

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3512
ANSWERED ON 21/03/2025

INTERNATIONAL PASSENGER SHIP SERVICES FROM KERALA

3512. SHRI HIBI EDEN:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:
पत्तन,पोतपरिवहनऔर जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government is aware of Kerala's recent initiative to establish a passenger ship service to foreign destinations, making it the first such service from India;
- (b) if so, the details and the current status thereof;
- (c) whether any feasibility studies or assessments have been conducted on the economic, strategic, and operational viability of these proposed international passenger ship services, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any proposals from the State of Kerala seeking collaboration for launching passenger ship services to foreign countries, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has engaged in discussions with the State Government of Kerala regarding infrastructure requirements, and other logistical aspects necessary for implementing this service, if so, the details thereof including the projected timeline for its commencement and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e) Discussions were held with stakeholders, namely, Shipping Corporation of India, Directorate General of Shipping, Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) & NORKA Roots, an agency under Government of Kerala. KMB has floated an open advertisement for Expression of Interest (EOI) on 07.03.2024, for "Operation of Passenger ships/Cruises/Vessels connecting Middle East/GCC with Kerala" utilizing the port infrastructure in Kerala, India. The bids have been opened on 22.04.2024. A meeting has been held on 06.08.2024 between KMB and SCI with the two prospective bidders in attendance to discuss the technical aspects. As informed by KMB to SCI, the interested bidders are yet to acquire suitable vessels for the service.
