

**Launching of Rocket by North Korea**

‡4544. SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether North Korea has launched a rocket despite international opposition;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the above launch has created any security threat;
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government on this launch;
- (e) whether this launch is a violation of international laws; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (f) Yes. DPRK attempted to launch an “application satellite” on 13th April, 2012. The launch ended in failure. India voiced its serious concern at the attempted launch of a rocket by the DPRK since it violated United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874 and adversely impacted peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

**Sea route between India and Sri Lanka**

4545. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the two sea routes proposed to be established between Tamil Nadu in India and Sri Lanka to boost trade and tourism have been opened;
- (b) if not, the reasons for delay in establishing these sea routes; and
- (c) the new date for opening these routes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Sri Lanka on 7th January 2011 to commence passenger services between the ports of Tuticorin and Colombo and between Rameswaram and Talaimannar.

The Tuticorin-Colombo ferry services commenced on 13th June, 2011. The services, however, have been temporarily suspended due to technical reasons from 18th November 2011.

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‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.