

maritime trade routes, the Government of India has embarked on the Sagarmala Programme which aims to promote port-led development in the country. The objectives of the Sagarmala Programme are port modernization and new port development, enhancing port connectivity to hinterland, port-linked industrialization and coastal community development.

The implementation of the Sagarmala programme is an ongoing process and is being done as per the concept approved by the Cabinet on 25th March, 2015. As part of the programme, a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for the comprehensive development of India's coastline and maritime sector has been prepared. A draft NPP was submitted in February 2016 and after stakeholder consultation and review, an updated NPP was approved by the National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) on 9th April, 2016.

As part of the NPP, more than 150 identified projects across the programme objectives will result in significant investment in maritime infrastructure, create employment, reduce logistics cost and boost merchandize exports over the next decade.

The implementation of these projects will be taken up by the relevant ports, Central Government Ministries, State Governments and State Maritime Boards preferably through private sector or PPP route. Sagarmala Development Company will provide equity support for the project SPVs (State/Port/Central Ministry level SPVs) and take up residual projects that cannot be funded by any other means/mode.

Handling of iron ore and coal at Chennai port

140. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any initiatives to revive handling of iron ore and coal at Chennai port;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) to (c) In pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India's order dated 4.11.2015, Empowered Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Apex Court has been directed to examine the possibility of handling coal at Chennai Port. The Technical Sub Committee constituted for this purpose on 29.01.2016 has been assigned to explore the technical feasibility to revive handling of coal at Chennai Port.