

Casinos on Indo-Lanka ferry service

Posted by Sri Lanka Guide - 2011/04/05 11:14

Passengers on the Indo-Lanka ferry service, scheduled to go into operation soon, will have the opportunity of taking a fling in a casino or visiting other entertainment spots on the vessel. Sri Lanka Shipping Corporation Managing Director Manohari de Silva said that all arrangements had been made for the ferry service between the Ports of Tuticorin and Colombo to commence soon after the Sinhala and Hindu New Year. "The ferry service would be a boon to Buddhist pilgrims to Buddha Gaya as the vessel will have 186 cabins outside and 134 inside. Each economy class passenger, who would have to pay an average of Rs. 10,000 for the round trip, will be allowed 100 kg of baggage free of charge."

Sri Lanka Ports Authority Chairman Dr. Priyath Bandu Wickrema has taken action to ensure that the Old Passenger Jetty at the Port of Colombo will be given a face lift so that it may meet the present-day needs of the passengers. The Customs and Immigration and Emigration posts and branches of state banks have been set up at the Jetty.

The Sri Lanka Shipping Corporation has made arrangements for passengers to gather outside the Port of Colombo and for a special shuttle bus service to carry them to the Jetty. Mrs de Silva said that an agreement had already been signed between Flamingo Shipping Lines in Tuticorin and the Sri Lanka Shipping Corporation for the Indian counterpart to deploy a vessel that would have the capacity to ferry 1,044 passengers, cargo and 200 vehicles during each voyage.

Facilities have been made to operate speciality restaurants, Duty Free shops, casinos and other entertainment on board the vessel for the convenience of the passengers.

The vessel which had been chartered from the Indian company would initially make two voyages per week. Travelling at a speed of 16 knots it would take 8 to 10 hours to reach the Port of Tuticorin which is 153 nautical miles from Colombo. Arrangements had also been made to have interconnecting trains and luxury buses operating to destinations as far as Chennai, Madurai and Buddha Gaya, she said.

=====