

Development of Puducherry lighthouse as tourist attraction centre

146. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Puducherry lighthouse is one of the 78 lighthouses identified for development as a centre of tourist attraction in the country;

(b) whether any request from the prospective developers has been called to develop the above lighthouse; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. Expression of Interest (EOI) was invited on 05.10.2015.

(c) The tendering process includes calling for Expression of Interest (EOI), Request for Qualification (RFQ), Request for Proposal (RFP), pre-bid meetings, Evaluation process and signing of contract after due diligence as per prescribed timelines.

Proposal for development of Chabahar port

147. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal relating to the development of Chabahar port in Iran is under active consideration of Government;

(b) whether it would give India a sea land access route to Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan, if this proposal is cleared by Government;

(c) what would be the cost of the project; and

(d) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India's participation in Chabahar Port Project potentially provides India a reliable sea land access route to Afghanistan and more direct, sea-road access route to Central Asia.

(c) and (d) Indian Government will provide USD 85 Million to equip two berths viz. Container Terminal of 640 meter and a multipurpose Cargo Terminal of 600 meters in Chabahar Port. In accordance with Framework Agreement for Buyers Credit Facility (under the National Export Insurance Account) signed with Iranian Banks on 23.12.2014, a line of credit of USD 150 Million will be provided to the Iranian side.