

(e) if so, the number of such proposals received along with basic theme of SATYAM?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a) Sir, the funds for 'Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM)' are allocated from the Research and Development (R&D) Support budget head of Department of Science and Technology (DST) and as such there is no separate budget allocation for SATYAM programme.

(b) The SATYAM programme was started in the year 2015 and since then three Calls for Proposals have been made (once in a year) to invite research proposals under SATYAM. Since its inception, DST has received 1050 proposals under SATYAM and about 60 projects have been recommended for budgetary support. These projects are at various stages of implementation as the duration of such projects is usually three years.

(c) Department of Science and Technology invites proposals under SATYAM on open Call for Proposals basis and researchers/academicians from across the country can submit their project proposals. As such, specific research institutes and universities are not required to be identified for SATYAM programme.

(d) and (e) DST had invited proposals under SATYAM for the year 2017-18 during month of October, 2017 and received 213 research proposals from scientists and academicians. The basic themes of SATYAM include investigations on the effect of Yoga and Meditation on physical and mental health and well being and investigations on the effect of Yoga and Meditation on the body, brain and mind in terms of basic processes and mechanisms.

Plans for water transport

3488. SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has plans for initiating an exclusive water transport, with the different State Governments to facilitate and utilise route on river Ganges, including the State of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the plans for initiating this water transportation route on river Ganges from Haldia to Varanasi; and

- (c) by when would it start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Government has approved the implementation of Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) for capacity augmentation of navigation on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (Ganga) at an estimated cost of ₹ 5,369.18 crore with the technical and investment support of the World Bank. The salient features of the project are construction of multimodal/intermodal terminals, Ro-Ro terminals, one new navigational lock at Farakka, channel marking systems, integrated vessel repair and maintenance facilities, automated information techniques of Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) and River Information System (RIS), day and night navigation aids, slipways, bunkering facilities, river training and river conservancy works etc.

(c) The National Waterway-1 is already operational. The capacity augmentation facilities proposed under JMVP are scheduled to be completed by 2022-23.

Road infrastructure in Tuticorin Port

3489. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has planned to augment the existing road infrastructure in and around Tuticorin Port so that goods can be smoothly evacuated from Tuticorin Port to other parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under Sagarmala Programme the following four road connectivity projects have been identified for Tuticorin Port for speedy cargo evacuation considering the future development of the Port:—

- (i) Road Connectivity to Hare Island (Tuticorin Port).
- (ii) Eight Laning of V.O.C Road from Port Trust Circle to NH-45 B junction.
- (iii) Construction of widening the Korampallam bridge and Rail Over Bridge (RoB) including widening of road from western boundary to Tuticorin Thermal Power Station (TTPS).