

- (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;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has fixed any time-frame for converting rivers into waterways in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.) : (a) to (d) A proposal for declaration of 101 additional waterways as National Waterways is under consideration of the Government. The proposal covers waterways across the country which have potential for year round commercial navigation.

Inland Waterways Authority of India is conducting feasibility studies on the proposed new waterways for finding out their potential for year round commercial navigation. Thereafter, based on the outcome of the study, further steps would be taken for the development of the proposed National Waterways. The time-frame for developing these waterways as National Waterways can be finalized only after these are declared as National Waterways.

**Development of trans-shipment container port at Vizhinjam in Kerala**

785. SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the proposed trans-shipment container port at Vizhinjam in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details of the project;
- (c) what is the present position of the project;
- (d) whether Government is involved in the development or planning of the project; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (e) Vizhinjam Port is a Non-Major Port. As per 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 provided by Ministry of Finance, the Finance Ministry has accorded in-principal approval on 3/2/2015 for viability gap funding to the proposal of Government of