

Uniform insurance policy for ports

1656. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is devising a uniform policy allowing major ports to go in for insurance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has drafted a policy that classified the risks in three different categories floating equipments which go to the sea, the on-ground port machinery and the third covers the loss of business due to any uncontrollable circumstances; and

(d) if so, whether the scheme will give great relief to the shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. No decision on Insurance policy has been taken by this Ministry.

Transportation in Ganga

1657. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is utilizing the infrastructure fully in inland water transport over river Ganga through Patna-Haldia and Patna-Varanasi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and revenue being generated through this inland water transportation in last two years;

(c) if not, whether Government has any plan to improve the infrastructure, so that the State generate revenue through this inland water transportation; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) to (d) Patna-Haldia and Patna-Varanasi stretches in river Ganga are part of the Haldia to Allahabad stretch which has been declared as a National Waterway and the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) undertakes development and maintenance of Inland Waterways Transport infrastructure namely, navigation channel, navigation aids and terminals thereon to facilitate shipping and navigation. Utilization of this infrastructure depends on the requirements of the actual users. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is collecting user charges for berthing of vessels, pilotage, movement of over dimensional cargo, hiring of vessels, fees under Indo-Bangladesh protocol on

inland water transit and trade and freight for transportation of cargo under demonstrative voyages by IWAI vessels. The charges collected for various services on this National Waterway during last two years are given below:

Year	
2008-09	Rs. 32.83 lakhs
2009-10	Rs. 94.22 lakhs

Maintenance and improvement of the infrastructure is a continuous process depending upon the demand from actual users of the waterway.

Ports capacity to handle increased traffic

1658. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the ports of India are incapable of handling the increasing marine traffic;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any special steps to control the increasing marine traffic;
- (c) whether Government is planning to set up new port; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) It is not true that Ports of India are incapable of handling the increasing Marine Traffic as the capacity of Indian Ports as on 31.3.2010 was 992.83 million tonnes (Major Ports - 616.73 million tonnes and Non-Major Ports 376.10 million tonnes), against which the traffic handled at Indian Ports was 849.89 million tonnes (Major Ports - 561.09 million tonnes and Non-Major Ports - 288.80 million tonnes).

(c) and (d) Yes. Sir, Government is planning to set up two Major Ports one each on East Coast and West Coast.

Ships hijacked by pirates

1659. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of merchant/cargo ships hijacked by the pirates on the international waters of the Indian Ocean during 2010;