

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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*Thursday, December, 4, 1986/
Agrahayana, 13, 1908 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MEMBER SWORN

SHRI M.Y. GHORPADE (Raichur)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

**Suspension of Shipping Service
between port Blair and Calcutta**

*448. SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA : Will the Minister of SURFACE
TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the shipping service
between Port Blair and Calcutta has been
suspended ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

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(c) whether any alternative arrange-
ment has been made to run passenger
service from Calcutta ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT
(SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) The
Passenger shipping service from Calcutta
to Port Blair has been temporarily
suspended till Dec. '86 due to the very
low drafts in the Hooghly river.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However steps
have been initiated to explore the possibi-
lity of using Diamond Harbour anchorage
as an alternative to Calcutta Port in the
long run.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :
Though the hon. Minister is a good friend
of mine, he was not very kind while
replying to this question. The shipping
services between Calcutta and Port Blair
are a historic one, because right from the
beginning when Andamans were colonized
—from those days— and right from
the penal settlement days, the shipping
services continue to run till date. Only in
1986 this time, it was found that water
draft was so less that the passenger services
could not run. Not only that. Before
taking such a crucial decision, the Shipping
Corporation never bothered to discuss with
the Andaman & Nicobar Administration,
that this situation has come about, and
what should be the alternative arrangements