

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3083
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2005
OURLIVED SHIP
Koya Dr. P. Pookunhi

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a passenger ship namely MV Tipu Sultan operated by the Shipping Corporation of India for Lakshadweep Administration to carry passengers between Islands and Mainland;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this ship has outlived normal life of the ship and is in operation after getting re-fitment certificate;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the number of times this ship has undergone major and minor repair resulting in cancellation of scheduled voyages during the last two years; and
- (f) the number of days the ship was under repair and it was available for service during the above period?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M.V.Tipusultan is an all weather vessel with passenger capacity of 658 which was built in 1982 in Greece and resumed operation after modifications on 23-9-1988.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The ship was built in the year 1982 in Greece as a vehicle carrier. The ship was purchased by the Government of India in the year 1988 and after suitable modification and re-fitment in the superstructure for passenger carrying, the ship was taken over by the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration and resumed operation in September, 1988. This ship has already served its economic life and accordingly the same was to be phased out by year 2003-04. However, the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration could not withdraw this ship from service for want of a suitable replacement. At present the ship is being operated after carrying out annual repairs and maintenance every year.

(e) The vessel was repaired once each during 2003-04 and 2004-05 as per its annual dry docking repair schedule and has been repaired twice during 2005-06 till date.

(f) During the year 2003-04, the vessel remained in the dry dock for 101 days and was available for service for 264 days whereas during the year 2004-05 the vessel was laid for 85 days for repairs/dry dock and was available for service for 288 days. During the year 2005-06 till date the ship was laid for repair/dry dock for 168 days and was available for service only for 82 days.