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Title: Regarding the decision of Lakshdweep administration to stop the transportation of cargo materials from Calicut.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY(BAHARAMPUR): Madam Chairperson, I would like to inform your goodself that the transportation of cargo materials including essential commodities like rice, sugar, foodgrains etc., and building materials like cement, brick, steel, and furniture are all transported to Lakshadweep from Calicut port, Kerala and Mangalore port, Karnataka since times immemorial.

Madam, Lakshadweep is a geographically isolated far-flung Union Territory which is directly administered by the Union Government. Lakshadweep is solely dependent on Calicut port, Kerala and Mangalore Port because everything is transported to Lakshadweep. It is learnt that the Lakshadweep Administration has taken an initiative to completely stop the transportation of the above-mentioned items from Calicut to Lakshadweep and proposes to replace it with only Mangalore port, Karnataka. This action by the Lakshadweep Administration would completely cut off the southern group of islands from the nearest port in Calicut in Kerala bringing hardship to the southern islands, namely Amini, Kavarrati, Kalpeni and Minicoy. This would also result in loss of economic opportunity and employment and would ultimately increase the cost of transportation of the above-mentioned items to the islands and consequently the end product at the island would be sold at higher prices than the MRP.

That is why, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this matter so that the Administrator of Lakshadweep reconsiders his decision that is going to be implemented right now. Shri Bipin Rawat has told in a recent interview that Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep should be treated as places where aircraft carriers should be used. If it is to be treated as a place for use of aircraft carrier, first of all, peace and tranquillity should be maintained in those areas.