

- (b) if so, whether Government has rejected or accepted the above proposal;
- (c) whether State wants to set up a port at some other location and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the time Ministry will take for obtaining clearances, once the State Government submits its proposal;
- (e) why Andhra Pradesh Government is insisting that the Ministry should not thrust on a particular place for setting up of port and State Government be given free hand; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Shipping requested Government of Andhra Pradesh on 13.10.2015 to send a detailed proposal for development of Vodarevu as another major port in Andhra Pradesh. However, no such proposal has been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) to (f) Ministry of Shipping has requested Government of Andhra Pradesh to suggest any alternative site(s) for development of a major port in the State of Andhra Pradesh. However, no reply has been received so far.

Road connectivity in Thoothukudi Port

124. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified V.O.C Port in Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu under the ambitious Sagarmala Pariyojana phase-1 for development of road connectivity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any funds has been earmarked for this;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Under the Sagarmala Pariyojana, 4 projects have been identified for development of road connectivity to V.O.Chidambaranar Port.

Sl. No.	Project Name	Total Cost (₹ in crore)	Implementing agency	Capacity Addition Planned (kms.)
1.	Road Connectivity to Hare island-Tuticorin Port	12	NHAI	5
2.	8 laning of VOC road from Port Trust Circle to NH-45B junction	25	NHAI	2.7
3.	Construction of widening the Korampallam Surplus course bridge and rail over bridge-RoB including widening of road from western boundary to TTPS	42	VoCPT	0.3
4.	4 to 6 laning of NH-45B and NH-7A	To be determined	NHAI	1225
TOTAL		79		20.25

(c) to (e) Projects at Sl. No. 1, 2 and 4 in above table have been taken up by NHAI under the Bharatmala scheme of Government of India and project at Sl. No 3 has been taken up by the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust.

Environmental clearance of Haldia Varanasi Waterway

125. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's longest waterway project on the river Ganga underwent any environmental clearance, especially for the dredging between Varanasi and Haldia and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government plans to conduct or has conducted any consultations with Locals or Civil Society Organisations, for environmental and ecological matters and if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government has conducted or is aware of any study on severe ecological threats from dredging activities and the impending harm due to lack of any environmental clearance and if so, the details thereof?