

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. GSAT-15 is a geostationary communication satellite, which will carry 24 Ku-band transponders and one GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) payload. GSAT-15 satellite will support the existing Direct-To-Home (DTH) and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) services in the country and the GAGAN payload will be a part of GAGAN space segment to provide better air traffic management over Indian Air Space.

GSAT-16 is a geostationary communication satellite which will carry 24 C-band, 12 Ku-band and 12 Upper Extended C-band transponders. GSAT-16 satellite will support satellite based telecommunication, television, VSAT and other services in the country.

GSAT-15 and GSAT-16 satellites are targeted for launch during 2014-16 timeframe.

(b) GSAT-15 and GSAT-16 satellites have been approved in July, 2013. The approved cost including the cost of procured launch and insurance are as below:—

GSAT-15	:	Rs. 859.50 crores
GSAT-16	:	Rs. 865.50 crores

The funds allocated for GSAT-15 and GSAT-16 satellites during the current year 2013-14 is Rs. 800 crore.

(c) At present, there are 9 operational INSAT/GSAT communication satellites namely INSAT-3A, INSAT-3C, INSAT-3E, INSAT-4A, INSAT-4B, INSAT-4CR, GSAT-8, GSAT-10 and GSAT-12. The total number of transponders available at present from these satellites is 195 operating in C, Extended C, Ku, and S-bands.

(d) Transponders on communication satellites are leased to users after the launch and operationalization of the satellite. Department of Space leases the transponders on INSAT/GSAT satellites through ANTRIX Corporation Limited, commercial arm of the department. The revenue earned by ANTRIX through leasing of INSAT/GSAT transponders during the year 2012-13 is Rs. 482.67 Crores approximately. This revenue accrues from service providers of Direct-To-Home (DTH) services. TV Uplink services, Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG) services and Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) services. This revenue does not include the capacities provided to various societal applications such as tele-education, tele-medicine, Village Resource Center, Disaster Management and part of public broadcasting services, which are not of the nature of revenue-earning services.