

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SHIPPING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2314  
ANSWERED ON:27.08.2012  
FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA  
Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B.

**Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the ferry service between India and Sri Lanka is likely to be resumed for tourism, business, pilgrimage and education purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN)

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): A Memorandum of Understanding on Passenger transportation by sea was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 7th January, 2011 for developing friendly relations and strengthening cooperation which would be mutually beneficial to the economic, social and cultural advancement of the two countries. The Memorandum of Understanding envisages commencement of passenger ferry services between the ports of Tuticorin and Colombo and between Rameswaram and Thalaimannar in the two countries. The passenger ferry service between Tuticorin and Colombo and vice-versa which was launched on 13th June, 2011 has been suspended since 18.11.2011.

(c): The V.O. Chidambaranar Port is initiating the process of selecting a new vessel operator through competitive bidding for resuming the ferry service between Tuticorin and Colombo. The ferry service will be resumed on completion of the re-tendering process.