

[20 November, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) Various steps have been taken by the Government for early disposal of pending cases including cases pending in Women Courts. These include increase in Judge strength, establishment of Special Courts/Tribunals, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates, adoption of alternative mods of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation and recourse to summary trials.

Proposal for Privatisation of Shipping Corporation of India

95. SHRIANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to privatise Shipping Corporation of India (SCI);

(b) if so, the areas of SCI proposed to be privatised;

(c) whether the Disinvestment Ministry has consulted his Ministry in that regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Government have decided, in principle, to disinvestment further 40% of its equity in Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). The modalities of disinvestment are being worked out by Ministry of Disinvestment in consultation with this Ministry.

(d) Proposal has not been firmed up.

Current Share of Inland Water Ways Transport

96. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that current share of Inland Waterways Transport (IWT) is merely 1.5 billion tonnes Km. as compared to total inland Cargo of over 1,000 billion tonnes Km. inspite of the fact that India has an extensive network of 15,000 Km. waterways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government for upgradation of infrastructure in the sector and increase the IWT?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL):

(a) to (c) According to National Transport Policy Committee Report (1980) India has about 14,500 Km of navigable inland waterways out of which about 5700 Km are suitable for navigation by mechanized craft. Three waterways namely the Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara canals totaling 2176 km in length have been declared as National Waterways. Basic level infrastructural facilities for shipping and navigation are being provided in these waterways. Besides there is cargo movement in Goa and Mumbai inland waterways. Shifts of cargo from developed modes viz. rail and road to IWT would take place only after the inland waterways are developed with adequate infrastructure namely fairway, terminals and night navigational aids, and cargo vessels are operated by public or private carriers in a substantial manner. Actions for providing these facilities, including private sector participation in IWT, are in hand.

Techno economic feasibility studies for assessing the potential/ navigability have been conducted on more waterways. With a view to giving an impetus to IWT sector and to encourage private sector participation in IWT infrastructure development and ownership and operation of inland vessels, the Government has approved an IWT policy in January, 2001. Several policy measures and incentives to private sector have been included in this Policy.

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Organisations

† 97. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of SOCIAL, JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial assistance is being provided to voluntary organizations engaged in social work;

(b) the number of organizations in each State of the country to whom financial assistance has been provided during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 alongwith the extent of assistance provided to them; and

(c) the areas in which these organizations are working?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL, JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

† Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.