

Increasing traffic at ports

2131. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that traffic at ports is growing day by day in the country;
- (b) if so, what is the average waiting time for the vessels on arrival; and
- (c) the steps that Government is taking to increase the capacity of the ports?

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

(b) Average waiting time for the vessels on arrival in 12 major ports in the year 2012-13 was 12.86 hours.

(c) Government of India has taken following steps to increase the capacity of ports:—

- (i) Construction of new berths and terminals to minimize pre-berthing detention time and reduce turnaround time of vessels calling on the Ports.
- (ii) Modernising berths with State of the art loading/unloading equipment to improve operational efficiency.
- (iii) Deepening of channels and berths so that ports can accommodate larger vessels.
- (iv) Improving rail/road connectivity of Ports for speedy evacuation of cargo.

Launch of GSAT-15 and GSAT-16

2132. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to launch GSAT-15 and GSAT-16 communications satellite projects, if so, the details thereof along with the salient features thereof;

(b) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred and funds allocated for these projects;

(c) the number of existing INSAT/GSAT satellites operating and providing different frequency bands to transponders in the country; and

(d) the details of annual revenue earning of the Department from various such satellites?