

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4803
ANSWERED ON 20.03.2026

NEW PASSENGER SHIPS

4803. SHRI MUHAMMED HAMDULLAH SAYEED:

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

पत्तन,पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्री

- (a) whether any new passenger ships have been sanctioned/acquired for Lakshadweep during the past ten years, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the current status, age and operational condition of existing passenger ships serving the Lakshadweep islands;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints/faced operational challenges due to shortage or aging of passenger vessels; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure adequate, safe and reliable passenger ship connectivity including any proposals for procurement of new passenger ships for residents and tourists in the said UT?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration (UTLA) has informed that it operates 05 all weather passengers ships and 06 High Speed Crafts (HSCs) fair weather vessels. All these are operational except one (MV Kavaratti) which is dry docked at present. These ships/ HSCs are operational since 10 – 18 years.

The details including current status of existing passenger ships serving in Lakshadweep Islands are as under :

Sl. No.	Name of the Ship/ Vessel	Type of Ship	Capacity in pax.	Current Status
1.	MV Kavaratti	All Weather Passenger Ship	700	Dry Docked
2.	MV Corals	All Weather Passenger Ship	400	Operational
3.	MV Lagoons	All Weather Passenger	400	Operational

		Ship		
4.	MV Arabian Sea	All Weather Passenger Ship	250	Operational
5.	MV Lakshadweep Sea	All Weather Passenger Ship	250	Operational
6.	HSC Parali	High Speed Craft	150	Operational
7.	HSC Valiyapani	High Speed Craft	150	Operational
8.	HSC Cheriyanpani	High Speed Craft	150	Operational
9.	HSC Skipjack	High Speed Craft	50	Operational
10.	HSC Blue Marlin	High Speed Craft	50	Operational
11.	HSC Black Marlin	High Speed Craft	50	Operational

Efforts made in the past to acquire new ships by construction/ chartering of vessels could not materialize owing to issues like high capital expenditure, long gestation period involved in shipbuilding, evolving operational requirements and specific operational constraints such as open sea conditions, lack of berthing facilities in most islands and requirement of specialized all weather vessels. UTLA is now acquiring a vessel of 1200 Pax. being constructed at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi with suitable modification.
