

**Sea route transportation between Rameshwaram to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka**

1793. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has got the clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs for restoring sea route transportation of passengers and goods from Rameshwaram to Talaimannar in Sri Lanka and from Tutucorin to Colombo; and

(b) if so, whether any date has been fixed from both countries to inaugurate historical transport, as happened 25 years ago?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) A draft Memorandum of Understanding with Government of Sri Lanka regarding operationalisation of ferry service between Rameshwaram & Talaimannar and Tuticorin & Colombo is under consideration of this Ministry on which comments of Ministry of Home Affairs are awaited.

(b) No, Sir.

**Capacity for major ports in Gujarat**

1794. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that many ports including Dahej, Veraval, Mangrol and Porbandar in Gujarat have the capacity to become a major port;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has any plan to make a major port out of any such port of the State; and

(d) if so, by when the work will commence in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) to (d) The Government of India declares ports to be major ports under the relevant sections of the Indian Ports Act, 1908 or Major Port Trust Act, 1963 based on the potential for future development and strategic importance of the concerned port keeping national perspective in view.

The Government has no plan to make a Major Port out of any such port of the State of Gujarat.