**Outsourcing Tuna Canning Factory, MINICOY, LAKSHADWEEP - Brief Details**

The Union Territory of Lakshadweep comprises 36 islands with a total landmass of 32 sq. km, located at about 220 to 440 km way from Kochi, Kerala. It comprises 12 atolls, 3 reefs, 5 submerged banks and 10 inhabited islands that lay geographically isolated from the mainland. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Lakshadweep and the adjacent high seas offer highly lucrative tuna fisheries, especially of the two principal tunas, Yellow fin tuna (YFT) and Skipjack tuna (SJT). To productively utilize this bounty of tuna resources, the Lakshadweep Administration in the late 1960s set up a Tuna Canning Factory in the Island of Minicoy, which is still in operation, though the scale of operation is low.

The potential of marine fishery resources from the Indian EEZ has been estimated at 3.92 million tones and the tunas, bill fishes and pelagic sharks together amount to about 246000 tones, which is around 6.3%of the estimated potential. Minicoy Island is a large inhabited island and is the southernmost atoll of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. It measures about 10 km from its northern end to its southernmost point and having 1 km wide. The Tuna Canning Factory is set up in the year 1969, and processing Skipjack and Yellow fin tuna for marketing. The tuna landed by the fishing boats at dedicated fish landing jetty of the factory form the raw material and around thousand fishermen including allied workers are in the island. Fish landing data of the Lakshadweep for the year 2020 is 16400 MT out of which 2161.6 MT is the landing reported from Minicoy Island. Total Tuna species (Skipjack and Yellow fin) landed during 2020 in Lakshadweep is 10868.6 MT, out of which 1912 MT is from Minicoy.

As part of promoting entrepreneurship business, the Directorate of Fisheries, Lakshadweep Administration has decided to outsource the Tuna Canning Factory along with its land, building and machinery to those entrepreneurs who are interested in converting this facility into an Integrated Fishery Development Centre primarily through the up gradation of the existing canning facility and the productive utilization of the other wherewithal available. In addition, the entrepreneur can also utilize the facility for preparing other value added products from the locally sourced tuna and tuna like fishes to augment the business. A dedicated fish landing jetty is available for the factory at Minicoy for landing the catch and experienced technical man power is also available at appropriate wages. The details of land, building, and installed assets are placed as Annexure 1. The other details like list of new canning line brought from Thailand for the plant and fish (Tuna) landing data of Lakshadweep and Minicoy separately are attached for reference.