

**Estimation of losses due to delay in approval of port project**

615. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of investment due to inordinately long delays of port project approvals;

(b) the main reasons for the lack of a speedy project approval for ports; and

(c) the steps being taken to overcome the convoluted regulations for project approval?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The port projects are approved either by the Board of Trustees of the Major Ports or by the Government, depending upon the delegation of powers and extant Government instructions. The PPP projects are appraised and approved as per the procedure stipulated by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. Security clearances, Environmental clearances and CRZ clearances, if applicable, are also taken by following the due procedure prescribed by the Nodal Ministries for these clearances. Delays in approval of projects do not necessarily result in any loss of investment.

(c) To expedite the investment approval of PPP projects in the Port Sector, the Government has recently enhanced the delegation of power to the Shipping Ministry in line with the National Highways Development Projects of Road sector. Steps have also been taken to streamline security clearance procedures to expedite project approvals.

**Relaxation of cabotage regulation**

616. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken any decision to relax the Cabotage regulation for Vallarpadam Container Terminal recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.