

- (d) At present there is no proposal for providing tourist facility at these locations.

Artificial Harbours

1189. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of harbours in the country;
- (b) the position of Indian harbours, world-wise;
- (c) whether Government is planning to create artificial harbours with Public Private Partnership; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN) : (a) The total number of harbours (Ports) in the country is as under:-

Major Ports	Non-Major Ports
12	176

(b) Among the top 100 container handling ports of the world during 2010, the ports of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Chermi, Mundra in India stand at 30th position, 76th position and 97th position respectively.

(c) and (d) The Government has advised all the maritime states to explore the possibility to develop another port-cum-ship building centre in their States. The response in this regard from some of the States is awaited.

Indian Ships with Armed Guards

1190. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian ships passing through the Gulf of Aden are provided with armed guards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN) : (a) The Indian ship owners can deploy armed security guards, subject to their risk assessment.

(b) The Government has issued guidelines on Deployment of Armed Guards on Indian Merchant Ships on 29/8/2011. These guidelines provide the criteria for owners to contract private armed security guards for deployment on Indian merchant ships, where the owners desire to do so. Further, Indian Navy has been providing escort to all merchant ships transiting International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC), off the Gulf of Aden, since October, 2008.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase the Port Capacity

1191. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to increase port capacity in the coming years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is considering any proposal to modernise the existing major ports in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G. K. VASAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, sir. Government has identified 23 projects for award during 2011-12 to increase the capacity of major ports by 236.63 MTPA (Million Tons Per Annum) with an estimated investment of Rs. 16743.92 crores under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. The existing port capacity of Major Ports as on 31.3.2011 is 670.13 Million Tonnes (MT).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Government of India has given top priority to the modernization of ports through various expansion/upgradation projects for berths, construction of new berths/terminals, installation of new and modern equipment, upgradation/replacement through higher capacity of cargo handling equipments, mechanization of cargo handling operations, deepening of channels/berths etc. along with schemes for quicker evacuation of cargo through road and rail connectivity. Under National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP), 276 projects have been identified for mechanization and 69 have been completed.

(f) Does not arise.