

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1319**  
ANSWERED ON 06.02.2026

**PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL FERRY SERVICE**

1319. SHRI THIRU DAYANIDHI MARAN:

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

**पत्तन,पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री**

- (a) the action taken on the proposal from the Government of Tamil Nadu seeking approval and financial assistance for an international ferry service between Rameshwaram (India) and Talaimannar (Sri Lanka);
- (b) the current status of the proposal under the Sagarmala Programme, including the estimated project cost, funding pattern sought, along with the reasons for any delay in granting in-principle approval;
- (c) whether a Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared by the National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NTPRC), IIT Madras for establishing an international passenger terminal at Rameshwaram and if so, the details of the recommendations and present stage of scrutiny;
- (d) whether the Government will accord time-bound clearance to the said project in view of its tourism, trade, cultural and people-to-people connectivity benefits for Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the expected timeline by which the said approval, financial sanction and commissioning of the ferry service is likely to be completed?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (e): Tamil Nadu Maritime Board (TNMB) submitted Detailed Project Report (DPR), prepared by National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), for development of passenger terminal at Rameswaram, for resumption of passenger ferry service between Rameswaram (India) and Thalaimannar (Srilanka), on 11.02.2025 at a cost of Rs. 118.50 crore, which was revised to Rs. 111.89 crore on 22.04.2025. The TNMB has sought 100% financial assistance under Sagarmala

scheme of Government of India. On examination, it was observed that certain technical modifications in the DPR are required. Additionally, environment and coastal regulatory zone (CRZ) clearances for the project are not available. The TNMB has been informed to remove these deficiencies in the DPR and obtain environment and CRZ clearances. The Ministry of External Affairs has informed that the necessary infrastructure at Thalaimannar (Sri Lanka) side required for resumption of the said ferry service is also not ready at present.

Further, at present sufficient fiscal space is not available under Sagarmala scheme to fund the project. Proposal for Sagarmala 2.0 is under preparation.

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