

Inland water transport in Kerala

1947. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for development of inland water transport for the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government has any plans to revive the CSS which was dropped by the Planning Commission in 2007; and

(c) if so, whether steps are being taken to revive these CSSs?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In Tenth Plan (April, 2002 to March, 2007) there was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of Inland Water Transport (IWT). In this scheme grant of 100% to North Eastern States and 90% to other States was provided by the Central Government to the respective States for development of IWT. This scheme has been discontinued from 1.4.2007 after review by the Planning Commission. For North Eastern Region, however, this has been classified as a Central Sector Scheme. Other States have been informed that the development of inland waterways may appropriately be taken up in the Annual Plans of the States by providing suitable allocations of IWT sector.

Waiver of OBC quota in IITs

1948. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) are demanding waiver of OBC quota in some selected courses;

(b) if so, the details of the IITs which have been demanding for waiver of OBC quota;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the demand is contrary to the provisions of the Central Educational Institutions Act; and

(d) if so, what is the response of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) There has been a suggestion that while increasing the overall number of seats by 54% in an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), to give effect of implementation of OBC reservation, increase in the number of seats in individual disciplines may not be insisted upon, but may be decided by taking into account the popularity, demand and importance of the disciplines. The issue is being considered in consultation with the Ministry of Law and Justice.