

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has allocated any fund for this;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) to (e) Tamiraparani River from Sulochana Mudalir Bridge, Tirunel Valley to confluence with Bay of Bengal near Punnaikayal for a length of 62 km. in Tamil Nadu, was declared as National Waterway (NW)-99 by the National Waterways Act, 2016. Techno-economic feasibility of NW-99 has indicated that the waterway is not technically and commercially viable for development for shipping and navigation.

**Increasing tonnage capacity of shipping industry**

1596. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to increase the tonnage capacity of Indian shipping industry;
- (b) if so, the details of steps being taken; and
- (c) the tonnage capacity of the shipping industry in the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) In order to increase tonnage capacity of Indian shipping industry, Government has taken a number of steps. These include (i) Providing Indian shipping industry cargo support through Right of First Refusal (ii) Reducing GST from 18% to 5% on bunker fuel used in Indian flag vessels (iii) Allowing carriage of coastal cargo from one Indian port to another Indian port *via* foreign ports in Sri Lanka and Bangladesh (iv) Removing licencing requirement for chartering of foreign registered ships by citizens of India, companies incorporated in India and Registered Societies to encourage coastal movement of agriculture and other commodities, fertilizer, EXIM Transshipment Containers and Empty containers (v) Bringing parity in the tax regime of Indian seafarers employed on Indian Hag ships *vis-a-vis* those on foreign flag ships (vi) Allowing shipping enterprises based in India to acquire ships abroad and flag them in the country of their convenience (vii) Allowing use of imported Containers for carrying of domestic cargo and allowing use

of locally manufactured or domesticated containers conforming to the specifications from the International Organisation (ISO), for transportation of EXIM cargo.

(c) The tonnage capacity in the country is as per details given below:—

(In million tonnes)			
Period	Number of Vessels	GT	DWT
As on 31.03.2017	1316	11,562	17,278
As on 31.03.2018	1,384	12,582	19,082
As on 31.03.2019	1,407	12,789	19,387

#### Grants to NGOs in Konkan region

†1597. SHRI NARAYAN RANE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that grants are being given to the NGOs situated in the districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra for encouragement of sports and development of youth;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the districts where those NGOs were given grants in the Konkan region along with the amount of such grants given in the State of Maharashtra during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) No, Sir. No grants were given to the NGOs situated in the districts of Konkan region of Maharashtra for development of youth and sports.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Sports events for women

1598. SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote sports events for women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.