ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
Ministerial Conference on Transport, Moscow, 5-9 December 2016

Name of speaker: (Mr.) (Ms.) A Palitha Samarasinghe
Country/Organization: Ministry of Transp. Sri Lanka

Please indicate the agenda item on which you wish to speak:
Agenda Item No: 9

If you have a prepared statement, the Secretariat would find it most useful if you could kindly provide us with a copy, preferably in electronic format or hardcopy (typed or handwritten), for use by those listed below:

Interpretation
Draft Report and Secretariat

Please indicate if you wish to have statement return to you: Yes [ ] No [ ]

Note: Please complete this form and hand it to one of the Conference Assistants on duty in the Conference Room, or to the Conference Officer at the desk in the Conference Room.
Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity.

As you know, Sri Lanka is an island 20 km away from India.

Between India and Sri Lanka, very good relationships are maintained irrespective of political and other policy changes.

We always respect each other's requirements.

As far as connectivity is concerned, the only way

In the senior officials segment we discussed about issues, problems and the way forward in providing connectivity to islands at sides.

Small Island Development Country
In that, six broad sets of issues have been identified such as: sustainable economic development,
sustainable energy,
Ocean, Sea & Biodiversity
have been identified & discussed

Since the connectivity to islands is case specific, the specific need to be taken up at export group levels.

Reference to Sri Lanka, Signed the Trans Asian Railway Network agreement in 2005,
and
The only way to have International connectivity for Sri Lanka is the bridge or ferry service from Talaimannar (Sri Lanka) to Rameshwaram (India).
- The restoration of ferry service has been included in the Ramu Asam Railway Agreement.

- To comply with the requirement, in order to comply with the agreement and in order to have international connectivity to Sri Lanka, the Talaimannar 100 km long rail line to Talaimannar has been fully reconstructed and is operational at present.

- The Talaimannar Pier which was operational for over 100 years needs to be reconstructed.
Funds were allocated for Talaimannar Railway line and for the Talaimannar Pier under an under the assistance from the Government of India. The Railway line (100 km) was completed in 2015, and the construction of Pier has temporarily been held pending, expecting readiness to be in the Indian side.

Similar exercise to construct needs to be carried out at the Indian end at Rameshwaram too.

This will be done, and both India & Sri Lanka is having dialog regarding momentum of the Ferry Service.
In addition, within Sri Lanka, Railways Network is being expanded and we are in the process of rehabilitating and improving the average speed from 30 km/hr to 100 km/hr.

Rehab has been given to the Jaffna & Talaimannar Lines. Electrification too is getting materialised in Sri Lanka and the Design phase will begin in March-2017. In this process, we will consider the standardisation requirement.

Regarding Road Network, expansion rehabilitation to Rural Roads and Expressway feeder Roads is being done.
- Extension to the existing
  Southern expressway has begun
- The last phase of the Colombo
  Circular expressway also has
  begun
- Project for
  The Central expressway deviates
  from Circular expressway has
  also begun and is in the design
  stage. This is being funded by
  ADB & JICA.

- The Central Expressway which
  is will provide North-South
  connectivity inside Sri Lanka, will
  provide International Connectivity
  through intermodal operations
  and railcar -

- High Bridge
Above explains -

Furthermore, Sri Lanka's readiness in the International Connectivity

We, Sri Lanka, being to express our gratitude to UN ESCAP in all the endeavors taken up by them in providing international connectivity and in developing sustainable transport in Small Island Developing Countries include Sri Lanka.