

Need to expedite repairing and maintenance work of passenger ships used for transportation in Lakshadweep-Laid

SHRI HAMDULLAH SAYEED (LAKSHADWEEP): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of the people of Lakshadweep. Lakshadweep, a clutter of islands, relies heavily on the sea for connectivity to the mainland. The recent limitation of passenger ship services has caused immense distress among its residents. According to the published ship schedule, only one ship is currently available for transportation. Out of Five Passenger Ships, 3 ships are already in the dock for repair and maintenance. The fourth one is on its way for annual survey and maintenance that leaving only one Ship with 250 passenger capacity for service. There are thousands of commuters already stranded in Mainland waiting for Ship conveyance. This inadequacy in transportation has disrupted the daily lives of the islanders. Basic necessities such as food supplies, medical aid, and educational materials are delayed, leading to significant inconvenience. The economic activities of the islands have also been severely impacted. The limited ship service is not just an inconvenience, it is a direct threat to the social, economic, and emotional well-being of the people of Lakshadweep. I strongly urge the Government to expedite the repair and maintenance of the four ships namely MV Kavaratti, MV Corals, M.V Lagoon and M.V Lakshadweep Sea, that are currently in dock and bring them back into service at the earliest to restore normalcy, to meet the urgent demands of the islanders and ensure a reliable and consistent schedule for these services so that residents can plan their travel without undue hardships. I would urge the Government to invest in long-term solutions such as acquiring more vessels or exploring alternative modes of transportation. The people of Lakshadweep have a right to seamless connectivity, just as every citizen of this Nation does. Let us ensure that their voices are heard and their concerns addressed without delay. I humbly request the Government to act promptly to alleviate this crisis.