

(a) whether his Ministry have received any proposals from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of inland waterways and inland water transport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the complete details of such proposals;

(c) the details of the impediments in timely clearance of these proposals; and

(d) by when these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) A proposal for conducting survey and techno-economic feasibility study for development of inland waterways in Andhra Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 75 lakhs was received from the State Government during March, 2005 for sanction under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS). The proposal envisaged survey and techno-economic feasibility study of following canals of the State:—

- (i) Backwaters of River Gowtami Godavari—50km
- (ii) Gannavaram Bank canal (Rajahmundry to Sakinetipalli)—90 kms
- (iii) Amalapuram canal (Rajahmundry to Amalapuram)—80 kms
- (iv) Kotipalli Bank canal (Rajahmundry to Yanam)—90kms
- (v) Samalkota canal (Rajahmundry to Kakinada)—65kms
- (vi) Korangi canal (Rajahmundry to Kakinada)—90kms
- (vii) Machilipatnam canal (Vijayawada to Machilipatnam)—80 kms
- (viii) Ryves canal (Vijayawada to Kaikaluri)—100 kms

This project has been sanctioned. As reported by the State Government, the study has been awarded to a consultant and it is in progress.

Modernisation of Directorate General of Shipping

2675. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any effort to include the modernization and updating of the Directorate General (DG) of Shipping under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP);

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(b) whether it is a fact that procedures and practices and out moded work ethic and time wasting delays are endemic and in-build in the work related to Mercantile Marine Department (MMD);

(c) in what way Government have brought in fresh ideas and initiated robust disciplinary mechanisms to make the MMD efficient, modern and progressive; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase expansion of MMD to give short term relief to small companies and small entrepreneurs?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Government has opened two new regional offices at Cochin and Kandla and three new district level offices at New Mangalore, Paradip and Haldia of Mercantile Marine Department in September, 2005. Several steps have been initiated to modernize and streamline the functioning of the Mercantile Marine Departments which have been reoriented to shift focus from the role of regulator to facilitator: Part of statutory functions has been delegated to the recognized organizations and E-Governance has been introduced to further streamline various statutory functions discharged by Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs). In addition, the workload generated by the expanding marine training has been reviewed in order to streamline and systematize the work of inspections, approvals, admissions and examinations to ensure transparency, responsibility and maintenance of the higher standards of quality by technological up-gradations. The Right to Information Act has been implemented in letter and spirit thereby ensuring greater transparency to public. There is a well laid down redressal mechanism which include on line submission of grievances directly to the Directorate General of Shipping. Besides, Citizen's Charter has been displayed on the website. Customer friendly forms have been developed and are available on the website. Most of the services could be availed by online submission of forms. A quality Management system has been established for functions of the organization relating to examinations with the aim of providing reliable service to the shipping industry. The Examination and Assessment Branch of the Directorate has also obtained ISO 9001:2000 certification.