

(b) if so, whether it includes passenger and cargo services from both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Sri Lanka on 7th January, 2011, both countries agreed to commence passenger service between Rameswaram and Thalaimannar in the two countries.

Strength of Indian Maritime University

1356. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the sanctioned strength of the Indian Maritime University;
- (b) the present strength;
- (c) whether there is any shortage; and
- (d) if so, whether there is any proposal to fill up the shortage of faculty members?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The sanctioned strength of the Indian Maritime University is 739 and present strength is 487.

(c) and (d) Presently the shortage is managed by engaging Visiting faculty. In order to meet the urgent requirements of faculty, recruitment process has been initiated.

Enrolment of OBC

1357. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) total percentage of Other Backward Class (OBC) students currently enrolled in IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and all the Central Universities;
- (b) percentage of OBC students among new entrants in these institutions in the year 2009-10 and 2010-11; and
- (c) steps taken by the Ministry to fulfil all OBC seats in these elite institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misuse of SC/ST Act

†1358. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.