

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

statutory body under the Ministry of Shipping. A low level jetty for handling containers has been commissioned at Pandu (Guwahati) and a high level jetty is presently under construction. Floating terminals exist at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Tejpur, Jamuguri, Neamati and Dibrugarh. Four floating cranes and two shore cranes have been provided for mechanical handling of cargo at these terminals. During the Tenth Plan period, an amount of Rs. 95.91 crores have been spent for setting up and maintenance of various river ports/terminals on National Waterway No. 2.

The stretches of waterway of Assam which do not form part of national waterway come under the purview of State Government of Assam. During the Tenth Plan, Government of Assam was sanctioned an amount of Rs. 14.83 crores for development of inland waterways including setting up of terminals.

Opening of office of DG-Shipping at Visakhapatnam

155. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the total tonnage handled at Visakhapatnam port in 2008-09 and in the 2009-10 fiscal year thus far;
- (b) whether it is a fact that total shipping activity in Andhra ports is increasing;
- (c) if so, what steps will be taken to locate a full-fledged office of the DG-Shipping at Visakhapatnam;
- (d) whether it is a fact that people in Andhra Pradesh have to access and visit Mumbai for all work connected with DG-Shipping; and
- (e) the steps proposed to bi-furcate the existing DG-Shipping office and locate one office in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Tonnage traffic handled at Port of Visakhapatnam is furnished hereunder:—

Year	Traffic (in MT)
2008-09	63.91
2009-10 (Upto January, 2010)	54.92

(b) So far as Visakhapatnam Port, the Major Port in Andhra Pradesh, is concerned, the total traffic increased from 55.80 MT in the year 2005-06 to 63.91 MT in the year 2008-09 and Total No. of Ships increased from 2071 in the year 2005-06 to 2347 in the year 2008-09.

(c) There is already a full fledged Mercantile Marine Department office at Visakhapatnam under D.G. Shipping. Hence, the question of taking steps to locate a full fledged office of D.G. Shipping does not arise.

(d) No, Sir. There is a full fledged office of Mercantile Marine Department in Visakhapatnam functioning under Surveyor-in-Charge which carries out a substantial number of functions related to the work connected with D.G. Shipping.

(e) There is no proposal to bi-furcate the D.G. Shipping.