

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Shipping has given relaxation to foreign vessels for carriage of fertilizer from one port to another port within the country under Section 407 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958. The foreign flag ships are now not required to obtain a license from the Director General of Shipping for engaging in coastal trade for carriage of fertilizer by sea.

(c) The relaxation is subject to the condition that the information as per the format prescribed in the relaxation order is submitted to the Director General of Shipping by email at least 24 hours prior to sail of ship from a port in India. The relaxation shall also be subject to the condition that Indian Law enforcement agencies, including India Navy, Coast Guard, State Maritime Police and Customs, shall be allowed to board such ships any time in the sea for ascertaining the bonafide credentials of the ships/crew.

Major port in Andhra Pradesh

2852. SHRI G. V. L. NARASIMHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has informed Andhra Pradesh Government that it is not viable or feasible to establish a major port in Duggirajupatnam;

(b) the details of all such communications along with dates and contents;

(c) the details of the written response of the State Government to the above communications;

(d) whether it is a fact that an earlier study by RITES found Ramayapatnam to be a suitable location for setting up of a major port; and

(e) whether the agreement signed by Andhra Pradesh Government with Krishnapatnam promoters constrain Government in setting up a major port in its proximity, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) NITI Aayog *vide* their OM dated 27.07.2017 has conveyed the Record of Discussion (RoD) held on 29.12.2016 under the Chairmanship of *Vice* Chairman, NITI Aayog to Government of Andhra Pradesh wherein it has been concluded that the project will not be viable due to strong competition from nearby Ports of Krishnapatnam, Ennore and Chennai which are 40, 80 and 80 Kms. away respectively

from the proposed Port. Ministry of Shipping *vide* its letter dated 05.03.2018 has also forwarded the aforesaid RoD to Government of Andhra Pradesh with the request to furnish comments on the Report of NITI Aayog and to suggest alternate site(s) for development of Major Port in Andhra Pradesh. A reminder was also sent to Government of Andhra Pradesh to expedite the matter on 05.04.2018.

(c) No response has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) and (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that M/s RITES has conducted a TEFRR Study during October, 2017 on behalf of the State Government, and has opined that Port Project at Ramayapatnam is financially viable. Further, the State Government has also informed that as a policy it can negotiate with Concessionaire and can establish a new Port within the Exclusive Rights area by providing proper compensatory mechanism to the Concessionaire.

India's assistance for construction of Sittwe Port

2853. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sittwe Port in Myanmar constructed with India's assistance is ready for operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the total cost of the project;

(c) whether the port is aimed to facilitate connectivity between the main land and the North Eastern States of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and extent to which it would contribute to the economic development of the North Eastern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Infrastructure at Sittwe Port in Myanmar constructed with India's assistance is ready for operation. A Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government of India and Myanmar on 22.10.2018 for operationalization of the Port at Sittwe and Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminals at Sittwe and Paletwa. The approved construction cost of Sittwe Port and Inland Water Terminals at Sittwe and Paletwa is ₹ 517.29 crore.

(c) Yes, Sir.