

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5594
ANSWERED ON 04.04.2025

SEVERE TRANSPORTATION CRISIS IN LAKSHADWEEP

5594. SHRI MUHAMMED HAMDULLAH SAYEED:

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

पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the severe transportation crisis faced by the residents of Lakshadweep due to the limited availability of passenger ship services, with only one operational ship currently serving the islands, while four others M.V. Kavaratti, M.V. Corals, M.V. Lakshadweep Sea and M.V. Arabian Sea-are under repair or maintenance;
- (b) if so, the current status of these four ships, including the expected timeline for their repair, maintenance and return to operational service;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the repair and maintenance of these ships to restore normalcy and ensure uninterrupted connectivity between Lakshadweep and the mainland; and
- (d) the measures being implemented to address the immediate distress caused to thousands of stranded commuters, including delays in the supply of essential goods, medical aid, and educational materials, as well as the adverse impact on the economic activities of the islands?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration (UTLA) owns and operates 05 all weather passengers ships and 06 High Speed Crafts (HSC) fair weather vessels. Out of these ships, 01 all weather ship and 06 HSC are in service which are presently utilized for Islands to Mainland and Inter-Island transportation. UTLA has entered into a Quadripartite Agreement with Cochin Port Authority (CoPA), Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited (LDCL) under which CSL is responsible for repair and maintenance of the UTLA vessels.

(b) The final survey of M.V. Kavaratti has been completed on 24.03.2025. This ship is expected to be back in service by mid of April, 2025. The Radio survey of M. V. Coral has been completed and the ship is expected to be in service on 10th of April, 2025. The M. V. Arabian Sea was docked on 27th March, 2025 for repair which is expected to be completed within 65 days. M. V. Lakshadweep Sea has finished sea trials on 08.03.2025. The ship is expected to be back in service by mid April, 2025.

(c) The purpose of the quadripartite agreement between UTLA, CoPA, CSL and LDCL is to ensure timely repair and maintenance of ships.

(d) The scheduling of the serviceable ships is closely carried out in such a manner that the schedule meets the requirements of Islanders. Further, UTLA is taking regular reviews with CSL to ensure that the ships in repairs are back in service as per the above mentioned timelines.
