

BEFORE THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

O.A. No. 606 of 2018

(In respect of Lakshadweep)

IN THE MATTER OF:

RE: Compliance of Municipal Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and other environmental issues.

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Dated: 15.04.2023

New Delhi

**STATUS REPORT ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT-
LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATION AS ON 31.03.2023.**

I. Brief Introduction

- a. Union Territory (UT) of Lakshadweep is India's smallest UT, an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq. km. It is a uni-district Union Territory and comprises of 12 tolls, 3 reefs, 5 submerged banks and 10 inhabited islands. The islands have a total area of 32 sq. km. The capital is Kavaratti and it is also the principal town of the UT. All Islands are 220 to 440 km away from the mainland.
- b. Total population of Lakshadweep as per 2011 census is 64,473. The total population growth in this decade was 6.30 percent while in previous decade it was 17.19 percent. In the UT of Lakshadweep there is one Village (Dweep) Panchayat in each of the 9 inhabited islands and a District Panchayat for entire territory of Lakshadweep. Union Territory of Lakshadweep has **no city/town/urban local body.**
- c. The population as per the census 2011 of each island is as follows:

Sl. No.	Island	Population
1	Agatti	7560
2	Amini	7656
3	Androth	11191
4	Bitra	271
5	Chetlat	2346
6	Kadmath	5389
7	Kavaratti	11221
8	Kalpeni	4419
9	Kilthan	3946
10	Minicoy	10474

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The Hon'ble NGT vide Order dated 17.11.2022 in Original Application in O.A No.606 of 2018 directed that, Lakshadweep being remote area and a UT, Home Secretary, Government of India (GoI) in coordination with Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development review the situation to streamline and finalize the strategic action plan including technologies to be used and other strategies to be followed in consistent with the Swachh Bharat Mission. In addition, the Hon'ble NGT also sought a status report on the subject of Waste Management (Solid and Sewage) in Lakshadweep as on 31.03.2023 to be placed on record by Advisor to the Administrator on or before 15.04.2023.

Accordingly, meeting was held on 14.02.2023 under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary, GoI in compliance of the direction of above said order to review the situation to streamline and finalize the strategic action plan including technologies to be used in UT of Lakshadweep for Waste Management (Solid and Sewage).

Solid Waste Management:

With regard to Solid Waste Management in the UT of Lakshadweep, the present status is as follows:

1. Solid waste generation in the UT of Lakshadweep islands is about 18 tonnes per day (TPD). In this, about 12 TPD is non-biodegradable waste and 6 TPD is biodegradable waste, which mainly consist of kitchen waste.
2. All the inhabited islands, Village (Dweep) Panchayats in coordination with Department of Panchayat, are coordinating waste management by placing 4686 community bins of 150 litre capacity in residential areas.
3. In this way, Non-biodegradable waste is collected from households, subsequently is segregated and packed at common depository site (designated area). The transportation of the said waste to the authorized



recycling unit in mainland is being done simultaneously where the agency undertakes subsequent recycling. This is being done in all the islands.

4. Lakshadweep Administration has also imposed ban on all type plastic pick up carry bags and also sale and usage of identified 23 items of single use plastics.
5. To monitor the activities under the action plan on elimination of identified single use plastics in Lakshadweep, three-tier committees at state, district and island level were constituted. The regular monitoring of shops to check the usage of single use plastics and enforcement of Plastic Waste Management Rules is being done by respective departments/committees and fines are being imposed for any violations. Through this constant monitoring, the plastic usage has come down drastically and the shops are presently using paper covers as a substitute to the plastic covers.
6. Lakshadweep Administration has conducted frequent awareness campaigns among the public for the reduction and management of plastic wastes.
7. With regard to Biodegradable waste, its generation in each house is very meager and people are encouraged to manage their biodegradable wastes at household level such as feeding for the animals like cow, goat, hen etc. Some of the households are composting the biodegradable waste for generation of organic manure.
8. Traditionally, the coconut residue is used by the people of island for various needs like creation of fencing, mulching, thatching etc. and thus there is no net biodegradable waste generated from coconut plantations.



II. Liquid/Sewage Waste Management:

Regarding the Sewage waste management in Lakshadweep, the following is the estimated sewage generation.

Sl No	Name of the island	Total population (census 2011)	Estimated sewage generation in MLD
1	Agatti	7560	0.33264
2	Amini	7656	0.336864
3	Androth	11191	0.492404
4	Bitra	271	0.011924
5	Chetlat	2345	0.10318
6	Kadmat	5389	0.237116
7	Kavaratti	11221	0.493724
8	Kalpeni	4419	0.194436
9	Kilthan	3947	0.173624
10	Minicoy	10474	0.460856
Total		64473	2.836768

Thus, the total estimated sewage generation in the UT of Lakshadweep is about 2.8 MLD.

1. Union territory of Lakshadweep has no city/town/urban local body, and it comprises only rural area with the liquid waste majorly generated from households only. The islands also do not have any major industries or factories. There is no large-scale sewage/liquid waste generated in Lakshadweep.
2. Main source of sewage in the island includes individual households, private commercial establishments and government establishments.
3. All the households in Lakshadweep have septic tanks and soak pits for faecal waste and separate soak pits for non-faecal waste water management.
4. UTL has already implemented 1618 bio-toilets in three islands of Andrott, Kavaratti and Bitra.

5. At present in the UT of Lakshadweep, a sewage treatment plant (STP) is at Bangaram island resort with a treatment capacity is 0.024 MLD.
6. One sewage treatment plant at INS Dweep prakshak at Kavaratti is under construction and one more proposed at Naval Detachment, Minicoy.
7. As directed by NGT, a meeting was held on 14.02.2023 under the chairmanship of Union Home Secretary, GoI in compliance of the direction of above said order to review the situation to streamline and finalize the strategic action plan including technologies to be used in UT of Lakshadweep for Waste Management (Solid and Sewage). As decided in the meeting, a team of scientific experts from WASH (Wash, Sanitation and Hygiene) Institute visited Lakshadweep islands from 07.03.2023 to 11.03.2023. During their stay they have studied the liquid waste management related issues in Lakshadweep, including faecal sludge sampling and quantitative analysis. Based on their scientific study and evaluation of various parameters of the samples in Lakshadweep, a report is expected to be received soon detailing on the recommended technologies for Sewage management in island conditions of the Lakshadweep. Lakshadweep administration and the relevant ministries in Govt. of India will examine the report based on criteria including efficiency, land requirement, operation and maintenance and other factors. The most suitable technology will be explored and implemented based on the scientific suggestions.

A. D. P.