judicial powers were delegated to the Monegars (Tahsildars) by the Inspecting Officer. The right of ownership was reckoned with the number of coconut trees only. Residents were ignorant of the extent of land owned, until 1959, when a survey was carried out under the Lakshadweep Survey and Boundaries regulation 1959 and the rules thereunder. The ignorance and innocence of the poor Islanders were exploited by a handful of wealthy families till then. The landlord-tenant relationship which was feudal in character was abolished with

the enforcement of Lakshadweep Land Revenue and Tenancy Regulation, 1965. On abolition, three fourths of the land held by the Nadappu tenant with trees vests with him and the remaining one fourth of the land with trees thereon reverts to the Jenmi or cowledar. The settlement effected by mutual agreements between Nadappu tenants and the Jenmis or cowledars is given a statutory recognition. The tenants other than Nadappu tenants were given fixity of tenure.

## 7. ROLE OF WOMEN:

Women enjoy a unique position. The Marumakkathayam system of inheritance, under which the property descends through the female line saves the women from proverbial economic dependence. Ancestral or Tarwad property is equally shared among the members of the joint family in Kavaratti and Agatti, whereas in Andrott the division is between the Thavazhi only. The Tarwad property is managed by the eldest male of the family known as Karanavan. He has no right to alienate or sell any portion of the Tarwad property. The wife and children of the Karanavan are not entitled to any share from Tarwad. Thus the Tarwad property system has given economic freedom and independence to women in the social system of Lakshadweep. The husband is obliged to make an annual payment towards the maintenance of the wife which forms part of the marriage contract. The wife has full freedom to demand a divorce on grounds of non-payment of these customary dues. Divorce is not a disqualification for a woman to seek a fresh alliance. There is also no ban on the remarriage of a widow. The early history of Lakshadweep also reveals that "Hameerlath Beebi" of Pantamveli at Amini was the first lady to accept the preaching of Saint Ubaidullah(r) amidst humiliation and threats. She became the wife of the Saint who went to Andrott and settled there.

The predominance of women folk in all walks of life is a peculiar feature of Minicoy. The husband takes the wife's family name after marriage. All family affairs are managed by the female of the house. Most males being the bread-winners of the family serve in inter-national ships as sea-men. The famous traveller Marco Polo (1254 - 1324) in his travelogue

made a reference to Minicoy as the Island of Females. In the village (Athiri) administration, the ladies have an important role. The female Chief (Boduthatha) is the head of the women's assembly who organises women's labour for common purposes in the "Athiri".

**PART - II**

**PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**





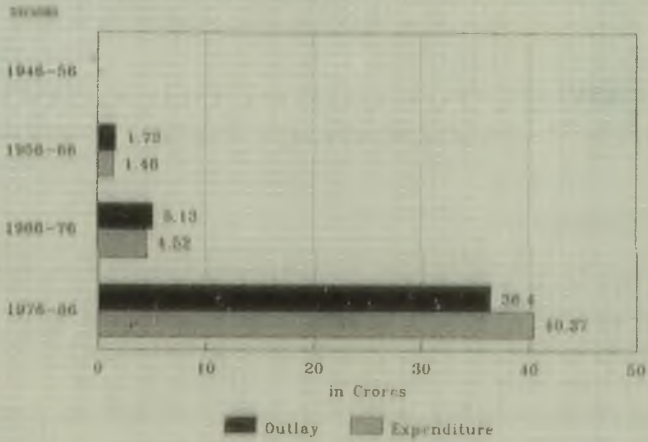
## 8. PLANNED DEVELOPMENT

The Islanders started deriving the benefits of Five Year Plans only when these Islands were declared a Union Territory in 1956. Attempts were made in the middle of the Second Five Year Plan to carry out an integrated short term plan in the Islands with an outlay of Rs. 73.85 lakhs. This was the first plan of the territory. An outlay of Rs. 98.38 lakhs was approved for accelerated development of various important sectors like transport and communication, education and health during the third Plan. The actual expenditure was Rs. 108.51 Lakhs. Much progress could not be made till the middle of the Fourth Plan owing to inadequate transport and communication facilities. The major portion of the approved outlay of Rs. 200 lakhs for the Fourth Plan was spent on Fisheries and Education besides improving transport and communication. The improvement of transport and communication and the spread of education gave a new thrust to development during the Fifth Plan. The outlay was three times that of the fourth Plan. Electrification of the Islands, opening more educational institutions, improvement of fishing etc. started during the Fifth Plan with an outlay of Rs. 622.73 lakhs. When the fifth plan ended in 1977-78, the expenditure was Rs. 380.95 lakhs. The approved outlay during 1978-80 was Rs. 543.64 lakhs, against which the expenditure was Rs. 307.50 lakhs.

A stronger thrust was envisaged during the Sixth Five Year Plan, for which an outlay of Rs. 20.35 crores was approved. The expenditure during the Sixth Five Year Plan was Rs. 28.14 crores and that of the Seventh Five Year Plan is Rs. 67.54 crores.

The annual approved outlay and expenditure:

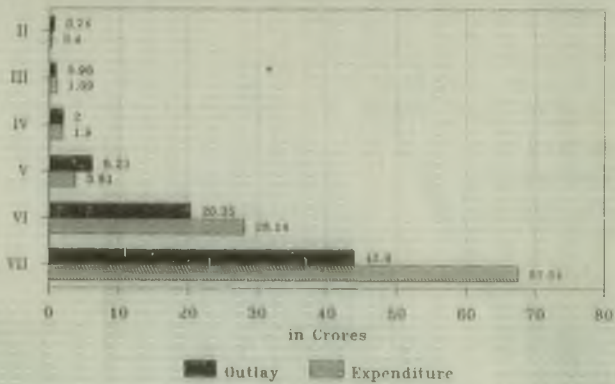
## DECADE WISE OUTLAY - EXPENDITURE



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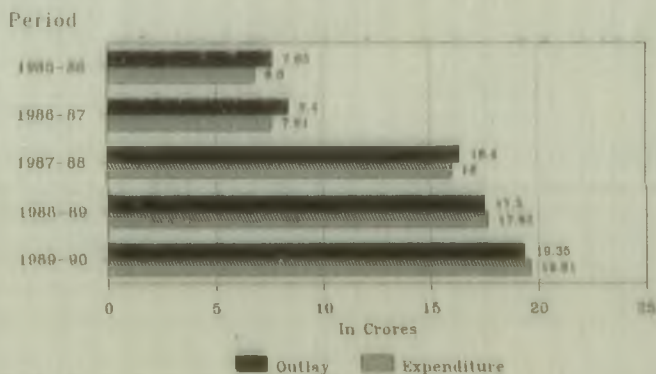
## FIVE YEAR PLAN AT A GLANCE

PLAN



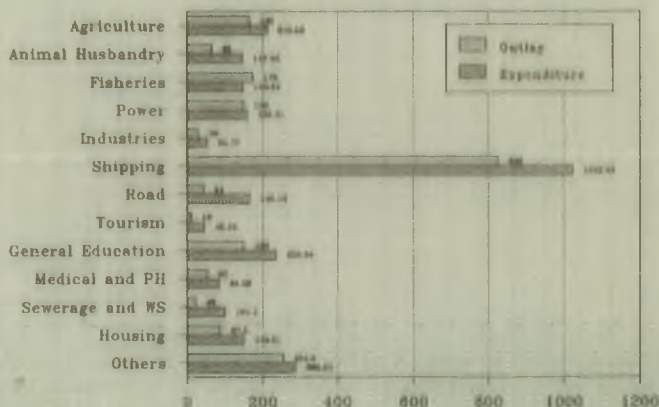
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## VII PLAN AT A GLANCE YEAR WISE



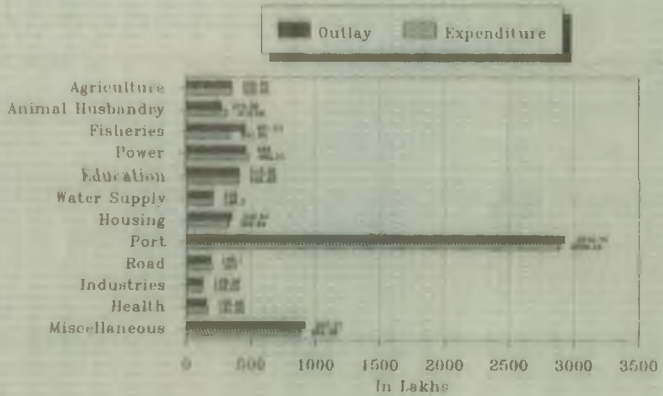
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## VI TH PLAN OUTLAY AND EXPENDITURE (Rs. in Lakhs)

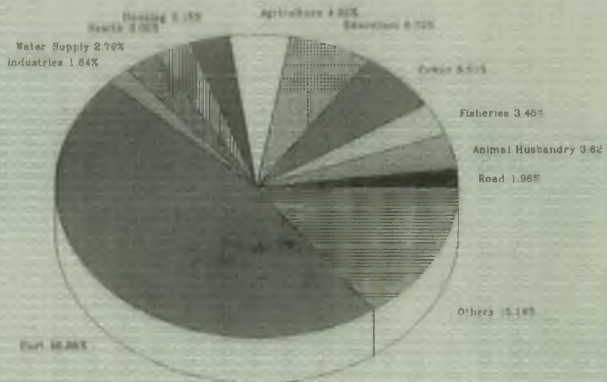


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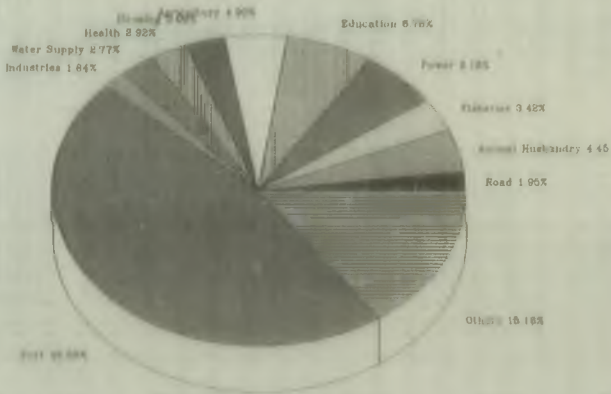
## VII TH PLAN AT A GLANCE 85-90 Sector-wise



## ANNUAL PLAN OUTLAY 1989-90



## ANNUAL PLAN EXPENDITURE 1989-90

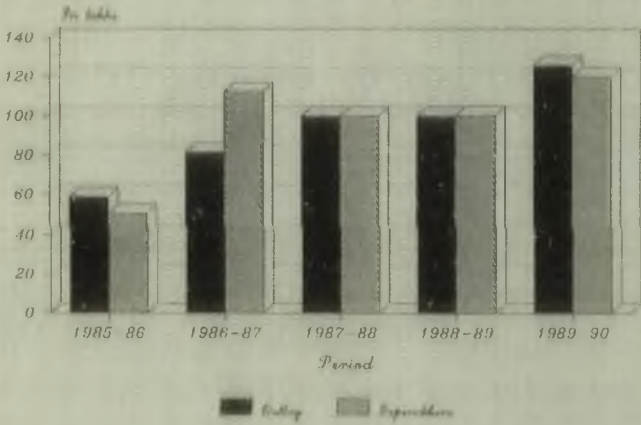


### 9. ELECTRICITY

All the ten inhabited Islands and one uninhabited Island namely Bangaram have been electrified by the end of Sixth Five Year Plan. The electrification of the Island began in 1962. Though all the Islands except Bitra were electrified by end of the Fourth Five Year Plan, only limited hours of Power supply was provided. This had been raised to round the clock in all the Islands by the middle of Sixth Five Year Plan.

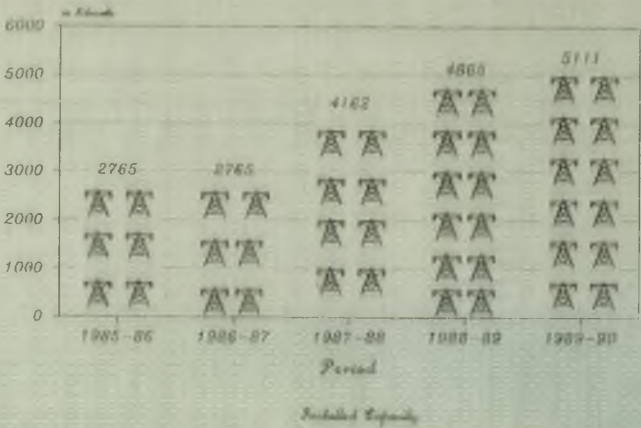
The power supply is mainly through diesel generating sets. During 1989-90 the power generation has reached the level of 7.27 MKWH. A pilot project of 20KW aerogenerator was set up during October, 1987 at Kavaratti. A 5KW Solar Power Generation system has been commissioned at Bitra on 10th April, 1988. Suheli, Cheriyakara Island, uninhabited except for being used by fishermen in the season; has been provided with beach lighting using Solar Power. Four wind monitoring stations and one wind energy convertor of 20KW have been commissioned.

# Power



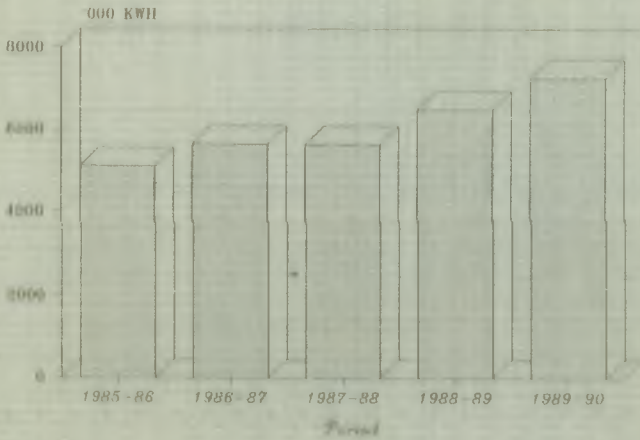
178

# Power - Installed Capacity



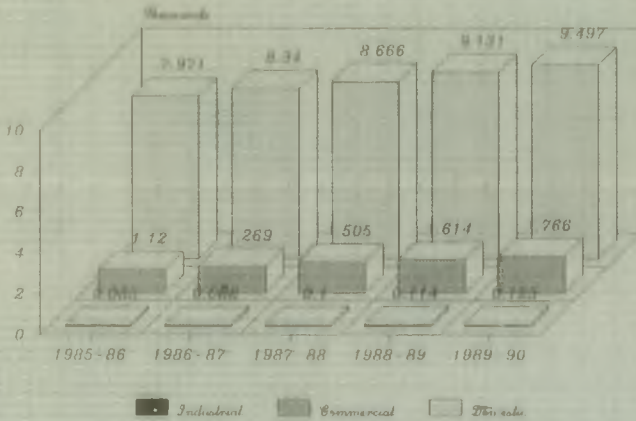
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## Power Generation



47

## Electricity Connections



48

Oil Barge M.V. Suhali is in service for transporting oil from mainland and between Islands.

A gradual change is being made from the use of vehicles using fossil fuels to those that will work on electricity generated by solar/wind power. There is one bus and three smaller such vehicles in operation in Kavaratti and one School bus in Minicoy. Another two more Battery vehicles have been purchased.

## 10. INDUSTRY

Lakshadweep is a no industry area. However, an Industrial potential survey conducted by the Industrial Development Bank of India has revealed that the area has scope for industrial development. On the request of the Administration, Agencies like Small Industries Service Institute, Trichur, Regional Research Laboratory, Thiruvananthapuram, Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation, Kochi etc. have prepared detailed Industrial potentially reports for Lakshadweep and suggested various kinds of ventures having developmental potential based on resources available and demand for implementation. The Islands were estimated in 1970 to contain resources of calcareous sand worth Rs. 5,000 crores which are suitable for white cement and other industrial uses. A technical report was prepared by the Kerala Industrial and Technical Consultancy Organisation for setting up a Mini-white Cement Plant of 20 tonnes capacity a day but was dropped on ecological grounds.

Coconut husk is the main raw material available for the development of the cottage industries in Lakshadweep. Considering the scope for coir and coir based industries, Coir Demonstration-cum Training Centres were established during 1974-75 to train the local women folk in production of thinner, variety coir yarn which has good market. There are two Coir Co-operative Societies, one each at Amini and Kalpeni with locally trained women as members. Five mechanical decorticating units are working at Kiltan, Andrott, Kadmat, Amini and Kavaratti with 84 labourers. The sixth Fibre Factory at Agatti is under construction. These factories extracted 183 tonnes of bristle fibre, mattress and mixed fibre from dry coconut husk during 1989-90.



Out of the two Handicraft Training Centres established at Kavaratti and Kalpeni in 1973 and 1979 respectively, one is continuing to impart training to local candidates in making seashell-toys, coconut shells-craft, wood carving etc. After training they are provided with tools and equipment on 50% subsidy to establish their own production units. The hosiery Factory established in 1967 at Kalpeni produces vests, tee shirts etc. The factory was expanded to employ more labourers as a cyclone relief measure. At present the factory provides employment to 11 persons. The average production of vests etc. per day is 120 as against target of 160.

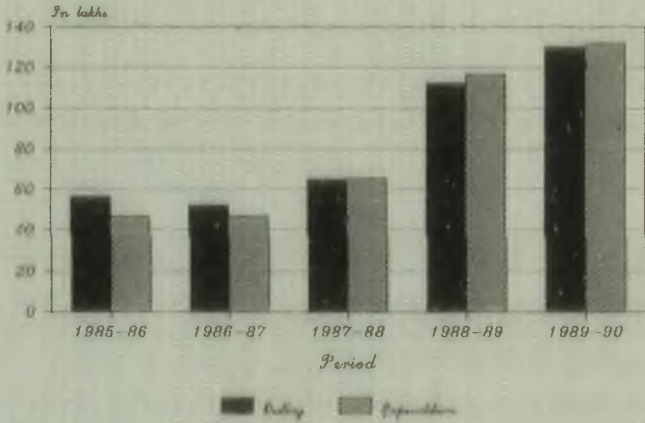
A Television Assembling unit was commissioned in the form of a women's cooperative in Kadmat in January, 1988. So far the unit has produced 480 TV sets of 14" Black and White.

## 11. EDUCATION

When the Union Territory of Lakshadweep was constituted in 1956, there were nine primary schools in the Islands at the rate of one in each Island except Bitra. There were no suitable buildings for the schools and not even adequate, number of qualified teachers. The percentage of literacy according to 1951 Census was 15.23%. Educational facilities were not available for higher studies. During the last 32 years great developments have taken place in the field of Education in Lakshadweep. By stages, educational institutions were established in all the Island. Whereas there were only nine primary schools in 1951, at the rate of one in each Island, today there are nineteen JB Schools, Four SB Schools, Nine High Schools and two Junior Colleges. Every Island except Bitra has a High School. The Junior Colleges are functioning in Kavaratti and Andrott. Nearly 14057 students are attending various educational institutions in the Islands. A Navodaya School has been functioning in Minicoy since October 1988.

Girls education also has made tremendous progress. Out of the total enrolment in the Schools 44% are girls. Education is provided free at all levels. Free midday meals are provided in Nursery and Primary Classes. Free boarding and lodging facilities are provided to Island students residing in hostels. In

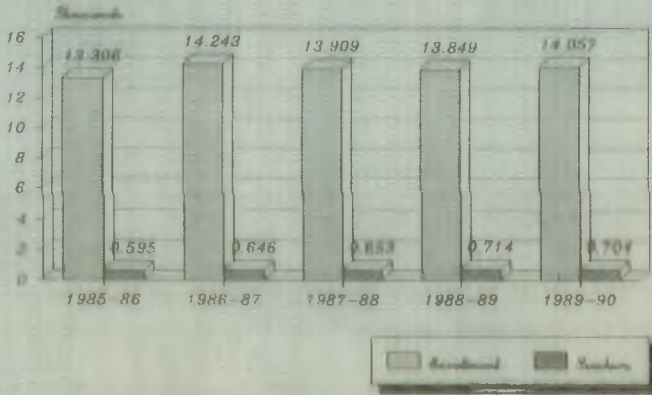
## Education



the case of students studying in mainland the hostel expenses are met by the Government. Once a year students studying in places outside their native Islands are given free conveyance facilities to go to their native Islands. Students desirous of going for higher studies are sent to mainland for professional, technical and academic courses. The entire educational expenses are met by the Administration.

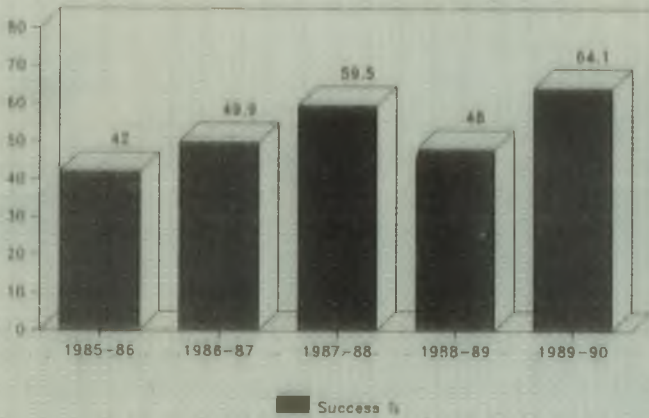
All the educational institutions have buildings, furniture and adequate number of qualified teachers. In the final year of the High School and courses in the Islands the students are taken on educational tour to various places in the mainland. Owing to the various incentives education has made great strides in Lakshadweep. According to the Census figure the percentage of literacy has risen from 15.23 in 1951 to 55.07 in 1981.

## Education Enrollment & Teachers

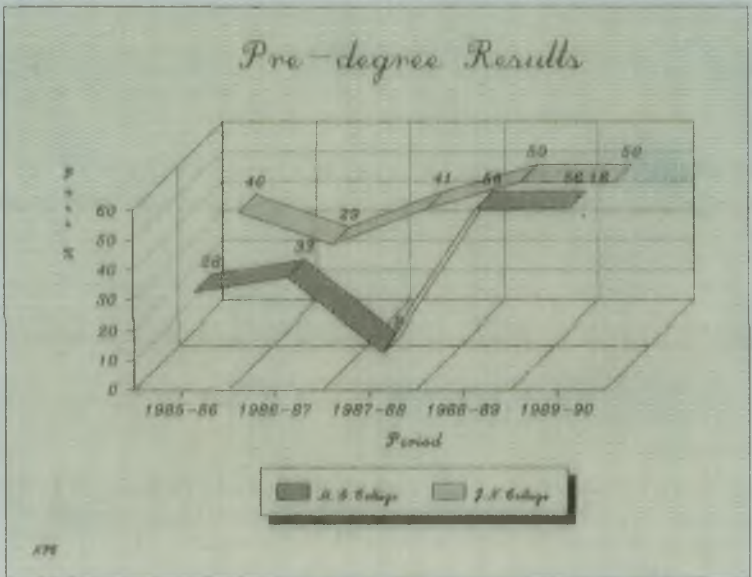


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## S.S.L.C. Result



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## 12. WATER SUPPLY

All the inhabited Islands are problem villages as far as drinking water supply is concerned. There is no surface water available in these Islands as a source. The rain water collected under ground is to be tapped. However, since there is no proper organised sewerage disposal system, the ground water table is constantly getting contaminated. As part of investigation for proper utilisation of ground water, in five Islands the water supply scheme completed and commissioned. The works in other Islands are In progress. The work will be completed in four more Islands in the year 1990-91. In order to have effective water supply in Islands based on opinion of the Expert Committee, the existing water supply scheme should be supplemented by additional activities such as installation of Desalination Plant, Rain Water harvesting structure etc. Accordingly action plan for execution of water supply schemes setting up of desalination plants and Rain water harvesting structure have been formulated. The installation

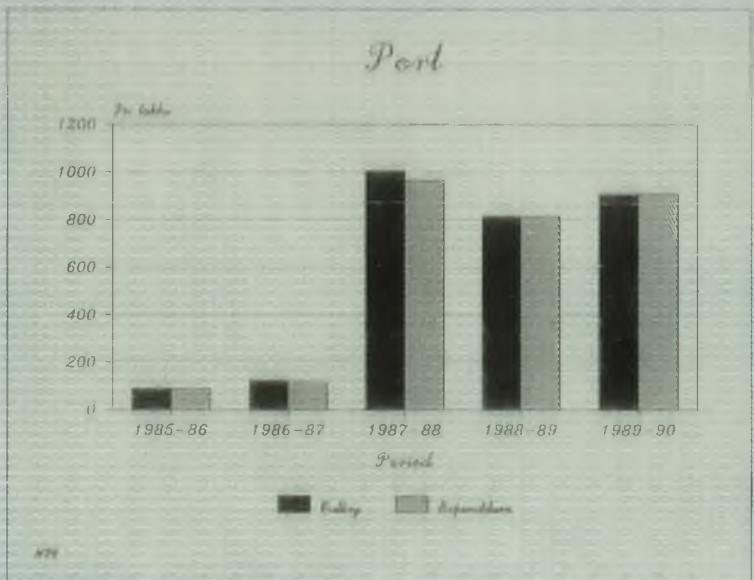
of Desalination Plants are In progress in different stages in different Islands. Piped water supply is provided to the southern part of Kadmat Island covering about 100 families. A Solar Distillation Plant having a capacity of 2,000 litres per day was erected at Bitra to feed the entire population on 19th January, 1983. A scheme for providing safe piped water supply to all other Islands has been worked out on the basis of Technical Studies by the centre for Earth Science Studies, Trivandrum, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur and the Union department of Rural Development to cover all Islands. The scheme combines of brackish water and rain water harvesting. The ground water portion is complete in Amini, Minicoy and Agatti.

### 13. TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

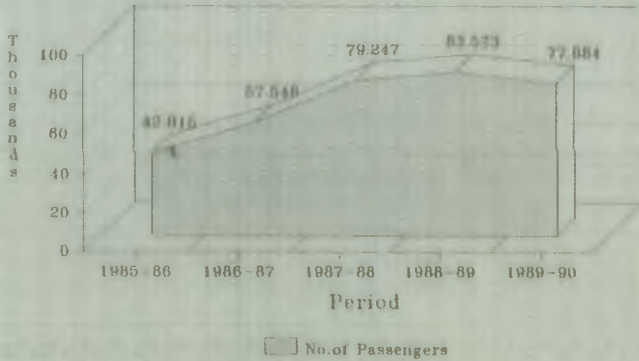
Till 1958-59, Odam (Sailing Vessels) were the only mode of surface communication between the Islands and Mainland. Each Odam made one or two voyages a year to the Mainland with Copra, Coir and return to the Islands with the requirement of rice, sugar, provisions etc. Till 1962-63, chartered ships were doing service between the Islands and between the Mainland and Islands. They could not operate during monsoon months (May to September). The Administrations own vessel, M.V. Laccadives, with a capacity of 49 passengers and 40 tonnes cargo began service in December 1966. The major break through came in 1970 with the launching of an all-weather ship M.V. Amindivi and the dreadful isolation of the Islands during the monsoon was broken. The vessel had facilities for 242 passengers in fair season and 202 in monsoon period and capacity to carry 800 tonnes cargo. With the increase of the developmental efforts of the Government and increase of population it was found that the above two ships were inadequate to cope with the increased traffic. In 1982 owing to special Interest shown by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, another ship M.V. Bharatseema was acquired by the Administration and put in operation In July, 1982. Inter-Island surface communication was also improved to a noticeable extent with the arrival of the new ship. A ferry vessel Viz. M.V. Deep Setu has been received by the Lakshadweep Administration for inter Island trips and this has increased the carrying capacity of the ships plying in Lakshadweep waters to 150 passengers and

the cargo capacity by 25 tonnes. Since the Ship 'Amindivi' has completed its guarantee period, it is being replaced by another ship viz. M.V. Tipu Sultan with a passenger capacity of 658 which began to service in September, 1988. The Amindivi is now servicing as a cargo vessel.

Although greater achievements were made in surface communication, the loading/ unloading facilities from ship to shore and embarkation/disembarkation to and from the ship remain the same. This activities take place in the open sea. The risk involved is such that anything at any time may happen while loading/ unloading and embarkation/disembarkation. Difficulties experienced in time of emergencies like evacuation of serious cases to the Mainland, import of life saving drugs etc. particularly during monsoons have eased when the Helicopter service, between mainland and Island and inter Island was started on 31st January 1987. A new era was opened in the field of communication when the Vayudoot service between Mainland and Agalti Island was started on 15th April, 1988.

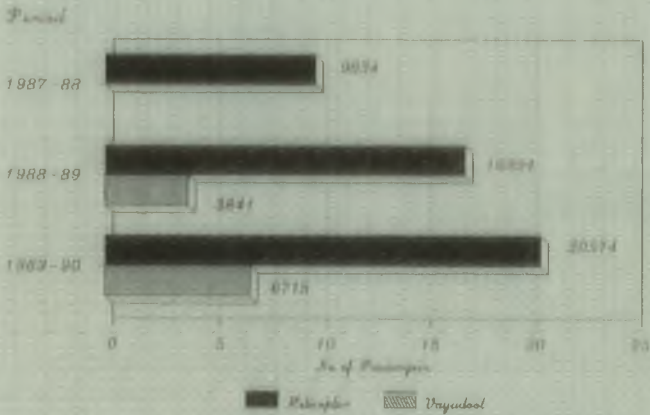


## Shipping Passenger traffic



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## Air Traffic

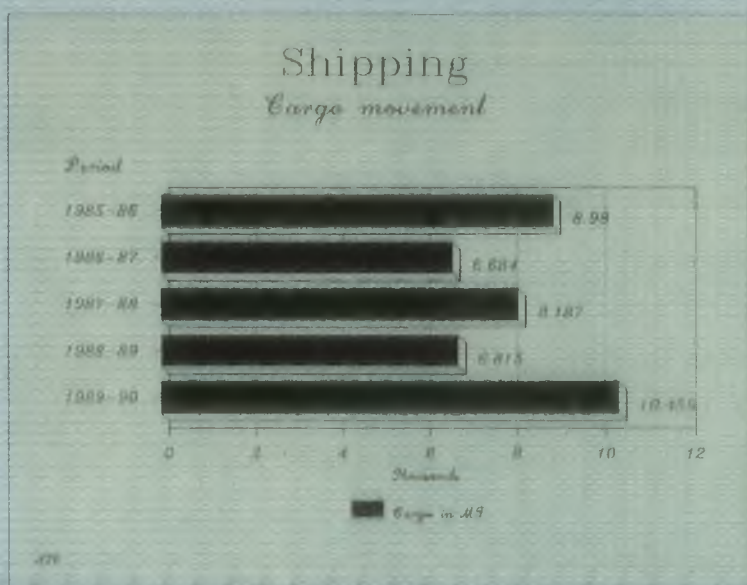


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Low power transmitters are working in all inhabited Islands except Bitra, which is to be covered by 8 (eight) Direct receiving sets.

Satellite Earth Station have already been commissioned in Kavaratti, Minicoy, Agatti, Kiltan and Andrott. With the launching of insat I B, Communication facilities with the Mainland have improved. The Headquarters Island Kavaratti is connected with the rest of the country through the Inter- State Police Wireless and with other Islands through a Micro-wave Wireless network. Minicoy and Kavaratti have STD facilities.

Satellite earth stations are expected to be commissioned in Kalpeni during 1990-91. FAX facilities already link Kavaratti and Minicoy with Cochin and Delhi.

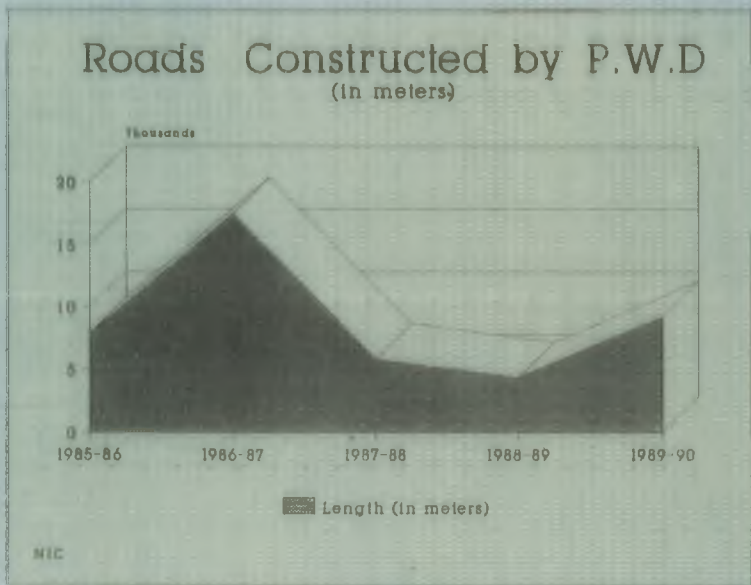




Kavaratti and Delhi Liaison Office are linked to NICNET (National Informatics Centre Network) thereby facilitating data communication from Kavaratti to Delhi Liaison Office and Ministries and vice versa. A similar set up at Miricoy and Kochi Liaison Office are expected to be commissioned by the beginning of 1991. GIST booth operating in the Secretariat, Kavaratti helps in getting information of direct relevance to the public pertaining to fifteen diverse subjects stored in the Super Computer at NIC (HQ), New Delhi.

The Administration started a daily newspaper in October 1982 published simultaneously in all the Islands which was later changed to a weekly.

A technical team visited Kavaratti during 1983 and recommended a Radio Station for Lakshadweep as a medium of communication with the people. The building have been acquired and the station is expected to be commissioned in 1990-91.

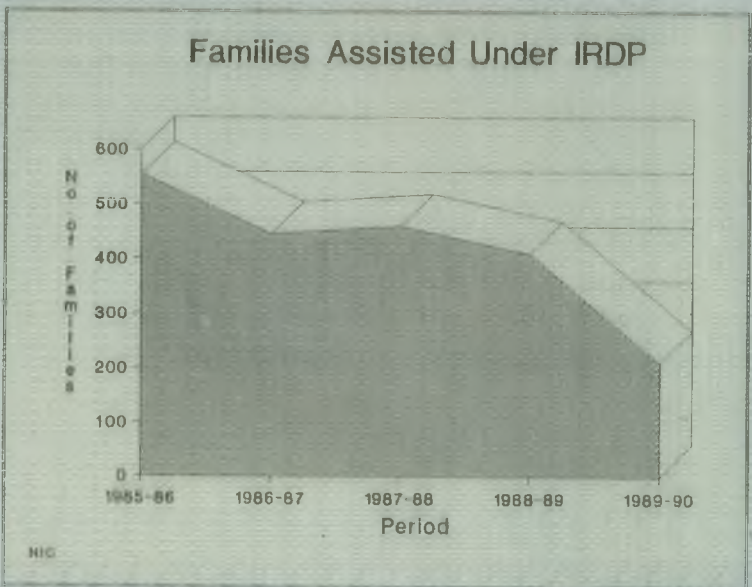


## 14. ROADS

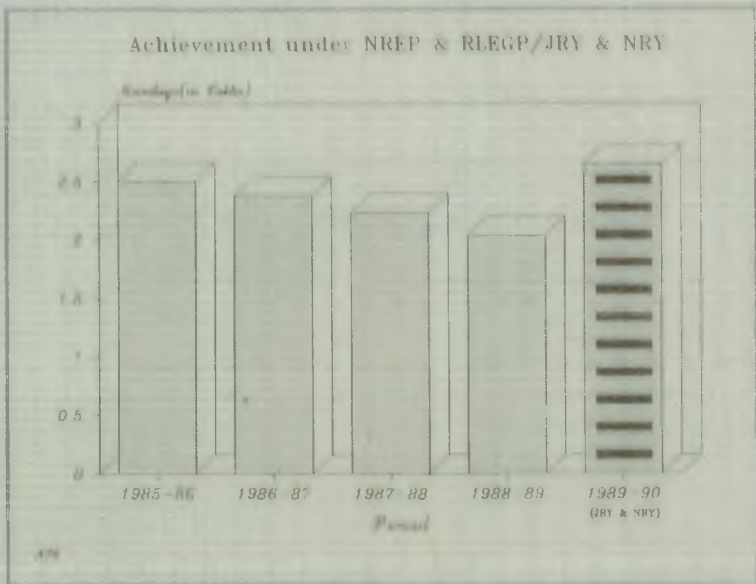
Out of the total length of 220 Km of sandy bicycle tracks, 5.5 km were converted into cement concrete rural roads upto the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan. A length of 70 km of cement concrete rural roads were completed at the end of March 1990.

## 15. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Integrated Rural Development Programme began its implementation in January 1983. As per the bench mark survey, 3013 families (i.e. about 45%) were identified as living below the poverty line in Lakshadweep. The plan was to cover all the 3000 families before the end of the second year of the Seventh Plan. The number of families assisted till 31st March, 1990 since the implementation of the programme is 3416. The assistance provided include distribution of Milch Animals, Goats, Petty Trades, Fishing Craft, Power Tiller, Trollies, Coir Charkas etc.



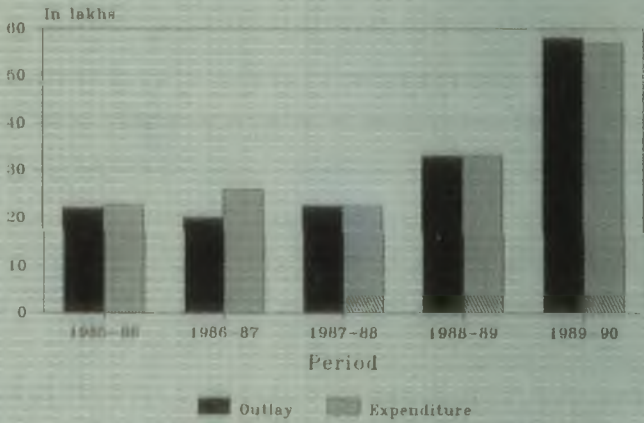
National Rural Employment Programme started in November, 1982. As against the target of 0.50 lakh mandays fixed by the Planning Commission for 1984-85, 1.49 lakh mandays of employment were provided. As against the target of 0.70 lakh mandays for Sixth Five Year Plan 3.87 lakhs mandays was achieved during the period. This scheme has subsequently been re-named by the Government of India as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) clubbing other schemes on similar lines. During 1989-90 2.63 lakhs mandays were created under NRY/JRY.



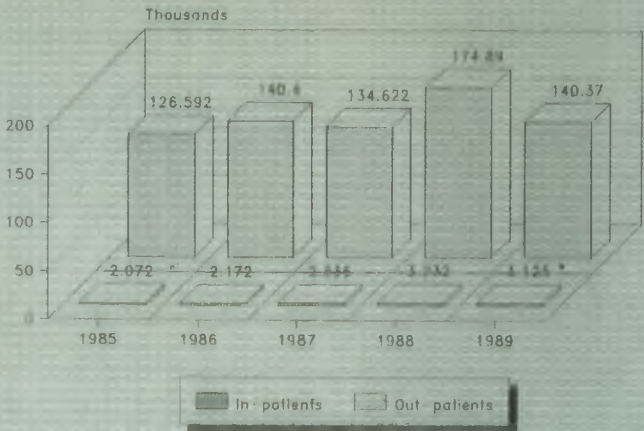
## 16. HEALTH

The medical infrastructure has been constantly expanded and strengthened. The course of leprosy, small pox, filariasis etc. has been virtually contained. There are now two hospitals, 50-bedded at Kavaratti used for referral purposes and 20-bedded at Minicoy. Seven Primary Health Centres with bed capacity ten

## Medical

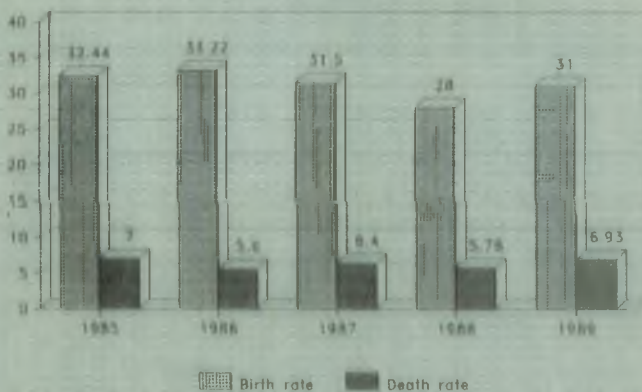


## Health



## Demography

### Birth & Death Rates Per Thousand



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## Infant Mortality & Maternal Death Rates

### (Per Thousand)

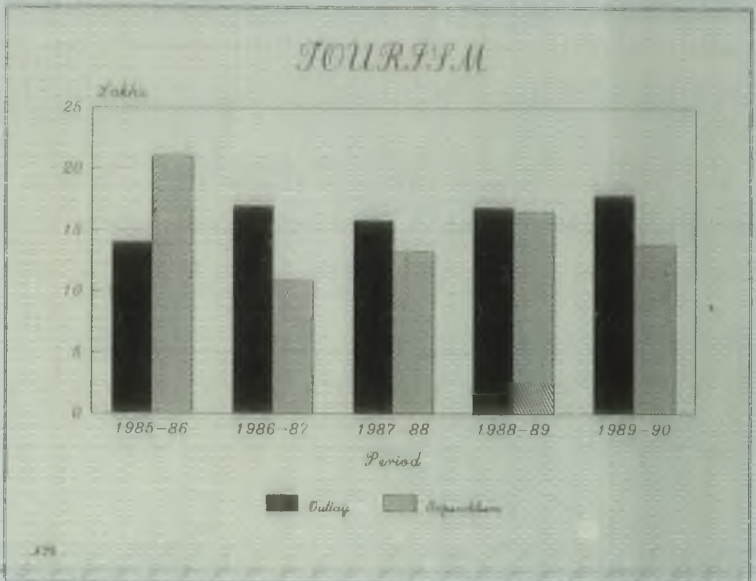


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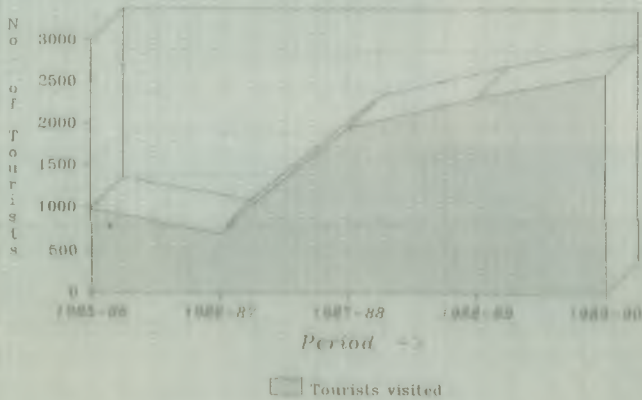
each are there in other inhabited Islands. In Bitra, a sub-centre has been opened in addition to the first aid centre. The Islands which lost many lives in the past for want of medical and health facilities are now placed in a better position. The vital rates of the territory during 1989 are; Birth rate 31.00, death rate 6.93 and Infant Mortality rate 38.

## 17. TOURISM

The development of domestic as well as international tourism has immense potential. However, much could not be achieved till recently owing to inadequate transport arrangements. Now international as well as domestic tourism has received a remarkable boost. Numerous infrastructure facilities have been created including the opening of Vayudoot service between Mainland and Agatti in April, 1988. But limits have been placed on the number of tourists to be admitted in order to prevent overcrowding and consequent environmental damage.



## Tourists Visited

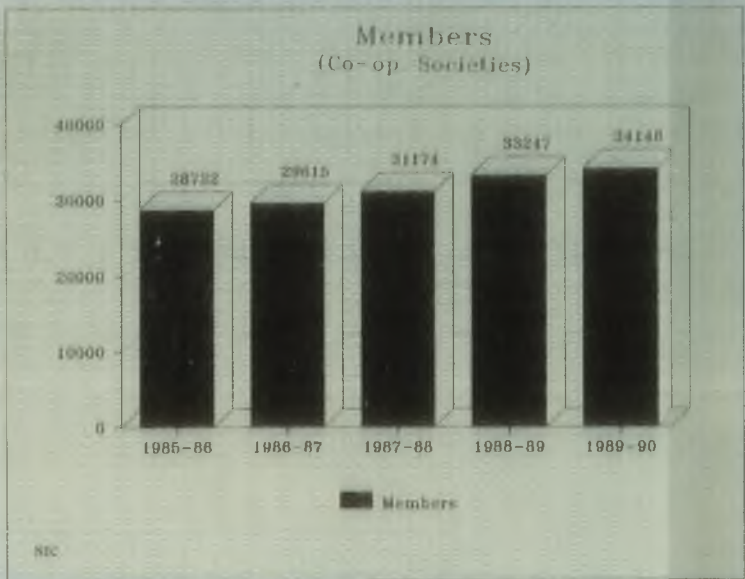


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Since the literacy rate in the Union Territory is one of the highest in the country, the level of educated unemployed can be kept under control by developing this sector. Society for Promotion of Recreational Tourism and Sports (SPORTS) is a society registered under Societies Act, 1860. The main aim of this organisation is to promote tourism and recreational activities in Islands in collaboration with different departments of the Administration. During 1989-90, 1400 Home tourists and 1189 foreign tourists arrived in Lakshadweep. It could provide employment to 66 educated unemployed in different Islands. In addition the Bengaram Resort has been placed under professional management and employs 20 local boys. There is good potential for employment as tourism is sought to be promoted as an economic activity. Tourist huts and cottages are provided at Kavaratti, Kadmat, Bengaram, Kalpeni and Minicoy. Private local entrepreneurs are encouraged to set up Tourist huts.

## 18. CO-OPERATION

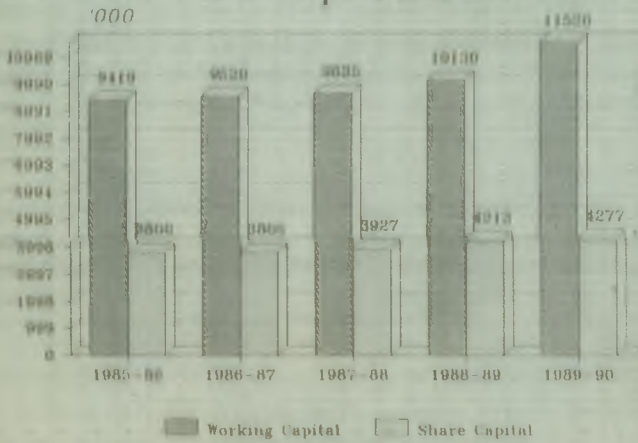
The co-operative movement has established very strong roots in the territory since the late sixties and has succeeded in knocking out the middleman. Public distribution of every article is solely being maintained through the co-operative Societies in different Islands. These cater for needs of the entire population. More than half of the total population are members of Co-operative Societies while all households have been covered by membership.



The Lakshadweep Co-operative Marketing Federation is the approved wholesaler and Primary Co-operative Supply and Marketing Societies are the approved retailers for the distribution of all essential commodities under the Public Distribution System. The annual allotment of rice from the Central pool is 5,500 MT. The monthly quota of levy sugar is 71 MT. Rice and levy sugar are sold on ration cards. 300 LPG installed during 1989-90 in Kavaratti. This is being extended to Minicoy very shortly.

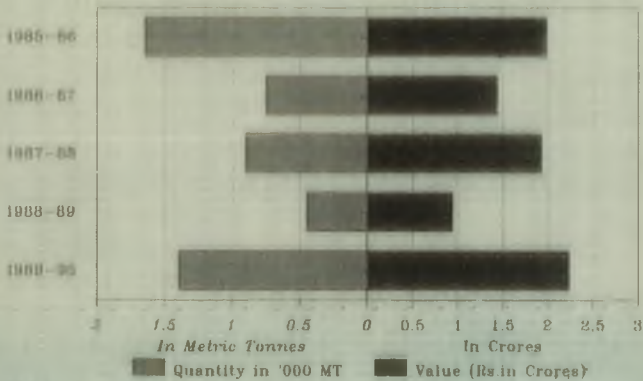


## Co-operative



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## Marketing of Copra ( through L.C.M.F )

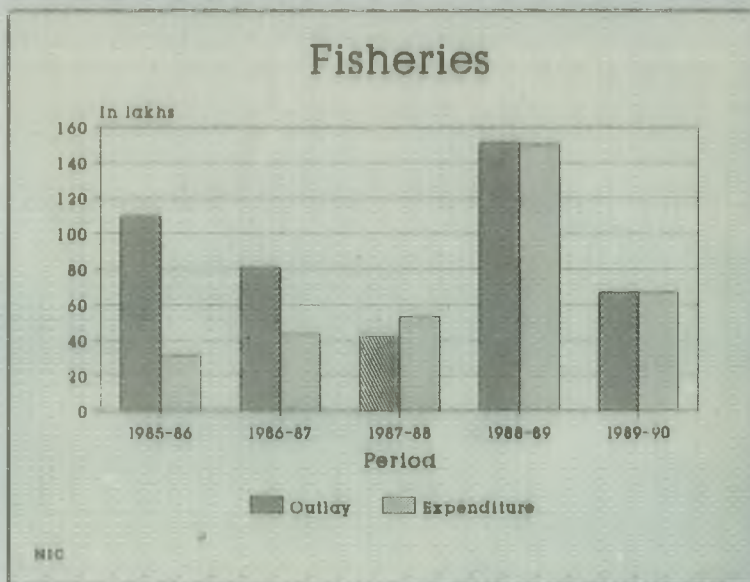


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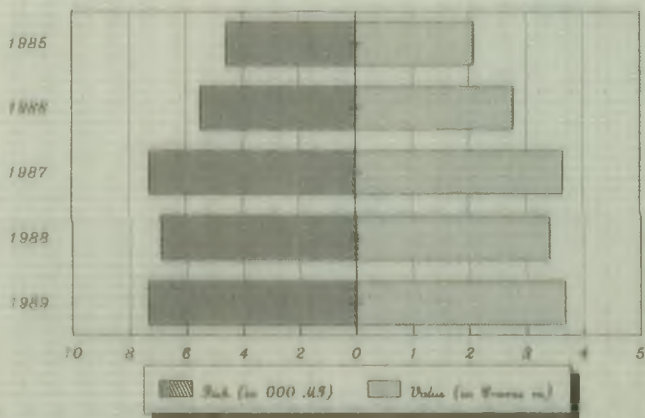
## 19. FISHERIES

The lagoon, sand banks open reefs and submerged banks forming part of the archipelago, are rich in marine life and mineral resources. They spread over an area of 4,200 Sq. km. and have extended India's economic zone by about four lakh Sq.kms. Till the beginning of the III Plan, fishing was done with locally made wooden craft and traditional implements. With the emphasis on fisheries development during the III Plan and subsequent plan period, the traditional and primitive method of fishing which was labourious, time consuming and uneconomical has given way to modern mechanised fishing. In 1960, the total fish landing a year was only about 600 tonnes.

This has gradually gone up and in 1989 the fish landing was 7390 tonnes. A per capita fish landing of 183 Kg. a year. The two boat building yards and ten workshops in Islands cater to the needs of fishermen. There are altogether 271 boats in operation



## *Fish landing*

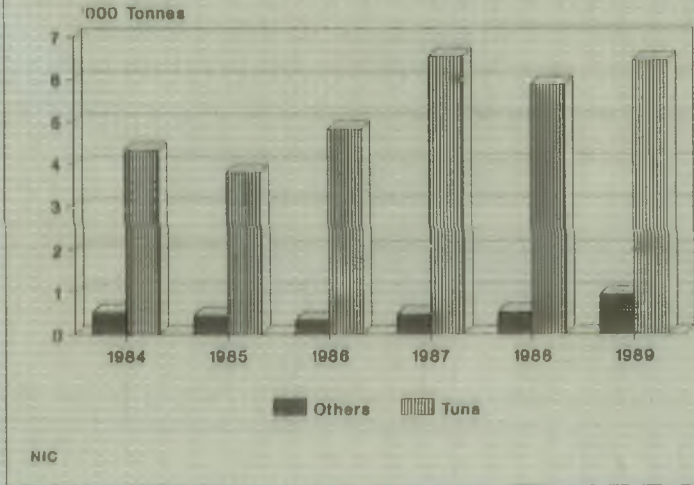


in Lakshadweep. Tuna, the chicken of the sea is in plenty around Lakshadweep. The fishermen largely go for tuna fishing (besides shark fishing). Fresh tuna caught is processed in the Canning Factory at Minicoy. In other Islands, the fishermen dry the tuna in the sun after cooking and smoking. The resultant product is known as "Mas", which values on an average of Rs. 20 to 40 per kg. Fish aggregating device known as 'Payao' was introduced in Lakshadweep which increased the fish catch.

Launching of a mas market unit consist of a Mobile Snack Bar Van for the popularisation of dried mas during 1989-90 is considered a significant achievement. Introduction and popularisation diversified fishery products and dishes made out of dried mas of rural and urban markets is the aim of this project has shown encouraging results.

However the present production of the small scale sector is very meagre compared to the potential available. In order to

## Species wise fish landing



harvest tuna resources now left untapped beyond the operational range of small boats, it is proposed to commence commercial fishing with long liner and purse seiners in collaboration with foreign countries. The Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is going ahead in full swing on this line.

The experimental pearl culture schemes set up on the uninhabited Island of Bangaram has shown potential. This centre has already produced Pearls during the year 1984-85.

### 20. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY:

A large number of programmes are being implemented in this Union Territory by using the latest development in the Science and Technology in the country.

Community Latrines: A scheme for Community Latrines on the lines of Technology evolved by the KVIC has drawn up and is being carried out.

Smokeless Chullah: Energy efficient smokeless chullah here proved popular. Similar Chullahs, on a usual large scale have been specially developed for preparing 'Mas' and field trial have proved successful.

## **21. HOUSING**

At the beginning of VI Five Year Plan there were about 800 Government quarters available in Islands to accommodate the staff of this Administration so also the staff working in Islands under other Central Government departments. As private houses are not available plenty in Islands, the problem has become very acute and hence the Administration completed 214 Nos. of quarters during the Sixth Plan period. The Seventh Five Year Plan 1985-90 envisages construction of 175 Nos. of Govt. quarters. The achievement during the plan period was 143 Nos.

## **22. LAKSHADWEEP HOUSE BUILDING MATERIAL BOARD**

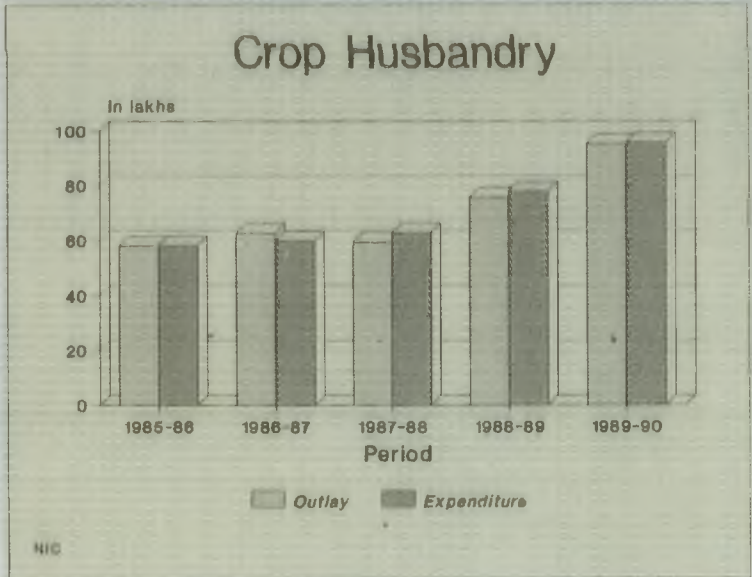
In view of the environment and ecological conditions in the Islands, it has become difficult to get locally available construction materials like coral shingles, coral boulders from the Islands. To overcome this problem the Administration proposes to organise a building materials board which will undertake procurement of building materials from mainland and transport to the Islands for distribution to the local under various loan and subsidy schemes involved by the board. Clearance of this programme from Ministry of Urban Development is awaited for implementation.

## **23. PRESS**

Administration has already established a Printing Press of its own at Kavaratti Island to meet its various printing needs. It is equipped with offset machines, process camera, platemaking equipments etc. for its modernisation. One mini press each at Andrott and Kadmat are also functioning under it. It also has a Mahal Printing Unit set up in Minicoy Island. In addition to this a number of Presses have began emerging in the private sector.

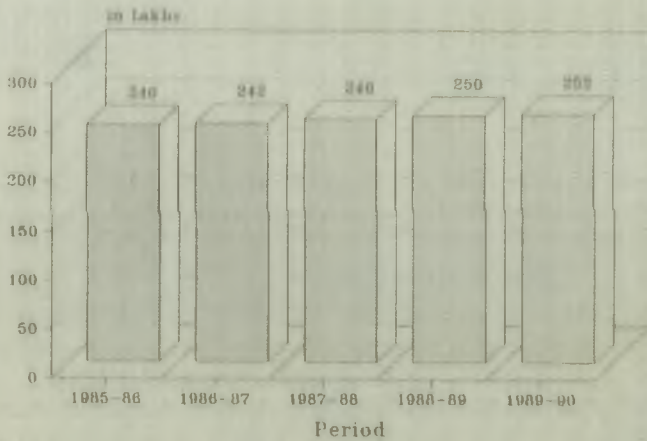
## 24 OTHER PROGRAMMES

Agriculture: In the territory is based entirely on coconut cultivation. There are about eight hundred thousand trees in all the Islands. Owing to coverage in pest control, fertiliser application, the production of copra has increased to a considerable extent.



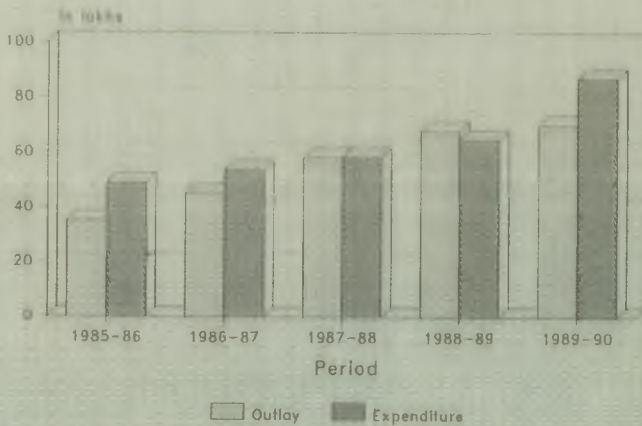
In the Animal Husbandry sector the farmers enjoy largesse for cattle farming, poultry keeping and goat rearing. Cattle/Poultry feed are distributed on 50% subsidy. The regional poultry farm established in the Sixth Five Year Plan cater to the needs of the people to a certain extent. There are two Dairy Farms and seven Poultry Demonstration Units in the Islands. Toned milk units are also working at Kavaratti and Minicoy. During 1989-90 production of the milk in the Union Territory is about 825.67 tonnes. Egg production has reached level of 26.50 lakh.

## Coconut harvested

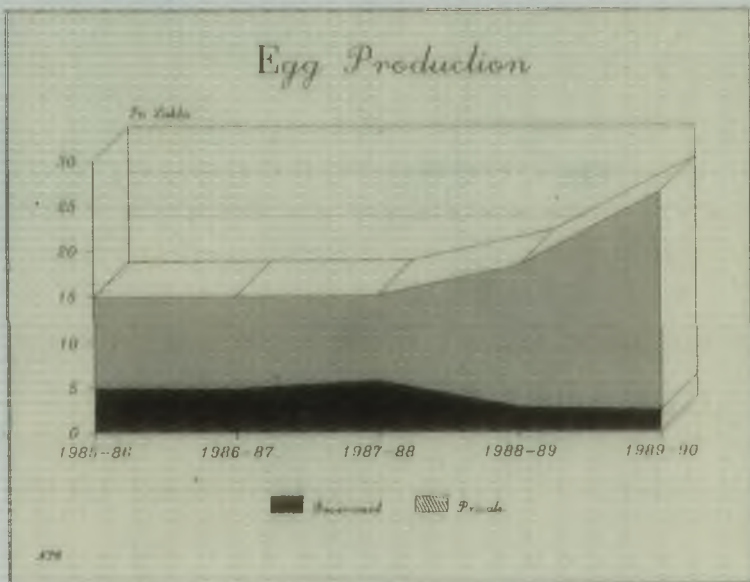


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## Animal Husbandry



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Under Backward Classes Housing (Subsidy) Scheme and Loan Schemes about 1584 persons have been assisted for construction of living accommodation.

The Social Welfare Development Programme began with effect from 1977 aimed at bringing the people to the level of neighbouring states with implementation of various central and Social Welfare Programmes. There are eleven balwadies managed by the Sub-committee with a financial assistance of State Social Welfare Advisory Board. Financial assistance to 307 destitutes was given till 31st March, 1990. In the Integrated Child Development Scheme there are 60 Anganwadies working to improve the nutritional status of the vulnerable group with implementation of non-formal education for pre-school children. One Central Library and eight Reading Room - cum - Libraries are serving in the territory. Under the special nutrition programme about 3090 children and 309 mothers are getting benefits. There are 1510 learners in 73 Centres opened under the National Adult Education Programme in 1989-90.



Several ship wrecks were reported close to Minicoy, Suheli, Kalpeni, Andrott, Kiltan and Kadmat Islands. To warn the ships sailing on the Inter National routes Light - houses have been constructed in all the above Islands except Kadmat. Navigational aid and other facilities are provided by the Lakshadweep Harbour works through their area plan.

Wireless stations and Post Offices are available in all the Islands. Nine Telephone exchanges and five Statellite Earth Stations are existing in Lakshadweep. Two meteriological Observatories one each at Minicoy and Amini are functioning. They take observation of growth and intensity of storm in the south east Arabian Sea. Important scientific research stations like Indian Council of Agricultural Research complex established in 1975-76 take up multi discipline culture, manorial intercropping, germ plasm research programmes.

On the advice of the Minimum Wage Advisory Board constituted under Minimum Wages Act 1948, the existing minimum wage rate has been revised for the different categories of workers in the scheduled employment from time to time since 21st December, 1983. The present minimum wage rate is Rs. 18/- per day. There were about 4942 persons on the live register of the District Employment Exchange on 31st March 90, which is now fully computerised.

Lakshadweep has been brought at the NICNET net work with a fully operational computer centre manned by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in Kavaratti.



**PART—III**

**FUTURE PROSPECTS**



Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi's visit to these Islands in 1985 has given a new direction to development. The conventional pattern of Plan schemes that was followed hitherto was changed to suit the geographical, demographical and environmental conditions obtaining in the Islands. An Island Development Authority under his Chairmanship with top experts on various subject was constituted.

In the meanwhile the various study groups of experts constituted by the IDA have already made indepth studies of various needs of the territory. A masterplan for the transport system in Lakshadweep at a cost of Rs. 297.5 crores upto 2010 A.D. at current prices has been drawn up. The introduction of M.V. Tipusultan, Helicopter and Vayudoot services are only the first steps towards this goal. In addition a Rs. 42 Crore Fisheries masterplan has also been approved. The energy plan is already under implementation, together with the Water Supply scheme based on hydrogeological studies commissioned by IDA.

To solve the unemployment problems of the territory, development of Fisheries, Tourism etc. have been programmed on large scale. Development of Small Scale Industrial units as self employment providing adequate subsidy through various schemes, pre recruitment training programmes on a massive scale are other measures taken up for the better future of the Islands. By the turn of the century the Island are expected to develop a self sustaining Agriculture and Tourism.

The salient features of the Eight Five Year (1990-95) Plan discussed in the Planning Commission on 1st October, 1990 is as under.

## SALIENT FEATURE

-Increasing production and productivity of cash crops, intercropping of vegetables and fruits by use of fertilisers and pest control. Drip irrigation by way of tapping the run off water/waste water. Social forestry for coverage of degraded non forest plantation and sea shore protection.

-The requirements of milk is to be met by direct import rather than through encouragement of cattle breeding in the fragile ecology of the Islands and shortage of fodder. Major thrust in live stock production programme is given to poultry development.

Maximum exploitation of hitherto unexploited sea around the islands by evolving and introducing new techniques so as to maximise the catch. Master plan for Lakshadweep Islands for the development of fisheries will be implemented.

-Marketing of agricultural produces of the Islands like copra, coir and fishery produces like Mas, sundried salted shark fish. Strengthening of credit movement by involving Central Co-op. Banks. Extension of public distribution system and opening of a super bazar on the pattern of super market in the metropolies.

-Strengthening the newly established democratic institution of the Island Councils by providing financial assistance to various developmental schemes proposed and implemented by them.

-Provide better transmission and distribution of electrical energy in all Islands. Augumentation of generating capacity in Islands of Kavaratti, Andrott and Kalpeni to meet additional demand for power. The existing overhead lines of HT &LT lines will be converted into underground system to check frequent trippings due to very large number of coconut trees in the Islands.

-Installation of Solar Photo Voltaic power generating system, solar P.V. street lights, cookers, chullahs, battery powered vehicles, bio-mas gasifier plants and fuel briquetting plants utilisation of wind energy.

-Expanding the capacity of coir fibre extraction units to fully utilise the coir husk available in the Island, so as to prevent its going waste, leading to degradation of environment and causing health hazards. Development of enterpreneureship and steps for consumer protection.

-Implementation of Master Plan for transportation system in the Islands prepared by the expert committee set up by the Ministry of Surface Transport. Acquisition of medium capacity passenger ship, low capacity amphibian air crafts, cargo ships and construction of air strip at Andrott and regular harbour as an alternative port for the Administration ships.

-Popularisation of Science and Technology among inhabitants, protection of environment and Anti Sea Erosion measure for conservation of erosion affected Islands.

-Development of tourism while simultaneously maintaining and promoting the fragile eco-system of the Islands.

-Establishment of full fledged planning machinery supported inter alia by core statistical set up for drawing up schemes most suited to local conditions their execution, supervision and monitoring.

-Strengthening of vocationalisation, of education, promotion of adult education, expansion of library services, setting up of women welfare corporation.

-Ensure primary health care, child health services, upgradation of PHC's to Community Health Centres and protected water supply system to cover all islands.

-Establishment of Lakshadweep Housing Material Board and developing the Headquarter Island in to a small/medium town.

-Modernisation of central press, by introducing DTP and multi-colour offset machine, starting of stationery manufacturing wing and opening Mini Presses.

-Introducing fire protection and control units in all Islands, for the first time

## TOTAL OUTLAY PROPOSED

U.T. SECTOR:	Rs. 14926.59 lakhs.
∴ Centrally sponsored schemes	Rs. <u>1296.32 lakhs.</u>
Total	Rs. <u><u>16222.91 lakhs.</u></u>



