

Indian Ports Act, 1908, Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. The responsibility for development of Vizhinjam Port, therefore, vests with the Government of Kerala. However, as per the information available with the Department of Economic Affairs, the Government of Kerala has applied for grant of In-Principle approval for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under the 'Scheme and Guidelines for Financial Support to Public Private Partnership in Infrastructure', for development of a minor sea port at Vizhinjam, in the State of Kerala, on Design Build Finance Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis and in the meeting of Empowered Committee (EC) under the Ministry of Finance, held on October 29, 2014, has recommended the proposal with a Total Project Cost of ₹ 3930 crore, for In-principle approval, subject to Government of Kerala submitting the revised documents including schedules and compliances of the directions of EC with respect to the project.

(c) Setting of Ports near the international shipping routes can help in attracting transshipment traffic.

Hazardous waste by dumping ships

3297. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various countries are dumping hazardous wastes in India by sending ships for breaking;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases noticed during the last three years;
- (c) whether the present laws are sufficient to punish such offenders;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by Government during the said period, year-wise;
- (e) whether Government proposes to make stringent laws in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P): (a) and (b) No instance was reported regarding any country dumping hazardous waste in India by sending ships for breaking.

(c) to (f) The Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement), Rules 2008 has been notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for proper management and handling of hazardous waste. Under the

Rules, import of hazardous waste from any country for disposal is not permitted. The State Pollution Control Board or Pollution Control Committees constituted under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 are empowered to take action against violations.

On the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government had notified the Ship Breaking Code 2013 on 7th March 2013 incorporating the recommendations of the Committee of Technical Experts on ship-breaking. The Code elaborately stipulates procedure to be followed for ship-breaking. Ships arriving for breaking purposes are not allowed without obtaining proper consent of the concerned authority or the State Maritime Board (SMB), stating that it does not contain any hazardous waste or radioactive substances. The consent is issued in consultation with Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Custom authorities. Any hazardous material in an empty ship is decontaminated by experts before taking it for dismantling/breaking. The small quantities of hazardous material, if any, embedded in the structure of the vessels are disposed of in an environmentally safe manner through Treatment and Safe Disposal Facilities set up for this purpose.

Improving shipping area

3298.DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the World Bank's ease of doing business ranking of 189 countries, India stands at 142 and improving the shipping area has been a focus of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has now decided to charge payment of light dues according to the ship's cargo capacity rather than the actual cargo quantity measured by the official; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken several steps to improve in Shipping Sector including (i) establishment of Port Community System (PCS) which is a single window electronic platform for the external stakeholders to interact with Ports, (ii) simplification of the documentation procedure for faster evacuation of