

routes under Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol between India and Bangladesh this National Waterway is connected with Haldia and Kolkata ports. The infrastructure is up-graded from time to time based on demand.

(c) There is no port or place with the name of Dhulori of this National Waterway. However, Dhubri town in Assam is situated on this waterway and IWAI has provided one floating pontoon with crane for mechanical handling of cargo at Dhubri. The floating pontoon with bamboo approach jetty is operational at Dhubri also.

Modernization of major ports in Tamil Nadu

3499. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to modernize the major ports in Tamil Nadu; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount allocated therefor, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) As per ongoing National Maritime Development Programme, the Government has planned to modernize all the major ports of the country including the major ports located in Tamil Nadu. This programme, *inter-alia*, includes deepening of channels, construction/upgradation of new berths/terminals through public private participation, mechanization of cargo handling facilities including replacement of old equipments, rail road connectivity.

During Eleventh Five Year Plan, the funds allocated to Chennai, Tuticorin and Ennore Ports are Rs. 1254.79 crores, Rs. 1448.20 crores and Rs. 1277.74 crores respectively.

Illegal import of banned materials

3500. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that banned materials are illegally imported into our country;
- (b) if so, the details of the banned materials imported illegally including arms, rocket sheells, medicines, bombs and electronic waste at various ports during each of the last three years and the current year, port-wise;
- (c) the action taken to check such violations;
- (d) whether Government proposes to install scanners at all ports to ensure detection of these items; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Port-wise details of the banned materials imported illegally at various ports during each of the last three years and the current year are as under:—