

Regarding need to upgrade infrastructure, promote cargo, passenger and cruise ship services in Kollam Port in Kerala-Laid

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Kollam Port is one of the oldest ports in the country and has an immigration check-post facility, but its infrastructure is inadequate to meet present needs. A coastal shipping project was launched; however, it has not delivered the required outcomes. Several major shipping companies have shown interest in operating from Kollam Port, and it has been established that large foreign vessels can safely operate from this port. Kollam Port is strategically located and is the nearest port to the southern part of Lakshadweep, making it ideal for cargo services to Lakshadweep and Maldives. There is also strong potential for passenger and cruise ship services from Kollam Port. Despite this strategic and commercial potential, the port has not received adequate attention for development. I urge the Government to take immediate steps to upgrade infrastructure, promote cargo, passenger, and cruise ship operations, and fully utilise Kollam Port in a time-bound manner.

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14.01 hrs