

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any apprehension of obstacles in environmental protection through the new route;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the appropriate arrangements being made by Government to remove the expected obstacle so that the movement of ships on this route could be streamlined?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) Government of India is exploring the possibility of an alternate route for Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project (SSCP) through Pamban Pass without affecting Ram Sethu/Adam's Bridge. Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) was assigned to carry out a pre-feasibility study on this alternate route by Sethusamudram Corporation Limited and they have submitted the Report.

(d) No environmental related study has been carried out.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Investment in shipping sector

2484. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) what was the public and private investment in the shipping sector during the last five years;

(b) what is the annual total shipping capacity, in terms of tonnage of the country at present; and

(c) what is the policy road map to enhance the shipping capacity during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) Private sector investment of ₹33336.56 crores have been made in the major port projects awarded on PPP basis during the last five years. The investment from plan funds during the same period is ₹19712.81 crores.

(b) The Indian tonnage as on 30.11.2014 is 10.31 MGT.

(c) The Maritime Agenda 2010-2020 has set an ambitious target of achieving 43 million gross owned and controlled tonnage under Indian flag by the year 2020 so as to increase India's share in total freight.