

Conversion of rivers into waterways

†775. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the steps are being taken by the Ministry for converting the rivers into waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when it would be possible and the amount that would be required for this entire process; and

(d) the details of the model proposed to be adopted for its development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A bill for declaration of 101 new waterways as National Waterways (NWs) was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of 2015 which has been sent for examination to the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

(c) and (d) The exact model for development of waterways and the amount required for the development will depend on the feasibility study and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of related waterways.

Development of Azhikkal Port in Kerala under Sagarmala Project

776. SHRI K. K. RAGESH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals were already submitted by Government of Kerala to the Central Government regarding development of the Azhikkal port, Kannur District, Kerala under the Sagarmala project and the first stage of project such as warf and godown facility has already been developed by the State Government as recommended by the Central Government;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps to include the Azhikkal project under the Sagarmala project;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time frame for completion thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (d) Government of Kerala has submitted a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

proposal to select Azhikkal Port for development under Sagarmala Programme wherein it has been informed that the Government of Kerala has completed work relating with breakwaters, approach channel and wharf with stackyard. The location of new ports will be decided based on National Perspective Plan.

Proposal to develop strategic port in Iran

777. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be please to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to develop a strategic port in Iran with Iranian Government to help boost trade and equally help in other strategic matters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how far this new port would help India strategically;

(d) whether certain countries have raised any kind of objection to such a development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by the Government of India with the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran on 06.05.2015 regarding India's participation in the Chahbahar Port Project.

(c) It will provide India an alternative and reliable access into Afghanistan and more direct sea-road access route into Central Asia, and will contribute to further expansion of relations with Iran.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Do not arise.

Power cuts

778. SHRI PANKAJ BORA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last two months the country has faced frequent power cuts;

(b) if so, the detail thereof;

(c) the present demand and supply of power in the country; and

(d) the action proposed by Government to remove the power crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) As per the information given by the States, the gap between