

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.

- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to bail out this company; and
(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) is not in a financial crisis though its profitability has been impacted in the current financial year. Brief financials of SCI are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

	2009-10	2010-11	April-September 2011
Turnover	3896.33	4019.77	2121.14
Net Worth	6337.00	7168.13	7018.92
Net Profit After tax	376.91	567.35	(-)140.63
Cash Balance	2676.46	2466.74	1914.99

The shipping industry is in a recessionary phase and the freight rates are the lowest in all segments currently which has affected the financial performance of SCI in 2011-12.

(c) and (d) Since SCI has sufficient cash reserves, the need for bailing out the company does not arise.

Radiation Monitor Portals at ports

2593. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to install Radiation Monitor Portals (RMP) at all ports and entry points in the country to check junk material from abroad;
(b) if so, whether the steel junk which is imported by several companies are not properly scanned at ports resulting in entry of radiation material; and
(c) if so, to what extent the installation of RMP at ports will ensure safe import of junk material?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Shipping has decided to install Radiation Monitor Portals (RMP) in all the major ports in the country by 2012.

- (b) Presently there are no equipment to scan the imported scrap for radiation.
(c) Once the equipment are installed, all the consignments imported will be scanned for radioactive radiation.