

**Port Connectivity in Odisha**

\*164. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Odisha Government has submitted proposals for development of port connectivity to Dhamra Port, Chudamani Port, Gopalpur Port, Subarnarekha Mouth Port, Astaranga Port and Baliharchandi Port;

(b) if so, the status of the projects and how soon these projects would be sanctioned; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) Government of Odisha had initially submitted proposal/estimates for road connectivity to Dhamra Port, Chudamani Port, Gopalpur Port, Subarnarekha Mouth Port, Astaranga Port and Baliharchandi Port in the State with the National Highways Network. Later it was clarified that Government of Odisha had signed Concession Agreement/MOU with different private port developers to develop these non-major ports in the State in PPP mode and the road connectivity to these ports was included in the respective agreements of the port developers with the State Government. In light of the above developments, the feasibility studies for development of four lane connectivity to the aforementioned ports in the State of Odisha were terminated by NHAI.

**Construction of kitchen-cum-stores under MDMS**

\*165. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States are lagging behind in the construction of mandatory kitchen-cum-stores under the Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) and if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has urged all the States to construct centrally approved new, safe and hygiene, friendly kitchen-cum-stores in all the schools serving mid day meals and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the States for the purpose and if so, the details thereof, State/Union Territory-wise; and

(d) by when these kitchen-cum-stores are likely to be constructed?