

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SHIPPING  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5437**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019

**MoU BETWEEN INDIA AND MALDIVES FOR PASSENGER AND CARGO  
SERVICES**

5437. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
DR. HEENA GAVIT:  
DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:  
DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:  
SHRI KULDEEP RAI SHARMA:  
SHRI DHANUSH M. KUMAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

पोत परिवहन मंत्री

- (a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives for establishment of passenger and cargo services has been signed and if so, the details and targets/objectives thereof;
- (b) the extent to which it is likely to boost passenger and cargo transportation by sea between two countries;
- (c) the main area of cooperation between the two countries and the extent to which the said MoU is likely to benefit India;
- (d) the time by which the MoU will be implemented along with the present status thereof; and
- (e) whether India has proposed ferry service with Maldives to promote people to people contact and if so, the details thereof along with the manner in which it is likely to boost and help A&N Islands in business and tourism?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR SHIPPING  
(SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)

- (a) Yes Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Passenger and Cargo Services between India and Maldives was signed on June 8, 2019 in Male to improve people to people contact by providing an alternate, direct and less expensive means for transport of people and goods.

(b)& (c) The MoU has been signed for advancement of economic, social and cultural ties between the two countries. The MoU envisages a regular Passenger and Cargo ferry service between Kochi and Male/ Kulhudhuffushi in Maldives or any other ports mutually agreed. Connectivity between India and Male by sea would help to promote inbound tourism, particularly health and wellness tourism.

(d) A feasibility study is being undertaken to ascertain the trade/ cargo potential, infrastructure/ superstructure facilities, vessel deployment & service pattern etc. Based on the findings of the feasibility study, further action would be taken.

(e) Yes Sir. The MoU signed between the two countries envisages a regular passenger and cargo ferry service between Kochi and Male/Kulhudhuffushi in Maldives or any other ports mutually agreed. Connectivity between India and Male by sea would help to promote inbound tourism, particularly health and wellness tourism. The proposed ferry service, however, does not envisage calling at Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

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