

furnished by the State Government, the road from Dharikhal to Badium (*via* Palasu) district Pauri Garhwal, Patti Maniarshun (10 km.) is not eligible under PMGSY. This road is sanctioned under the State Scheme vide GO No.-2580/III (2)/44(Pra.Aaa.)/06 dated 19.10.06 for road length of 10 km. and is being constructed by State Public Works Department (PWD).

Nationalisation of waterways

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to nationalise more waterways in the country;
- (b) the States identified for the purpose and the concerned rivers;
- (c) whether any common scheme has been prepared for the purpose;
- (d) whether it is a fact that State Governments loose the right of development on the banks of such rivers; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) For the purpose of providing proper navigational channel and related infrastructure facility, Central Government from time to time has been enacting legislation, declaring inland waterways as National Waterways. So far, 5 (five) inland waterways have been declared as National Waterways (NWs).

Government is actively considering the proposal for declaring several waterways, spread across 22 States/UTs as National Waterways.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. After declaration of any waterway as National Waterway, the Central Government's roles and responsibility will be limited to the development and maintenance of waterways for navigation purpose and also to the regulation of construction of cross structures across the waterways for uninterrupted movement of cargo vessels. Other rights on the waterways will remain with the respective State Governments.

Construction of ports for inland waterways

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

- (a) whether Government is working on building inland water transportation grid running across the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the location identified for construction of ports for the purpose; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to build a waterways network on the lines of current highway network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (d) The Government is considering a proposal to set up an Integrated National Waterways Transport Grid (INWTG) which mainly covers five National Waterways. The INWTG includes development of the National Waterways with at least 2.5 meter Least Available Depth (LAD), upgrading/setting up of priority terminals, establishing road connectivity and wherever feasible, rail and port connectivity.

The study undertaken by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has at present identified 31 terminals in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh for construction of terminals on National Waterways. With the establishment of the INWTG, the National Waterways would be connected to National/State Highways and would become an integral part of the transportation grid in the country.

Water transport between Agra to Delhi

783. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government wish to operate and use water transport between Agra and Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details of the project; and
- (c) the targeted time for making the project operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.) : (a) to (c) At present, a proposal for declaring 101 more waterways as National Waterways, which includes River Yamuna, is under consideration of the Government. Inland Waterways Authority of India is carrying out a study to establish the potential of River Yamuna, especially in the Delhi region for inland water transport. The study is expected to be completed by October, 2015. Depending on the outcome of the study, further steps would be taken for preparing an inland water transport project on Yamuna.

Conversion of rivers into waterways

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to convert 101 rivers into waterways in the country which are much cheaper mode of transport;