

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1357
ANSWERED ON 09.02.2024

PASSENGER FERRY SERVICES

1357. SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) the details of ongoing passenger ferry service to various neighbouring countries through ocean;
- (b) the details of response of the passengers to the said ferry services;
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to start ferry service to Gulf countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) A passenger ferry service from Nagapattinam, India to Kankesanthurai, Sri Lanka was flagged off on 14.10.2023 and it had undertaken four round voyages upto 20th October, 2023, after which weather condition became unfavorable for ferry operation. The response from passengers was satisfactory.

To start passenger ship service between Kerala and the Gulf for the Indian expatriates in Gulf Countries, 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 Ahammad Devarkovil, 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, an agency under Government of Kerala. Virtual meetings were held

between Shipping Corporation of India, NORKA Roots and Kerala Maritime Board on 10.11.2023 & 15.12.2023 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. It was also decided that NORKA will conduct survey for passenger demand, frequency of vessel operations and pricing of tickets.
