



The Lakshadweep Times

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Thought for the day
No culture can live if it
attempts to be exclusive.
-Mahatma Gandhi

Hon'ble Administrator Orders Revision of Passenger Fare in High Speed Vessels The Decision brings great Solace to Common man

As part of his continued efforts of bringing solace to the common man and ensuring the welfare of the poorer section of the island Society, Hon'ble Administrator orders to revise the passenger fare in all the High Speed Vessels plying in the inter-island and island-mainland sectors.

Orders have been issued revising the fare in High Speed Vessels, M.V.Khadeeja Beevi and Hameedathbi; 3 Nos. of 150 Passenger High Speed Vessels, M.V.Parali, M.V.Cheryapani and M.V.Valiyapani, 3 Nos. of 50 Passenger High Speed Vessels, M.V.Skip Jack, M.V.Black Marlin and M.V.Blue Marlin, and 15 Passenger High Speed Vessel, M.V.Viringili with effect from 29th March, 2008 making the journey on the vessels affordable to all sections of the people.

Earlier a review of the utilization of the above newly acquired High Speed Vessels was taken and found that through there is total necessity for the people to avail these vessels, the capacity utilization, was too low. In addition to operation of inter-island voyages of these High Speed Vessels, the Lakshadweep Administration have also obtained special dispensation from the Director General of Shipping, Mumbai for the operation of 3 Nos. 150 Passenger High Speed Vessels in the island mainland sector. This was done mainly to reduce passenger accumulation in this sector as it is found extremely difficult to meet the passenger requirement in the island-mainland sector with the existing passenger ships.

The review found that the rate of occupancy in the island-mainland sector for M.V.Minicoy/M.V.Amindivi and all other passenger vessels was too low as the people are not opting for passage in these High Speed Vessels mainly due to high passenger fare being levied. Further it was also found that if these High Speed Vessels continued to operate in the present manner, the additional passenger capacity created by the Administration would not be utilized fully and there would be heavy revenue loss to the Lakshadweep Administration for non-utilization of these High Speed Vessels by the people.

On hearing the news, people expressed their gratitude to the Administrator who is showing keen interest in the problems of the people and brings forth practical solutions almost instantly.

Kavaratti, 28th March 08 : Hon'ble Administrator, Shri.B.V. Selvaraj, IAS took a review of the operation of all the High Speed Vessels recently acquired by the Lakshadweep Administration to enhance passage facility in the inter-island and in the mainland-island sector. The review revealed that though these vessels are of very high standard with most modern onboard passenger facility and have cruising speed of average 25 knots per hour, capable to conduct mainland-island journey within 8 hours in the day time, the utilization of the facility by the people was found to be very low and often less than 10% of the capacity of the vessels.

The main reason for the very low utilization of these

vessels was found to be the passenger-fare fixed for each sector in October, 2006. The Hon'ble Administrator found that a passenger need to pay only Rs.190/- for his passage from Androth to Kochi on M.V.Amindivi & M.V.Minicoy which also have many onboard facilities comparable to that of High Speed Vessels. Both the categories of vessels are fully air-conditioned with Pullman chairs. However the new rates fixed for the High Speed Vessels for example, in the Androth-Kochi sector was Rs.890/-. It was also found that a journey from Kavaratti to southern most island of Minicoy on M.V. Amindiv & M.V.Minicoy costs an individual only Rs.180/- and for the High Speed Vessels costs Rs.760/- per person.

(see page 2 col.1)

Hon'ble Administrator gives Due Consideration for Panchayat Raj functionaries

District Panchayat Members can avail Helicopter service on official tour

Putting an end to a long pending issue of determining the travel eligibility of Panchayat Raj functionaries, Hon'ble Administrator Shri B.V.Selvaraj issued express direction to the Directorate of Panchayat to make the Vice-President-cum-Counsellors of District Panchayat, District Panchayat Members and Chairpersons of Village (Dweep) Panchayats eligible to travel by helicopter for attending meetings or any other official business.

As per the letter of Ministry of Home Affairs District Panchayat Members and Chairpersons of Village (Dweep) Panchayats are treated to be at par with the Government Servants in the pay scale of Rs.8000-12500 for the purpose of drawal of TA and DA while performing inter island travel to attend meetings or any other official business. However for years, a confusion prevailed about their flight eligibility and now our Administrator has disposed the problem propitiously.

The graceful move of the Hon'ble Administrator has been heartily welcomed by the Panchayat Raj Members and Chairpersons of VDPs from almost all islands.

(from page 1 col. 2)

It was felt that the logistics applied for fixing the passenger fare for the High Speed Vessels in both the sectors have not benefited the people. Though there is absolute requirement of these passage facilities newly created through these High Speed Vessels, because of the high fare involved people have found it unaffordable to avail passage in these Vessels.

The shipping service in these islands is considered to be a 'sovereign service' as there is no other option for the people to choose in any other mode of travel to any destination from these islands. Therefore, Hon'ble Administrator felt that the normal passenger fare for any type of vessel should be made more affordable for all sections of the people to enable them to take journey either to mainland or among different islands.

It was further felt that if these new vessels are continued to be operated in the same manner with such low passenger capacity utilization, not only that additional passenger capacity created by the Administration to reduce passenger accumulation in the mainland and island ports will go unutilized but there would also be heavy revenue loss to the Lakshadweep Administration for total non-utilization of these vessels by the people.

In view of the above logical and elaborately analyzed background it has been ordered by Hon'ble Administrator, Shri.B.V.Selvaraj to bring down the passenger fare to a scale affordable by the people to avail this modern travel facility. Accordingly the revised passenger fare now fixed for Androth-Kochi sector is Rs.210/- which is brought down from the originally fixed rate of Rs.890/- per person. Similarly the new

rates fixed for Androth to Beypore is Rs.165/- and Androth to Mangalore is Rs.200/-. Similarly the passenger fare has been brought down to Rs.210/- in the Kavaratti-Minicoy sector from the originally fixed rate of Rs.760/-. The passenger fares in all other sectors have also been brought down for the benefit of the people to take travel in these modern vessels to any destination in the inter-island and also to mainland ports.

People Rush to Avail The New Vessels

As this was a long pending difficulty of the travelers, people of islands have welcomed the above decision which has become very obvious from the type of passenger rush seen at Kavaratti and Kadmat on vessels sailed from these islands to different destinations like Androth, Kalpeni etc. today on the very first day of the change over. Because of overflow of passenger at Kavaratti, Agatti, Kadmat, Amini etc. to different island and from Androth to mainland ports like Kochi, Beypore etc., the Administration is making additional voyages to these destinations in the coming days.

The action of the Hon'ble Administrator to bring down the passenger fare for the High Speed Vessels to the affordable level of the people is a welcome step for both the benefit of the people and also for the optimum utilization of these most modern sophisticated international standard High Speed Vessels bring considerable high revenue to the Port & Shipping Department of the Administration.

These modern 8 Nos. High Speed Vessels were acquired from M/s.Penguin Shipyard International, Singapore and M/s.NGV Tech Shipyard, Malaysia in 2006-07 mainly for inter-island service in Lakshadweep group of islands.

Community Leaders meet held at Kavaratti

Kavaratti : Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan assigns greatest importance to the preparatory activities as these have been conceived as a necessary condition for quality implementation of the programme. Systematic mobilization of the community and creation of an effective system of decentralised decision making are part of the preparatory activities. As part of the mobilization programme a community leaders meet was organised at Block Resource Centre (GGHS), Kavaratti on 23.03.2008.

Shri Achada Ahmed Haji, Chairperson, VDP, Kavaratti was the Chief Guest. Principal, GSSS, Headmasters of the various Schools, PTA Presidents, MTA Presidents, VDP and DP members, SSA Project Officers, Resource Person under SSA, BRC/CRC Co-ordinators and a host of Teachers participated in the meet.

The VDP Chairperson while inaugurating the meet in a simple function in this connection offered every help and support from Panchayat towards the effective implementation of 'SSA'. While welcoming the guest and the other participants to the meet, Shri S.V. Attakoya, BRC Co-ordinator briefed the objectives of the meet and stressed that SSA envisages co-operation between Teachers, Parents and PRIs as well as accountability and transparency to the community. Shri T. Chandran, Project Officer, SSA explained the state programmes undertaken by SSA. He emphasized that SSA lays a special thrust on making education at the elementary level useful and

relevant for children by improving the curriculum child-centred activities and effective teaching learning strategies. Speaking on the occasion, Shri T. Abdul Khader, President, Central PTA and Smt. M.P. Bi, TGT, GGHS, shared their experiences in the field and expressed hope that SSA activities will help to bring quality in education. Smt. C.N. Azhari Beegum, Headmistress, working in GGHS talked on the importance of girls education in Lakshadweep. It was followed by a discussion on the 'role of PTA, MTA, SMC, PRIs etc. in the implementation of SSA activities'. Discussion was initiated and facilitated by Dr. M.P. Basheer, President, PTA, GSSS (SB Section). Dr. Basheer throughout his speech focused on the quality of education in Lakshadweep. He requested the teachers' community to adapt to the changing scenario in education. He put suggestion before the authorities as President, PTA (GSSS) for allotting some periods for spoken English classes. Shri P. Habeeb, President PTA JBS (E) suggested that in order to bring quality from 1st Standard onwards 100% promotion may be stopped. Then Shri K. Muhammed, Principal GSSS, Kavaratti expressed apprehension over undisciplined life-style of younger generation in Kavaratti. He requested the parents and community to work jointly for the betterment of Society. He regretted over the less No. of graduates in Kavaratti. Meet came to an end with the vote of thanks by Shri A. Showkathali, Resource Person under SSA.

Seminar on Consumer Awareness held at ATI, Kavaratti

A Seminar on Consumer Awareness was conducted at Administrative Training Institute on 25.03.2008 by the Department of Legal Metrology and Consumer Affairs.

The Seminar was inaugurated by Dr.P.Muthukoya, Vice-President cum Counselor of District Panchayat. In his inaugural address Dr. Muthukoya emphasized the need of awareness programmes on consumer rights. He exhorted the department to take more initiatives to conducted much better programmes to make the consumers aware of consumer protection act.

In the function Shri.M.K.Abulkader, Director

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs was on chair. In his presidential address Shri.Abdul Khader explained the objectives of the seminar.

While welcoming Shri. P.Thangal Koya, Senior Inspector of Weights & Measures explained in details about the rights of consumers and the procedures of approaching Consumer Courts.

In the discussion participants asked questions to clear their doubts. It was a good sign that the majority of the participants were women consumers.

Shri U. Abdullah, ARCS proposed vote of thanks.

Lakshadweep gets International Recognition.

Wide coverage for our three BMT Nigel Gee 35m catamarans in *fastferry international* January-February-2008

CONVERSION TO MAINLAND-ISLAND SECTOR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

Considering the size and the modern passenger facilities onboard the 3 Nos. 150 Passenger Vessels, the Hon'ble Administrator, Shri.B.V.Selvaraj, IAS had taken up a proposal with the Director General of Shipping, Mumbai for extending the service of these three vessels in the mainland-island sector. After upgrading the communication facilities onboard these vessels the Director General of Shipping accorded dispensation for voyages of these vessels in the mainland-island sector as a special case.

The efforts of the Hon'ble Administrator to obtain special dispensation of the Director General of Shipping for operation of these most modern vessels in the mainland-island sector has been well appreciate at International level and a detailed article has appeared in the January-February, 2008 edition of *fastferry International Magazine* published in United Kingdom

Administration of the
Union Territory of Lakshadweep
(Department of Electricity)
Kavaratti -682 555

F.No.36/1/2006-Estt/Ele/694

Dated : 25.03.2008.

NOTIFICATION

It is decided to appoint one **Junior Engineer (Ele)** at Lakshadweep Guest House, New Delhi on contract basis on consolidated remuneration of Rs.13,000/- (Rupees thirteen thousand only) per month. Applications are invited from local candidates from Lakshadweep having following educational qualifications:


Degree in Electrical Engineering of a recognized University
OR

Diploma in Electrical Engineering of recognized institution with 2 years experience in any one of the following field.

1. Running and maintenance of Diesel Generator sets.
2. Generation, transmission & distribution of electricity.
3. Internal electrification of buildings.

The interested candidates may submit applications to the undersigned on or before **9.4.2008** along with their bio-data. Applications received after the due date will not be considered.

Sd/-
(M.Hassan)
Executive Engineer (Ele).



Lakshadweep catamarans cleared for mainland services

The BMT Nigel Gee 35m catamarans will be based in Kavaratti, Minicoy and Andrott.

The total population of the islands is just over 60,000. Intra-island fast ferry services have been operated since 1992, when the Shipping Corporation of India introduced two Tilt Steepbow 32m catamarans.

Schedules can be severely disrupted during the monsoon season from mid May until mid September, particularly on the mainland routes, which have until now been operated exclusively by conventional tonnage.

However, in November, India's Director General of Shipping, the Indian Register of Shipping and the Shipping Corporation of India approved the operation of the BMT Nigel Gee 35m catamarans between the mainland port of Cochin and the islands of Andrott and Kalpeni, between Calicut and Andrott, and between Mangalore and the islands of Andrott, Kilan and Chetlat.

Ferry services are operated between all but of the inhabited Lakshadweep Islands, a group of coral islands in the Arabian Sea.



Main engines
Two Caterpillar KTA 50-M2 diesels rated at 1,343 kW at 1,900 rpm, each drive a Hamilton HM 721 waterjet via a Twin Disc MGX 6040 gearbox to give a full load service speed of 25 knots.

Passenger saloon
A single passenger saloon is fitted out with 150 seats, a crew room and kitchen, a VIP room for four people and toilet aft to port, and three passenger toilets aft. A luggage stowage room is reached from the aft deck.

Service
Ferry services are operated between all but of the inhabited Lakshadweep Islands, a group of coral islands in the Arabian Sea.

BMT Nigel Gee Penguin Shipyard International 35m catamaran	
Length overall	35.00m
Length waterline	33.45m
Beam	9.80m
Depth moulded	4.45m
Depth	1.50m
Deadweight	41.5 tonnes
- Maximum	41.5 tonnes
Gross tonnage	372 grt
Capacity	
- Fuel	20,000 litres
- Fresh water	3,000 litres
- Sludge	1,500 litres
Passengers	154
Crew	10
Maximum speed	30 knots
Service speed	25 knots
- 100% load	25 knots
Range	1,000 n miles
Main engines	2 x Caterpillar KTA 50-M2 1,343 kW at 1,900 rpm
Auxiliary power	2 x Caterpillar 6CT8.3D 136 kW
Waterjets	2 x Hamilton HM 721
Classification	Bureau Veritas 14 Hull High Speed Craft - CAT A Unrestricted Navigation 150 Nautical Miles + MACH

January-February 2008 *Fast Ferry International* 35

Administration of the
Union Territory of Lakshadweep
(Directorate of Agriculture)
Kavaratti -682 555

F.No.2/1/99-Ari(1)/311

Dated : 20.03.2008.

NOTIFICATION

It is proposed to fill up one (Regular) post of **Soil Analyst** in the Scale of Pay of Rs 4500-125-7000 by direct recruitment from among the persons who possess the following qualifications as per the Recruitment Rule.

1. Age Limit : Between 18 and 25 years (Relaxable for five years in the case SC/ST).
2. Educational : Degree in Agriculture with one subject Qualification Agricultural Chemistry/ Social Science.

Application along with attested copies of the certificates to prove the age, caste, educational qualifications and experience may be submitted to the undersigned on or before **15.4.2008**. Late receipt of the application will not be entertained at any cost.

Sd/-
(Dr.C.P.Hamzakoya)
Director of Agriculture.

