

Brahmaputra as a National Waterway

2136. SHRI ROBIN KAKATI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to declare the river Brahmaputra as a National Waterway; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) River Brahmaputra is one of the rivers identified for being considered for declaration as a National Waterway. For this purpose hydrographic surveys and techno-economic feasibility studies of the Dhubri-Sadia stretch of the river Brahmaputra are proposed to be carried out.

Working results of the Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

2137. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the working results of the Cochin Shipyard Ltd. for the year 1980-81; and

(b) how does it compare with the working of the year 1979-80?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) The overall financial result of Cochin Shipyard Limited for the year 1980-81 has shown a profit of Rs. 2.88 crores as against a loss of Rs. 7.89 crores for the year 1979-80.

Development of Ponnani Port in Kerala

2138. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the major and minor ports in the Kerala State;

(b) whether it is a fact that Ponnani Port Kerala is a natural port and the same is not being used;

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to develop Ponnani Port in the near future, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) (i) Major Port-Cochin

(ii) Intermediate Ports:

- (1) Calicut/Beypore
- (2) Alleppey
- (3) Neendakara
- (4) Kovalam/Vizhingam

(ii) Minor Ports:

- (1) Kasargod
- (2) Azhikkhal
- (3) Cannanore
- (4) Tellicherry
- (5) Badagara
- (6) Ponnani
- (7) Azhikode
- (8) Quilon
- (9) Trivandrum

(b) The entry into the port is limited to vessels with a draught of 1.25 m at low water owing to the existence of a bar at the mouth of the river and hence it cannot be considered a natural port.

(c) The Central Government has no proposal to develop Ponnani Port.

(d) As per the decision of the National Development Council, development of minor ports is now the responsibility of the respective State Governments, funds for such developments are provided in the respective Plans.