

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has appointed a committee for the purpose to make recommendations in this direction;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of major obstacles coming in the way of such ports to exploit business potential; and
- (f) the status of completion of minor ports on the East Coast in the Odisha region?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) As per the provisions made in the Maritime Agenda, 2010-2020 a number of ambitious projects have been formulated for the major as well as non-major ports with a view to create capacity of more than 3 billion MT to meet the projected traffic requirement of around 2.5 billion MT. The proposals include creation of new berths, mechanisation of port handling plants, procurement of new equipment and increasing the draft levels at ports.

- (c) No such committee has been appointed.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.
- (f) As per Indian Ports Act, 1908, the development of non-major ports (minor ports) in Odisha come within the purview of Government of Odisha.

Increase in the Inland Water Transport

3832. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry has taken steps to increase Inland Water Transport (IWT);
- (b) how much IWT does India account for in comparison to other countries;
- (c) whether the Ministry has identified areas for further development of IWT; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has taken various steps to increase Inland Water Transport (IWT) including development of National Waterways and providing the required inland water transport infrastructure.

Further, for development of waterways of North Eastern Region, there is a central sector plan scheme under which 100% grant is provided by the Ministry of Shipping to the respective State Governments of the North East.

(b) Inland Water Transport (IWT) accounts for less than 1% modal share (in terms of tonne - km.) in India which is very little in comparison to some other countries.

(c) and (d) Government, as an ongoing exercise, identifies and considers proposals to declare various stretches of rivers as National Waterways, depending, *inter-alia*, on least available water depth, width of fairway, continuous stretch of the waterway and feasibility of developing the waterways on commercial basis.

Empowerment of Gujarat Maritime Board

3833. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:
SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the action that has been taken by Ministry on representation from State Government of Gujarat for their grievances regarding proposed port authority; and

(b) the action that has been taken by Ministry on empowerment to Gujarat Maritime Board for classification of vessels?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Representations have been received from some of the Maritime States including Gujarat expressing their reservation and concern over the Port Regulatory Authority Bill, 2011 contemplated by the Government. The draft of the bill is still under consideration and would be finalized taking into account the concerns and reservations expressed by the state Governments.

(b) Gujarat Maritime Board has been set up and funded by the State Government of Gujarat for development of Non-Major Ports and sectors related thereto in the State of Gujarat. Government of India has no role in this regard. Classification of vessels is done by independent and autonomous bodies called classification societies. There are several classification societies in the world including Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) which has its headquarters in Mumbai.

Grant-in-aid for senior citizens in Karnataka

3834. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had approached the