

The Association looks after various issues pertaining to SC/ST employees and their welfare like training and development, promotion of social solidarity, protection from social injustice and other forms of exploitation etc. Its Memorandum of Association (bye-laws) covers objects of Association, membership, organisational set up, financial powers, maintenance of accounts etc.

### **Development of waterway in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**

139. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to develop inland waterways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of State-wise projects particularly the project planned to be implemented in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (c) the objectives of the project and its terminal points; and
- (d) the details of estimated cost and time for implementing the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. So far five Waterways have been declared as National Waterways(NWs). The details of which are as under:

- (i) Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia covering 1620 km in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal was declared as NW-1, in 1986.
- (ii) Brahmaputra river from Dhubri to Sadiya covering 891 km in the State of Assam was declared as NW-2 in 1988.
- (iii) West Coast Canal between Kottapuram to Kollam along with Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals over 205 km in the State of Kerala was declared as NW-3 in 1993.
- (iv) Kakinada-Puducherry canals along with Godavari and Krishna rivers over 1078 km in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Puducherry was declared as NW-4 in 2008.
- (v) East Coast Canal integrated with Brahmani River and Mahanadi Delta rivers over 588 km in the States of West Bengal and Odisha was declared as NW-5 in 2008.

The objective of the development of NWs including the NW-4 is mainly to provide a safe and commercially navigable waterway for transportation. The waterway is considered to be cheaper, pollution free and also serves as an alternate mode of transportation to road and rail.

Based on the initial study, terminals on NW-4 in Andhra Pradesh are proposed at Kakinada, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijaywada and Krishnapatnam. The estimated cost as per Detailed Project Report (DPR) for developing the entire stretch of NW-4 is ₹ 1515 crore based on 2009 price index. Since various studies/surveys are underway, the completion time of the project and the detailed cost estimate can be determined only after project proposals are finalized.

#### **Sea routes for cargo trade**

140. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to open sea routes for cargo trade to certain neighbouring countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to increase the capacity of coastal cargo trade for the benefit of manufacturers, importers and exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI) has started a service from India to Myanmar on 3rd Oct 2014 from Chennai with a rotation of Chennai - Krishnapatnam - Yangon - Colombo. The service is operated with a single vessel. It has been started pursuant to India's 'Look East' Policy. With the commencement of this Service, the transit time for trade between Myanmar and India will reduce considerably.

(c) Steps taken by the Government to increase capacity of coastal cargo trade include,

- (i) A River - Sea Vessels (RSV) Notification for moderating the technical and manning requirements for such vessels operating within the Indian territorial waters was issued by the Directorate General of Shipping on 31.7.2013.