

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3823
ANSWERED ON 05/04/2022

PASSENGER SHIP SERVICE TO LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS

3823. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:

Will the Minister of PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in the number of passenger ship services to Lakshadweep Islands;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) if not, the details of number of passenger ship services and number of passengers towards various islands of Lakshadweep, year-wise for the last five years; and
- (d) whether Government is considering to increase the number of passenger ships towards Lakshadweep Islands as per the demand?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
(SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There are 15 number of passenger ship (05 all weather passenger cum cargo ships, 02 fair weather passenger cum cargo ships and 08 fair weather inter-island high speed crafts) available under Lakshadweep Administration for catering the services of movement of passengers and cargo in the islands of Lakshadweep. The details of last five years of number of passengers towards various islands of Lakshadweep are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Passengers
1.	2016-2017	369155
2.	2017-2018	368905
3.	2018-2019	410177
4.	2019-2020	393485
5.	2020-2021*	164586
6.	2021-2022*	256370

*For some months in the years indicated, passenger travel was restricted owing to COVID-19 restrictions as per guidelines from competent authorities.

(d) The Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration (UTLA) has recently requested Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) to assess the market for a suitable passenger vessel for chartering in Lakshadweep Islands on wet lease basis.
