

## **PORT MANAGEMENT BOARD**

A&N Islands are situated 720 NM from the mainland and the coast line of A&N Island is 1962 Kms. The A&N Islands are a chain of Islands measuring over 900 Kms. from North to South. Out of the total 572 nos. of small & big Islands only 36 are inhabited.

Prior to independence the one and only wooden jetty at Chatham was utilised for berthing of vessels and was maintained by the forest department. In 1952 the port limits were extended to five ports of A&N Islands viz. Mayabunder, Port Blair, Elphinstone Harbour, Car Nicobar and Nancowary. However, till mid sixties there were hardly any port facilities available at these ports in real terms.

In 1981, GOI initiated action to reorganise port setup and a Port Management Board for Administration and Management of Ports & Harbours in A&N Islands was constituted. The Port Management Board, however, came into existence with effect from April 1989. The Port Management Board is responsible for organising and administering all port activities in the territory, primarily to provide passenger shipping in the Mainland - Islands and Inter Island Sectors giving vital connectivity even to the remotest Islands.

Port Management Board manages 23 ports spread across the Islands and out of those 23 ports 9 ports are declared as wharfage ports and cargo related charges are levied. In all the nine cargo handling ports vessels between 5 mtrs. and 9 mtrs. draft are berthed and provided with required port facilities. The container service was introduced in July 1992 and is becoming popular. A container terminal to handle 70 containers at a time was constructed at Port Blair and now, with the increased container traffic, more than 250 containers are handled at one go.

Port Blair Harbour has a separate berth for handling dangerous cargo at Hope Town. With the commissioning of LPG bottling plant of IOC, the LPG tankers will be berthed at Hope Town.

The Passenger Traffic between Mainland and Port Blair Sector for the year 2002-2003 (Upto November) was 101661 and the PMB levies a Passenger Toll Tax of only Rs. 1.25 per head and collected a total toll of Rs.1.6 lakhs. While the passenger traffic on inter island sector was 277911 in which case no passenger toll tax is levied.

The Ports of Andaman handled 8148 vessels for the year 2002-2003. The total earnings of the Ports by the way of Cargo related services was Rs.4.65 crores and Vessel Related Services for the year 2002-2003 was Rs. 9.26 crores. Despite Port Charges not revised since 1992, PMB is making a reasonable profit. The charges are pitched at low due to socio-economic reasons. The Targets and Achievements of Plan works are given below:

<b>Targets</b>	<b>Achievements</b>
Extension of Deep water wharf at Hope Town	Work completed
Construction of Jettv at Mus in Car Nicobar.	Work completed
Construction of container Terminal at Haddo.	Work completed
Construction of new passenger hall at Haddo Berth No. II.	Work completed
Construction of berthing head at Chain Nallah at Rutland Islands.	Work completed
Construction of Sullage Barage.	60% Work completed.
Acquisition of A T I land at Shore Point for port infrastructural facilities	Part of the land for dry dock acquired.
Construction of 4 Nos. 250 tons capacity water barges.	Work order issued.
Marking of landing place and navigational channels in Southern Groups of Islands	Work in progress
Survey & Investigation for construction of new dry dock at Bambooflat.	Work in progress.