

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5045
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015
INDIA SRI LANKA FERRY SERVICES
Maragatham Smt. K.

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Sri Lanka are likely to resume ferry services between the two countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) if so, the timeframe by which the said services are likely to be resumed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a)&(b): A MoU was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 07 January, 2011 for operationalization of ferry services between Tuticorin and Colombo and between Rameswaram and Talaimannar.

Ferry service between Tuticorin to Colombo

In response to a request for Expression of Interest issued by V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust, Tuticorin a service operator has expressed interest in running the ferry service. Resumption of ferry service between Tuticorin and Colombo depends mainly on the Sri Lankan Authorities granting concession on Vessel Related Charges for the operators at Colombo Port.

Ferry service between Rameshwaram to Talaimannar

The ferry service between Rameshwaram to Talaimannar is dependent upon the reconstruction of the Talaimannar Pier on the Sri Lankan side. The reconstruction of the Talaimannar Pier is to be undertaken by IRCON International Limited as part of the rehabilitation of the Northern Railway Line in Sri Lanka, being implemented under an Indian Line of Credit. The Sri Lankan Ministry of Transport is yet to give permission for reconstruction of Talaimannar Pier.