

118

Shri. Pradeep Singh, Commn-cum-Secretary (Shipping) stated that MV Shompen has been procured under separate scheme for tribal contacts. As such, it cannot be deployed for any other purpose but keeping in view the urgency, it was sent to Nicobar District to solve Shipping problems. But now it has been called back and stationed at Port Blair because already 02 vessels are there. In addition, 03 more vessels are likely to come to Port Blair very shortly. The trials of 03 vessels are already over at Pondicherry. The shipping problem today is due to delay in delivery by 2 to 3 years by the manufacturing /ship building companies. MV Baratang and MV Rangat was sent late to Nancowry, because it was kept at Port Blair for Air conditioning. The DSS confirmed that the 06 Nos vessels meant for Nicobar District @ 2 each at Car Nicobar, Nancowry & Campbell Bay will be stationed there as per earlier policy decision. But only 03 vessels have come out of 06. As soon as remaining 03 vessels will come, it will be sent to Nicobar District.

Shri. Ebrahim Ali Hussain, Member stressed the ships meant for Nicobar Districts should be deployed and stationed there only and should not run somewhere else.

Meanwhile Shri. BP Ray, Hon'ble MP requested to station MV Shompen at Nicobar District of Kamorta.

The Director of Shipping Services informed that MV Shompen is not meant for Nicobar District and for passenger traffic. It is a tribal contact ship. Hence it cannot be diverted. Moreover, it is a replacement of MV Milale. However, 5 to 6 vessels are likely to arrive at Port Blair by December this year which are under different stages of construction.

Shri. Mani Mohan Biswas, Member told that MV Dering is going to Hut Bay but it is not taking Cargo either from Port Blair or from Hut Bay. As such, the farmers are facing difficulties in selling their produce. Earlier, M.V Sentinal is to ply upto Campbell Bay via Hut Bay. During which, the farmers used to take their produce/vegetables to Car Nicobar, Katchal, Kamorta and Campbell Bay and sell it but the MV Dering return back to Port Blair from Hut Bay only. That's why, they are not able to sell their produce. Shri. Raj Kumar Sharma asked to procure hovercraft but the DSS told that it is not feasible in A & N Islands due to cyclonic weather.

Meanwhile, the Hon'ble MP asked Smti. Kumari Raghavan, Shri. Ebrahim Ali Hussain, Mani Mohan Biswas and Raj Kumar Sharma to meet with the DSS at his chamber and discuss the local issues related to these areas.

Scheme No. 2 : The Hon'ble MP pointed out at page No. Q-10, the 200 PAX vessel should be converted to 250 PAX vessel, in which 200 Bunks and 50 Cabins should be available. Further, he accepted for 150 Passenger Harbour Cruise Vessels.

In addition, the Hon'ble MP asked to provide speed Boat ferry services from Long Island to Yerrata, Mayabunder to Parangara, Mayabunder to Hanspuri, Kalighat to Jagannathdera etc. Further, the MP added that the Minister for Surface Transport (MOST) has advised to keep the money at Bank and release money as per the stages completed. The Secretary accepted it is a good advice and will be taken into account in near future while making contract with the ship building companies.

The Hon'ble MP told that he has seen the EFC notes of catamarans. It is written that it will ply in both routes i.e. from Port Blair to Campbell Bay and Port Blair to Diglipur for improvement of inter Islands shipping services and it will be run on no profit no loss basis and it is meant for Islanders only. It also appeared in HMAC Minutes.