

&gt;

Title: Request to government not to transfer the shipping sector for Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited (LDCL) to shipping corporation of India.

**SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P. (LAKSHADWEEP):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a request to change my subject. Kindly consider.

**माननीय अध्यक्ष:** ठीक है, आपको शिपिंग सेक्टर के बारे में बोलना है।

**SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P. (LAKSHADWEEP):** Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise this matter of urgent public importance.

Sir, shipping is the life line of the people of Lakshadweep. At present, four passenger ships are kept idle without operating. In addition to that, a very big ship, MV Kavaratti, which can carry 700 passengers, is also laid up due to an unexpected fire in the starboard side engine. So, that ship is also not operational. Here, I must congratulate the efforts taken by the Master, Officers and Crews of that ship to extinguish the fire. Otherwise, it would have been a big disaster for the entire country because it was carrying 620 passengers on board. But that ship is also laid up for the last 15 days in Andrott island waters without even taking it for maintenance.

Now, four to five major ships are not operational. The students who were supposed to appear for the CTET examination and patients who need specialised treatments are all stranded at Lakshadweep due to non-availability of ships. When I enquired the reason why all these five

ships were not operating, they gave lame excuses. They said that there is no docking facility at Cochin Shipyard. But that is not the real reason. The real reason here is that the funds required for the operation of the ships, to the Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited which is a public sector undertaking, is not being given by the UTL Administration. That is a fact.

Now, the second issue is why they are doing that. They have a special motive to shift the operations of shipping sector from Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited to Shipping Corporation of India. This is a very dangerous situation. There are about 3,000 families which are directly employed in the shipping sector. If the operations of the shipping sector are going to be transferred to the Shipping Corporation of India, there is no guarantee for jobs for those people.

Sir, both are public sector undertakings

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Hanuman Beniwal-ji

**SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:** Sir, I am just concluding. This is a very important issue. I am the lone MP from Lakshadweep. Please give me some more time.

Sir, from the managerial point of view, the cost of operation charged by the LDCL is just 2.5 per cent whereas the Shipping Corporation of India is charging 13 per cent as cost of operation. I do not know what is the logic behind transferring of these ships. The LDCL has gained a lot of experience in the shipping sector.

In conclusion, if such a dangerous decision is taken by the Administration, it would be a dangerous move. So, I would like to know

from the Home Minister and the Shipping Minister whether any such proposal has been received.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Shri Hanuman Beniwal-ji.

**SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:** Sir, just give me one minute.

**HON. SPEAKER:** No 'one minute'.

**SHRI MOHAMMED FAIZAL P.P.:** Sir, there is just one last point.

So, Sir, my humble submission and request to the Home Minister and the Shipping Minister is that any such decision, which has far reaching consequences, should not be allowed to be taken in a hasty manner. It requires a lot of thinking process.

So, I would urge upon the Government to give directions to the UTL Administration to stop any such move so that the above elucidated issue could be taken care of well, and also request the hon. Speaker to constitute a special committee to evaluate the unscientific administrative reforms. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Shri Hanuman Beniwal-ji