

- (c) by when the proposal for widening NH-45 will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) to (c) No Sir. The work of Detailed Project Report for feasibility of 6-laning/8-laning from Tambaram-Chegalpattu-Tindivanam has been taken up by National Highways Authority of India. Further, widening work on Tambaram to Guduvancherry amounting to ₹ 65.00 crores has also been sanctioned and the work has been taken up by the State Government.

Privatisation of Chennai port

1273. SHRI P. WILSON: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons as to why coal, iron ore, etc. are not allowed to come into port, despite there being no legal obstacles; and
- (b) whether there is any move to privatise Chennai port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI MANSUKH MANDAVIYA): (a) In 2011 Hon'ble High Court of Madras ordered stoppage of coal handling at Chennai port. The Chennai port filed SLP(C) No. CCC No. 743 - 747 of 2012 in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the judgment of High Court of Madras. On admitting the SLP, Hon'ble Supreme Court referred the matter to the Empowered Committee. The Empowered Committee recommended that if the port was able to keep the pollution level within the permissible limit for at least one year continuously, it may approach the State Pollution Control Board and obtain the required statutory clearances for handling dusty cargo like coal. The Chennai port approached possible operators/customers to study the feasibility for developing a modern facility for handling coal in dust free manner using state of the art technology as recommended by the Empowered Committee. However, in view of the strict competition and capacity creation in neighboring ports in the region, the response was not encouraging.

- (b) No, Sir.

Setting up new SAI centres

†1274. SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.