

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3256**  
ANSWERED ON 08.08.2025

**INADEQUATE PASSENGER SHIP CONNECTIVITY**

3256. 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 inadequate passenger ship connectivity in Lakshadweep, with only five ships available and often just three operational, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to immediately lease additional ships to improve inter-island and mainland transport, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to procure new passenger ships on a permanent basis to meet the needs of the islanders; and
- (d) if so, the details and timelines of such procurement plans?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration (UTLA) has informed that it currently owns five (05) All-Weather Passenger Ship plying between mainland and islands. In addition, UTLA owns six (06) High Speed Crafts (HSCs) for Inter-Island connectivity during fair weather season. The afore-mentioned ships/ vessels are operated in a regular manner on a prefixed schedule. However, the number of ships available in serviceable condition at any given instance depends upon their scheduled/ unscheduled repairs as per docking slot availability at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), certificates renewal and statutory survey requirements.
- (b) Private ship/ vessel operators are encouraged by the UT of Lakshadweep Administration to start passenger ship operations between mainland and Islands and vice versa as well as Inter-Island movement.
- (c) & (d) No such proposal is presently under consideration.

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