

Title: Regarding Passenger's Ferry Service from Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu to Talaimannar, Sri Lanka.

**SHRI P. MOHAN (MADURAI)** : Tuticorin port town in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu is traditionally important a port that has provided cultural and trade links down the centuries. People from the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu have been carrying goods and vegetables even on a daily basis to Colombo from the Tuticorin port. Passenger traffic and goods movement between the Indian mainland and the island nation have always been there. It is the second largest port in Tamil Nadu. But there is no regular ferry service between Colombo and Tuticorin. One of the great freedom fighters from Tamil Nadu V.O. Chidambaram established a Navigation Company operating shipping service between Colombo and Tuticorin. As early as in 1905 he started this shipping company operating passenger ferry service to the annoyance of Britishers. For this patriotic move he received overwhelming support from the public that they preferred to travel by Swadeshi Shipping Company of VOC ignoring the economical service offered by the Britishers. So, the Britishers punished him under anti-State activities with two jail sentences of twenty years each to be put in prisons of archipelago. Considering the need of the people, and considering the cultural and economic ties it could build up and also in commemoration of the great freedom fighter VOC a daily ferry service must be operated between Tuticorin and Colombo to carry passengers and goods to revive the past glory. This will also promote tourism.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P.C. Thomas, you have give notices on two issues. You can speak only on one issue. You may choose between the two subjects – need to set up a new Railway zone in South India or need to ban the non-recognised nursing colleges in the country.