

(c) and (d) As per information furnished by Government of Goa, the 'in principle' approval has been given by Maharashtra Government to start Mumbai Goa ferry services to a shipping company.

(e) Ships/cargo services from various ports to the Islands of the country are planned and operated by the public/private shipping companies keeping in view the financial viability of the service. The Government provides the enabling policy and regulatory framework for operating the passenger/cargo services.

Ferry service for decongestion of city traffic

2050. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government targets to start ferry service at about 18 locations to help decongest city traffic;

(b) name of the 18 locations and by when the work on these locations would be started; and

(c) a detailed factual note thereon with the present status of the work on these locations, if already awarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (c) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has engaged a Consultant in December, 2016 for development of ferry service on National Waterway-1 under Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP). The consultants have started the project preparatory and definition study for identifying suitable locations for construction of 18 ferry terminals in six cities of Varanasi, Patna, Munger, Bhagalpur, Kolkata and Haldia on NW-I. The duration of the study is 15 months.

Legislation on water transport administration

2051. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to bring out a legislation for water transport administration in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has been established under the Inland Waterways Authority of India Act, 1985 in October,

1986 for the regulation and development of inland waterways for purposes of shipping and navigation and for the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Development of IWT system

2052. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has conducted a Formal Safety Assessment (FSA) or any other assessment to assess the 111 rivers that form the inland waterways and are safe to be developed as integrated Water Transport (IWT) system;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has plans to make registration of inland vessels mandatory and enforce minimum construction standards to avoid boat capsizing tragedy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Out of 111 National Waterways (NWs), NW 1, 2 and 3 were declared as NWs in 1986, 1988, 1993 respectively and NW-4 & 5 in 2008. Development work in these five NWs were undertaken after techno-economic feasibility studies and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) including safety aspects.

In respect of the 106 NWs declared on 12th April, 2016, Feasibility/ DPR studies are underway. The development works would entail intervention for safe navigation. Inland Vessels Act, 1917, implemented by the respective State Governments, provides for safety compliances for transportation of cargo and passengers.

(c) and (d) Registration and survey of mechanically propelled inland vessels is mandatory under the inland Vessels Act, 1917. The Act prescribes compliance requirement for life saving appliances, communication and navigation apparatus to be installed on board inland mechanically propelled vessels.

Training of port professionals with modern technical/skills

2053. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is focussing on imparting training/skills to port and terminal professionals through modern technical workshops in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and