

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHANAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The various shipping laws are amended from time to time, in the light of experience gained in their implementations and to give effect to the provisions of various International Conventions to which India becomes a Party.

(c) These changes to shipping laws, which is an ongoing process, as and when made, further fosters the development of Indian mercantile marine sector and ensures its efficient maintenance in a manner best suited to serve the national interests.

**Free Right of Way through Mumbai Port Trust areas**

1685. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has requested for grant of free Right of Way (RoW) through Mumbai Port Trust areas for navigation channel of State Port Rewas-Aware, district Raigad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHANAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is under discussion between Mumbai Port, Rewas Port Ltd. and Maharashtra Maritime Board.

**Boost to waterway tourism**

1686. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to introduce sea-planes, water buses, hovercrafts and floating hotels to connect coastal towns and boost waterway tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government plans to turn all water bodies, dams, lakes, etc. to water ports like airports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHANAN P.): (a) to (d) Ministry of Shipping has taken the initiative to explore seaplane connectivity from various ports. Mumbai Port has carried out a preliminary study for operation of sea plane at Girgaon-Chowpatty. Meanwhile, Mumbai