

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 979
ANSWERED ON 08.12.2023

PASSENGER SHIP SERVICE

979. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

पत्तन, पोतपरिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent initiative by the Government of Kerala to launch a passenger ship service to various countries, marking the first such service to a foreign country from India and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has received any proposals/requests from the Government of Kerala for support and collaboration in implementing the passenger ship services to various countries, if so, the details thereof and the steps taken thereon;
- (c) whether any feasibility studies or assessments have been conducted by the Government regarding the economic and strategic implications of these proposed services, if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has engaged in consultations with the State Government of Kerala to understand with the regulatory framework, infrastructure requirements, and other logistical aspects associated with the planned ship services and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) to (d) To start passenger ship service between Kerala and the Gulf for the Indian Expatriates in Gulf Countries which will offer an alternative option to Indian citizen in Gulf Countries to travel to India, three VIP references were received by this Ministry :-

- (i) Shri Adv. A. M. Ariff, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Alappuzha, Kerala – letter dated 20.09.2023
- (ii) Shri AhammadDevarkovil, Minister of Ports, Museums Archaeology & Archives, Government of Kerala – letter dated 17.10.2023
- (iii) Shri Antony Raju, Minister for Transport, Government of Kerala – letter dated 17.10.2023

Discussion was held with stakeholders, namely, Shipping Corporation of India, Directorate General of Shipping, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kerala Maritime Board & NORKA Roots of Government of Kerala. A virtual meeting was held between Shipping Corporation of India, NORKA Roots and Kerala Maritime Board on 10.11.2023 wherein it was decided that KMB and NORKA to float an open advertisement seeking offer from interested parties/operations with suitable vessels readily available to start operations between Kerala and Gulf.
