

Development of inland waterways

2591. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has any plan to develop inland waterways;
- (b) whether the Inland Water Transport Corporation has formulated any plans for development of inland waterways; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MUKUL ROY): (a) to (c) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is responsible for regulation and development of National Waterways in the country for shipping and navigation. So far the following five waterways have been declared as National Waterways (NW).

- (i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (Allahabad-Haldia-1620 km)-NW-1, declared in 1986.
- (ii) River Brahmaputra (Dhubri - Sadiya - 891 Km) - NW-2 declared in 1988.
- (iii) West Coast Canal (Kottapuram - Kollam) along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals- (205 km) - NW-3 declared in 1993.
- (iv) Kakinada-Puducherry canals along with Godavari and Krishna rivers (1078 km) -NW-4 declared in 2008.
- (v) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta rivers (588 km) - NW-5 declared in 2008.

Action has been taken by IWAI for providing a navigable channel with adequate width and depth along with necessary infrastructure facilities like terminals and navigation aids in the first three National Waterways. Action has been initiated to develop commercially viable stretches of NW-4 and 5 under Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode through financial assistance of Asian Development Bank under the Pilot Project Initiative through Department of Economic Affairs.

Financial crisis of SCIL

†2592. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a public sector Navratna Company, Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCIL) is facing financial crisis;
- (b) if so, the reasons for suffering the loss suddenly while this company was making profit for the last 20 years;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.