

### Ports in Orissa

†152. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry is aware that many ports in Orissa have the capacity to become a major port;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has any plan to make a major port out of any port of the State; and
- (d) if so, by when the work will commence in this direction?

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

(c) and (d) There is no proposal so far received from Government of Orissa regarding development of any Major Port out of any Non-Major Port of the State.

### Connectivity of major ports

153. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any exclusive infrastructure exists to connect all the major ports which are spread out throughout the length and breadth of the country to enable the swift movement of goods being handled at these ports;
- (b) if so, the details about connectivity existing between major ports; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore, in view of the escalating cost of construction materials?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) At present, no exclusive infrastructure exists to connect all the Major Ports. However, National Highways System is linked to all Major Ports directly or through the port city roads while the Port Railways are also linked to the National Railway System. Hence, cargo can be moved between Major Port through the Railways and Highways.

### Development of inland water ports in Assam

154. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for development of all the inland water ports in Assam in view of their present conditions; and
- (b) if so, the details of action plan taken thereon and the amount to be invested, port-wise and enhanced capacity of the ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) and (b) The inland water ports which fall under the National Waterway No. 2 viz. Dhubri-Sadiya stretch of river Brahmaputra are developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India, a

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.