

- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A basic understanding on commencement of Coastal Shipping has been arrived at between India and Bangladesh. It has been agreed by the both the countries to conform to certain minimum vessel classification standards and also third party insurance cover with appropriate liability limit for the coastal vessels. The Indian coastal vessels already conform to necessary standards and insurance liability coverage. However, the Bangladesh side has mentioned that they would take some time to have these norms and insurance policy in place.

Sagar Mala Project

3519. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes a project called 'Sagar Mala' in the country;
- (b) the essential features of the project;
- (c) the names of the departments involved in the implementation of this project;
- (d) the estimated cost of the project; and
- (e) whether coastal highway would be part of the project and whether such a proposal is likely to meet the criteria of the new Land Acquisition Act, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) to (e) The Government has decided to expeditiously work out the Sagar Mala Project by integrating various components *viz.* port facilities, coastal ferry services, tourism infrastructure and inland water transportation and focusing on Port Towns/Cities. Details of the Project have not been finalized so far.

Status of Indian Ports Bill, 2011

3520. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) what is the status of the Indian Ports Bill, 2011;
- (b) whether this Bill affects the interest of littoral States and the interests of non-major ports;

- (c) whether such objections have been raised by Odisha and other States of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the suggestions and objections so raised by Odisha have, since, been considered; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) There is no proposal with this Ministry on Indian Ports Bill, 2011.

(b) to (f) However, Ministry had formulated a Draft Port Regulatory Bill and referred the bill to an Inter-Ministerial Task Force. The Task Force in its report submitted in July, 2012 concluded that since State Governments do not regulate port tariffs and the Draft Bill appears to be an unnecessary intervention in their operations. Based on recommendations of the Task Force, it was decided by the Government not to pursue the enactment of Port Regulatory Authority Bill.

Development of inland water transport in Odisha

3521. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Odisha Government has been making repeated requests for developing inland waterways transport system in the region to help improve the economic position of this State;
- (b) the details of such proposals along with the status of individual projects;
- (c) whether some of such projects are proposed to be taken up under PPP mode;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the details of projects that have since been approved for execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The proposals received from Odisha Government for the development of inland navigation include the following:

- (i) Development of National Waterways -5 (NW- 5) which includes East Coast canal integrated with Brahmani River and Mahanadi delta river in the State of West Bengal and Odisha covering about 588 km.