

Developing Ganga river as inland waterway

949. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE:

DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is developing Ganga river as inland waterway;
- (b) if so, the details of steps being taken and expenditure incurred thereon; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to operate Ro-Ro Ferry and Ro-Pax Ferry on the said National Waterway and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) and (b) Government is implementing the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) at an estimated cost of ₹ 5369.18 crore for capacity augmentation of navigation on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system (National Waterway-1) with the technical and financial assistance of the World Bank. Projects worth ₹ 1800 crore (approx.) have commenced on ground in a time period of three years after statutory clearances and an expenditure of ₹ 1447.43 crore has been incurred up to 31.10.2019.

(c) No, Sir. However, the interventions in JMVP include five pairs of Ro-Ro terminals at Rajmahal (Jharkhand)-Manikchak (West Bengal), Samdaghat (Jharkhand)-Manihari (Bihar), Kahalgaon-Tintangha (Bihar), Hasnapur-Bakhtiyarpur (Bihar), Buxar (Bihar)-Saraikota (Uttar Pradesh).

Revitalisation of shipbuilding industry

950. SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian shipyards employ around 30,000 people at present which will substantially go up once this sector is revitalised, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the shipbuilding industry is a strategically important industry due to its role in energy security, national defence and development of heavy engineering industry, if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian shipyards employ more than 30,000 people at