

MOTOR TRANSPORT

The State Transport Service and the commercial wing of the MT Department was set up In March 1956 for providing Road Transport Service in South Andaman. State Transport Service headquarters is at Port Blair and has 12 units in different islands.

As on December 2002, 67 STS buses are in operation. In addition to State Transport, private buses are also operating. However, the private buses are operating only on the profitable routes of Port Blair, ATR and some routes of rural area. Due to social obligations, STS is operating all non-profitable routes of rural and tribal areas where private bus operators are not prepared to operate bus service. STS is also providing concession to students, senior citizens and free journey to handicapped persons.

Department has Central workshop at Port Blair where repair and maintenance of buses is undertaken. Mini workshops are also available at outstations. To augment its fleet, the department entered into an agreement with APSRTC in January 2001 to repair 43 Nos. breakdown buses. Repair of 25 buses has been completed and work of 1 buse is in progress and 16 will be taken up later. During this period department also repaired 13 buses departmentally.

Construction of Helipads

Transport department is also concerned with the construction and maintenance of helipads at various islands. Under this scheme, helipad at Katchal has already been completed and at Teressa the expansion work is in progress. Expansion work of helipads at Havelock, Rangat, Diglipur and Mayabunder is also in hand. For construction of helipads at Little Nicobar, Pillomillow, Kondul, Narcondum, East Island and landfall islands, estimates are under preparation.

Computerization of Department

Department is also going ahead with the programme of computerization of STS activities in a phased manner and necessary software's are being developed by NIC

Operational Difficulties

Operation of STS Service in far-flung islands is extremely difficult due to bad road condition, hilly terrain, adverse climate condition, saline sea breeze, lack of infrastructure facilities for repair and maintenance, transportation of buses by ship from Port Blair to other islands, etc. However, efforts have been made to provide facilities to ensure smooth running of the buses.

During the last five years of 9th Plan following achievements have been made:

1. 27 Nos. new buses purchased
2. Office building at Katchal, Hut Bay, Campbell Bay and Mayabunder were renovated.
3. First phase of renovation of Bus Terminus, Port Blair was completed.
4. 22 Nos. staff quarters constructed at various islands
5. Workshop at Mayabunder, Diglipur, Campbell Bay, Katchal, Hut Bay and Baratang completed.
6. Helipad at Katchal completed.

Under 10th Five Year Plan Rs.1040 lakhs has been proposed to implement the following major works.

1. Purchase of 50 Nos. ready built buses for southern group of islands. Construction of central workshop at Port Blair and mini workshop at Car Nicobar, Havelock and Neil Island.
2. Construction of helipad at Pillomillow, Kondul, Little Nicobar, Narcondum, East Island.
3. Construction of 23 Nos. staff quarters at various islands
4. Creation of additional workshop facilities at Baratang, Hut Bay, Diglipur and Mayabunder.